

Tuesday, 9 October 2007

## Aerial survey of Upper Hunter network

EnergyAustralia will be conducting an aerial power line survey along parts of the Upper Hunter supply network tomorrow as part of ongoing maintenance and improvement works in the area.

EnergyAustralia staff will be taking photographs from a helicopter to identify sections of the network that require upgrading.

The survey work is separate to the annual network safety patrols, which were carried out in July prior to the start of the 2007-08 bushfire season.

EnergyAustralia's Acting General Manager Network, Trevor Armstrong, said the aerial survey would be concentrating on overhead power lines supplying Merriwa, Gungahlin, Sandy Hollow, Yarrawa, Denman, Edderton Road and Muswellbrook.

"We are investing more than \$120 million in new capital works across the Upper Hunter to 2010, and at the same time we have an extensive maintenance and upgrade program to improve quality and reliability of supply for customers in the area," Mr Armstrong said.

"Some of these areas have already been surveyed by ground patrols, so the aerial shots will complete the picture for our planning and design engineers."

Mr Armstrong said the aerial survey work would be completed tomorrow, weather permitting.

"We expect to be in the air from 9am to 5pm and the aircraft will not be flying as close to the lines as it does during our safety inspections," Mr Armstrong said.

"But we will again be avoiding known livestock locations, and we're advising landowners in the survey areas to take the precaution of moving livestock where overhead power lines run through or adjacent to their properties."

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