



NEW SOUTH WALES

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Ian Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy,  
Minister for Mineral Resources, Minister for State Development

### Legislation fast tracked to protect vital power cables

The NSW Government is fast tracking new legislation to prevent unnecessary power outages across NSW, Energy Minister Ian Macdonald said today.

“Just over a week ago I announced a five point plan to protect vital energy infrastructure - this will be given the highest priority,” Mr Macdonald said.

“We are implementing stronger laws to provide greater protection to important our electrical supply cables, not just in Sydney but across the State.

“This will involve strengthening the Electricity Supply Act and making the “Dial Before You Dig” program compulsory.

“It will be mandatory that people notify the electricity networks if they have damaged a cable and we are also working to make changes to planning laws to improve cable management plans.

“Currently about 70% of all power interruptions are currently due to factors beyond the control of the networks, which including people accidentally digging up cables, trees falling or storms.

“We plan to introduce these stronger laws within weeks.

“In addition, a project installing 10 kilometres of fibre optic cable from Lane Cove to the CBD should be completed by EnergyAustralia in the coming months, which will bring even greater protection to these important cables.”

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