Electricity supply to rural areas

This document has been developed to inform people wishing to purchase rural properties or those people who currently own a rural property about the issues that need to be considered in connecting the property to the local electricity network.

If you live within Endeavour Energy’s network franchise, which spans across Sydney’s Greater West, the Illawarra, South Coast, Blue Mountains and the Southern Highlands, come and talk to us about the costs of connecting a rural property to the electricity network.

The service we provide is intended for those considering purchasing a rural property who wish to make a single electricity connection. Endeavour Energy will be able to provide you with a free order of cost estimate for connecting this property to the network. This service better informs those wishing to purchase or develop the land about the potential costs of connecting to the electrical network.

For industrial, commercial and subdivision developments in rural areas, the developers should engage the services of a Level 3 Accredited Service Provider (ASP) to provide the design cost estimate for supplying electricity to the development.

Endeavour Energy also has additional information documents:

- **How to Get your Electricity Connected/Augmented - when NOT subdividing;** and
- **How to Get your Electricity Connected/Augmented - when subdividing.**

These information documents explain the detailed process that needs to be followed to arrange for electricity connection and should be read in conjunction with this information document.

Any electricity load or supply in a rural area requires an Application for Connection of Load (FPJ6009) to be submitted to Endeavour Energy. A copy of the information documents referred to above and the application form are available from Endeavour Energy’s website.

To ensure there is an acceptable quality of electricity supply to existing and future customers, the Australian Energy Regulator has determined the way in which costs for connecting to the electricity network are apportioned in a fair and equitable manner based on reasonable user-pays principles. As a general rule, customers pay the costs of providing and installing the lines and equipment up to a defined point of connection to the network (ie connection costs).

In addition to these costs, rural customers must also pay for any augmentation works to the existing network that would be required to make supply available to their development.

The technical issues associated with getting supply to rural properties are the same as for urban land. However, the practical difficulties and costs to overcome those technical issues can be significantly higher in rural situations.
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Some technical issues can have a significant impact on the cost of making supply available, and hence the rural property owner must consider the following matters:

**Q1: Is there existing infrastructure capable of supplying the load required?**

It is important to note that the presence of existing electricity infrastructure on or near the property does not guarantee supply. The reasons are the network may be at the wrong voltage or may not have the capacity to supply your load without considerable upgrade at your cost.

**Q2: If electricity infrastructure is not located on or adjacent to the property, will I be able to arrange for a suitable route to place the new infrastructure?**

There are two options that need to be considered:
- Extension on the existing formed road;
- Obtaining an easement over adjacent property that has a connection point.

There are a number of challenges that may arise:
- Permission to access power lines on adjacent property can be difficult to negotiate;
- Alternative routes along roads may be prohibitively expensive or not technically or environmentally viable; and
- Survey and legal costs may be prohibitive.

If these challenges are unable to be addressed, then the applicant may need to consider alternative sources of electricity supply that do not require connection to the network.

**Q3: Will environmental factors affect the feasibility and cost of getting supply?**

An environmental assessment will be needed as part of the process of designing your new connection, including consultation with any affected neighbours. You need to be aware that, in some instances, the shortest route may not be acceptable on environmental grounds. In a rural setting, tree trimming and clearing may be required and consideration must also be given to other factors such as flora, fauna and measures to prevent soil erosion.

**Q4: How much will my new electrical connection cost?**

The cost of a new connection can vary considerably and will be influenced by the factors outlined above in this information document.

Customers requiring assurance about costs should seek formal quotations from an ASP. The list of ASPs can be obtained from the NSW Trade & Investment on 137 788 or follow this URL: http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/electricity/network-connections/contestable

Endeavour Energy will provide a free service to eligible people wishing to get an order of cost estimate for their new connection within our franchise area. It is not available in situations where the actual or anticipated electricity load is greater than 63kVA. This service is intended for those considering purchasing a rural property or those people who currently own a rural property who wish to make a single connection. This service is not available to developers or owners of rural properties wishing to subdivide their land.

