570 George Street Sydney NSW 2000 Address all mail to 51-59 Bridge Rd Hornsby NSW 2077

14 October 2009



To: The Resident PO Box 52 Church Point NSW 2105

Dear Resident

Reminder About Safety And Bushfire Prevention - Private Powerlines

The Bureau of Meteorology has indicated an El Nino weather event is likely this bushfire season, bringing hotter and drier conditions, which increases the risk of fires to our community. This makes it more important than ever that we all take action to reduce these risks ahead of the bushfire season.

To help reduce these risks, EnergyAustralia undertakes inspections and patrols of its electricity network and takes action to fix potential hazards, particularly in bushfire zones.

Powerlines and power poles are also situated on rural properties throughout the state and this electrical infrastructure also needs to be maintained to protect the local community from bushfire risks.

If your property has private powerlines you have a legal obligation to ensure these powerlines and poles do not cause a fire or other hazard. This means you are responsible for inspecting, testing and maintaining your powerlines regularly and making sure that your private overhead powerlines are free of vegetation.

Remember that any maintenance or repair work required on or around private powerlines and poles should always be carried out by an appropriately accredited contractor. A list of suitably qualified contractors who can complete this work is available on our website.

Enclosed is a copy of our publication "Your Powerlines: Safety & Bushfire Prevention". This explains how to distinguish private powerlines from those owned by EnergyAustralia and the steps needed to keep them operating safely.

For more information visit <u>www.energy.com.au/safety</u> and select "Bushfire prevention" and "Trees and powerlines", or call us on 13 15 35.

Yours sincerely

John Eisenhuth

Executive General Manager

Distribution Operations & Reliability

John Risenhatt



0013186-BUSHFI

