POLES AND WIRES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment today announced environmental standards for work on the NSW electricity network.

The standards will be supported by a clear code of practice for environmental assessment, enforced by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

A spokesperson for the Department asked the community to provide feedback on the code, which was now on public exhibition.

“Any work that will have significant environmental impacts will have to undergo rigorous assessment as state significant infrastructure,” the spokesperson said.

“The community can be confident that the lease of poles and wires won’t affect where they live or the natural environment, and that they will be consulted about activities that affect them.”

The network’s operator will be required to comply with the new code as a condition of their operating licence.

The current system will stay in place for low impact work on the network and the code sets out clear rules on which the operator can assess these projects.

These types of projects include installing low voltage overhead and underground wires, as well as local generators and substations.

To view the draft Code and give feedback go to www.planning.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition

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