

SAFETY ALERT – NEAR MISS

Star Pickets Installed within Eglinton Village Energy (EVE) Power Cable Alignment

Description

On Thursday, 24th April 2025 Eglinton Village Energy (EVE) were notified by an electrical contractor of a power outage impacting part of Coolum Road and Hermosa Avenue in Eglinton Village.

Our technician narrowed down the fault to a section of cable in front of the Eglinton Village Sales Office on Coolum Rd. During his investigation to identify the fault, he attempted to remove a 1800mm star picket and received a mild electric shock.

The technician was taken to Joondalup Health campus for a medical assessment (including ECG and blood test) to determine the extent of any electric shock injury. Fortunately, the assessment indicated that the technician sustained no adverse effect from this electric shock.

Upon inspection, it was found that a landscaping contractor had installed a row of steel star pickets parallel to the footpath, outside of the lot boundary and within the road reserve 0-500mm cable alignment.

The landscaping contractor installing the steel star pickets did not submit a request to Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) which would have showed the assets in the area.

Multiple steel star pickets were found to have been driven through the cable marker tape and cable slab. The steel star pickets have impacted the cable in multiple locations, requiring significant remediation works.

This is a high potential near miss which had the potential to cause significant injury, including a fatality.

This event is a timely reminder of why Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) requests are so critical when doing any work that may impact underground services.

These requests can be on the Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) website: <https://www.byda.com.au/>

Actions for Builders / Contractors:

- Ensure you complete Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) requests prior to doing any works that may impact underground assets.
- Pothole to confirm location of underground assets.
- Communicate this Safety Alert at prestart / toolbox meetings to your employees and share with all other relevant contractors / stakeholders.

For all further enquires or information please contact the Eglinton Village Energy Customer Service team at: CustomerService@eglintonvillageenergy.com.au

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Star pickets installed along footpath within EVE power cable alignment.



1800mm star picket driven through cable slab. Star picket also narrowly missed the gas service.



Cable slab removed showing star picket impact with streetlight cable.



Damaged section of LV mains cable which had been impacted by another star picket causing the power outage.

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Actions taken by Eglinton Village Energy:

After this event:

- The circuit was physically isolated from network to prevent further power outages.
- Other areas of the Eglinton Village subdivision were surveyed by a technical team to identify other star pickets installed within the cable alignment.
- Voltage checks and potholing on star pickets identified as within the cable alignment were conducted to identify similar potential issues.

Further actions required:

- To excavate impacted assets and conduct repairs to damaged cables as required.

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