Friday 4 September 2015

**Poles and wires code of practice now available to operators**

The Department of Planning & Environment today announced the rules for assessment of work on the State’s electricity network had been finalised after public consultation.

The NSW Code of Practice for Authorised Network Operators (ANOs) will control how work undertaken on the leased electricity network will be assessed.

A departmental spokesperson said this will ensure that any work that has the potential to significantly impact the environment would be subject to the same rigorous assessment as state significant infrastructure.

“The community can be confident that the lease of poles and wires won’t impact the way that upgrades to the network or necessary maintenance are assessed,” the spokesperson said.

“The Code also ensures that communities will be given notice about works that will affect them.

“We listened to the community, government and industry stakeholders before finalising this important policy that will help ANOs undertake a thorough environmental assessment for work they plan on the State’s electricity network.”

The NSW Code of Practice for Authorised Network Operators aims to:

- identify best practice for environmental assessment;
- ensure existing community expectations about assessments and community consultation are met; and
- ensure directions for ANOs are clear, practical and enforceable.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) will ensure compliance with the Code.

All work conducted by ANOs on the NSW electricity network will also be subject to other regulations and legislation including the Electricity Supply Act that makes provision for consultation with Councils and provides guidelines for tree lopping around poles and wires.


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