

MEDIA RELEASE

18 February 2016



Help curb bold-as-brass copper thieves

Endeavour Energy is appealing to residents throughout its network to report copper theft.

The appeal comes after police arrested a man for attempted copper theft from live electrical equipment in North Western Sydney last week.

“This man is extremely lucky to have not been seriously hurt,” said Endeavour Energy’s General Manager Safety, Human Resources and Environment Andrew Pitman.

“In the past five years, two people have died after trying to steal copper from the Endeavour Energy network.

“The message for would-be thieves is that the price of stolen copper is not worth your life nor time in gaol.

“Stealing copper from the electricity network is a dangerous crime that risks serious injury and severe penalties.

“Copper theft from the electricity network also puts the community at risk from exposed wires and unearthed electrical equipment that is left behind by thieves.

“Suspicious activity around our network or attempts to sell stolen copper wire can be reported anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppers.com.au.”

Despite extensive security measures now in place, Mr Pitman said there were still some people who would not be deterred from stealing copper from live electrical equipment.

“We have a suite of initiatives to deter copper theft such as high security fencing, video surveillance, security patrols and unique data dot technology so we can trace stolen copper.

“While this has helped reduce copper theft, the community still plays an important role in reporting suspicious activity in and around Endeavour Energy’s network.”

Mr Pitman said the constant vigilance of local residents remained an important defence against copper theft.

“The public should not have to tolerate this crime.

“Your call can potentially save someone’s life and help protect the safety of your community,” Mr Pitman said.

Endeavour Energy’s network services 2.2 million customers across Greater Western Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands and the Illawarra.

Media contact: Peter Payne 0409 664 608