

Monday, September 24 2007

## Special delivery for Peninsula network project

EnergyAustralia will take overhead power line construction to new heights this week to complete a maintenance project on the Central Coast Peninsula.

A Bell Iroquois helicopter will be used to drop new power poles into an electricity easement at Horsfield Bay, where existing poles supplying homes in Horsfield Road need to be replaced.

EnergyAustralia's Executive General Manager Network, Geoff Lilliss, said the project scheduled for Thursday and Friday (September 27 and 28) presented a number of technical challenges.

"The poles that need replacing are on a steep embankment behind homes in Horsfield Road and there is no road access to the easement," Mr Lilliss said.

"That adds some new dimensions to a project that would normally be fairly straightforward because we're unable to use our specialist vehicles.

"We're hand-digging the holes, for example, and we've engaged the helicopter because it's the most practical way of getting the new poles on-site."

Mr Lilliss said EnergyAustralia was aiming to minimise impacts on the local community by using a helipad at Mount White as a base for the delivery operation.

This means the majority of the flight path will be over national parks instead of residential areas.

Mr Lilliss apologised to the small number of customers whose supply will need to be interrupted during the work.

"Unfortunately, we will need to interrupt supply to about eight homes connected to this section of the network on both days while we drop the poles in, and then transfer services from the existing poles," Mr Lilliss said.

"We've notified these customers of the upcoming work and we'll be working as quickly as possible to limit the length of the interruption.

"We're sure the local community will appreciate the difficulties our people are facing in this particular area."

EnergyAustralia is spending more than \$320 million in network improvements across the Central Coast from 2005-2010.

Media contact: EnergyAustralia Hunter News Pager 02 9962 9754