

MEDIA RELEASE

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Eye in the sky keeps powerlines safe

Residents across our network area can expect to see helicopters surveying Endeavour Energy's powerlines over the coming months to alleviate the risk of bushfires caused by powerlines.

The surveys are an essential part of preventative network maintenance to repair damaged equipment or prune trees too close to powerlines before the next bushfire season.

"Aerial surveys are an ideal way to safely inspect overhead powerlines," said Endeavour Energy's General Manager Network Development Ty Christopher.

"Our network covers 24,500 square kilometres through often rugged and inaccessible terrain.

"Using aerial surveys is a fast, efficient and effective way to identify defects and make sure we have essential maintenance completed before the bushfire season commences in October.

"Helicopters mean we do not have to contend with ground conditions and can very quickly access difficult terrain across the vast distances our network covers."

Mr Christopher said the use of helicopters and new technology had improved the safety and effectiveness of aerial surveys.

"We are using state-of-the-art high ranging and detection equipment to capture images of our network as well as trees within safety clearances," Mr Christopher said.

"In the process, we limit data capture to images of our network and are mindful of protecting people's privacy.

"Using the data captured, we are able to easily identify where defects exist and coordinate maintenance crews to complete repairs.

"This new technology permits a more thorough inspection as we can review the data in detail after the survey has been flown.

"It also removes the risk of low level flying which is a significant safety enhancement for the crews undertaking the survey."

Mr Christopher said that Endeavour Energy appreciated the patience of the community while the surveys were being flown in the area.

"Managing the risk of bushfires is an important part of keeping customers and the local community safe.

"Residents can contact us on 133 718 if they have any questions regarding the surveys," Mr Christopher said.

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