Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Commerce**
Energy*Safety*

Consultation on proposed technical requirements and application guide for private power lines and poles

In May 2015, Energy*Safety* published a consultation paper for *Private power lines and poles in Western Australia* and invited public submissions.

Submissions were received from the following parties:

- National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA).
- Master Electricians Association (MEA).
- Christian & Co Electrical Contractors.
- Advance Power Solutions.
- Western Power.
- Horizon Power.
- Paul Benbow (consultant).
- Forest Industries Federation WA (FIFWA).
- URI Engineering.
- David Gardner (consultant).
- Jeff Morrell (consultant).
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).
- Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM).

Energy*Safety* is appreciative of the quality of the submissions and the range of matters addressed.

The key comments received and issues raised can be summarised as follows:

1. The electrical contracting industry, in general, supports the proposals. There were several suggestions regarding design and construction details and concerns were expressed about consequential cost increases to customers.
2. The network operators support the proposals, with some qualifying comments on design and construction details.
3. A number of parties challenged the proposal to exclude the use of wood poles in high fire risk areas.
4. DFES recommends using the WA Bushfire Prone Area Map (to be published shortly) as the basis for identifying high/low fire risk areas.
5. Most parties support the undergrounding of private power lines as the preferred long term option.

Energy*Safety* is carefully considering the submissions which will be used to develop the final guidelines.