The order of cost estimate is an approximation developed by a desktop review of information provided by you. It does not allow for the costs associated with creating easements, tree removal, site specific conditions and other features of the location.
Electricity supply to rural areas

If you require more accurate information it is strongly recommended that you contact an ASP as outlined above.

If you wish to use this free service, please complete the enclosed Request for Order of Cost Estimate for Connection of Small Rural Loads form and submit to the relevant Regional Services Manager as outlined on the form.

Once the form has been submitted, our design staff will provide an order of cost estimate based on the information provided. Endeavour Energy will not design or construct your connection and the information provided is an estimate only and is not binding on the ASPs who may ultimately undertake this work for you.

Q5: If I pay for all of the contestable work now and other customers use these electrical assets in the future, can I be compensated?

Where augmentation of the distribution system in rural area is necessary to allow your connection, you may be entitled to use Endeavour Energy’s cost-share reimbursement scheme. This will depend on the likelihood of other customers using the electrical assets funded and constructed by you within the 7 year period from the date when your application was submitted to Endeavour Energy.

Details of the reimbursement scheme are provided in the Model Standing Offer for Standard Connection Services, and the Endeavour Energy Connection Policy available from Endeavour Energy’s website.

Q6: What do I do now?

If you wish to lodge an Application for Connection of Load to Endeavour Energy network, please complete form FPJ6009 available on our website.

If you have any further questions after reading this information document, contact us on 133 718 or alternatively you can email or fax us your specific questions to the following address:

Customer Interaction Centre (CIC)
Fax: 02 4252 2915
Email: cicadmin@endeavourenergy.com.au
Request for Order of Cost Estimate for Connection of Small Rural Loads

Please post the completed request to the relevant Regional Services Manager closest to the property of interest to Endeavour Energy, PO Box 811, Seven Hills NSW 1730.

Regional Services Manager – Central
For properties in the Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly local government areas.

Regional Services Manager – North
For properties in the Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Lithgow, Parramatta, Penrith and Rylstone local government areas.

Regional Services Manager – South
For properties in the Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, and Wollongong local government areas.

If you need assistance to complete the form please phone 131 081 and ask to speak to the relevant Regional Services Manager.

IMPORTANT NOTES:
• This is a free service provided to assist rural land owners / prospective owners.
• This service is not available to people who wishes to develop industrial, commercial and subdivision developments.
• This estimate is based on information provided by the interested party.
• The estimating methods used are approximations only.
• The costs associated with obtaining access to land and easements are not included.
• Tree trimming and removal costs are not included.
• No allowance being made for site specific conditions.
• The estimate assuming no unusual soil conditions exist which could increase the earthing cost for the electrical assets.
• The estimate assuming that the average distance between poles is 70 metres.
• It is suggested that the interested party seek formal quotations from Accredited Service Providers when certainty regarding the cost of supply of electricity is required. The listing of Accredited Service Providers can be found on the NSW Trade & Investment website, http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/electricity/network-connections/contestable or by contacting them by phone (02) 9895 0008.
• By completing this application, you acknowledge and accept that the information provided by Endeavour Energy will be based on the information you (the customer) have provided us and our general knowledge of the likely costs associated with a connection to our network. This information does not constitute legal, financial or other professional advice. Endeavour Energy makes no warranty or representation regarding the quality, accuracy, reliability, completeness or fitness for purpose of any part of this information. Endeavour Energy will not be held responsible for any damage or loss you may sustain as a result of relying on this information.

To be completed by customer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site detail (Please prepare a site sketch on the following page)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lot no(s): DP no(s): Street no: Street name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburb: State: Postcode:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBD ref: Area of property in hectares:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street no: Street name: Suburb: Postcode:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel no: Mobile: Fax no:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposed load detail (maximum demand calculated according to AS3000)

Single phase load in amperes:  
Three phase load in amperes:  
Description of load to be supplied:  

To be completed by customer

Location plan

Please provide a sketch showing the development and the location of the development with respect to the property boundary(s), nearest road and cross street, nearest electricity pole (and number of the pole if on the pole) with dimensions and the north point. Please provide additional information eg survey/road map or other if available.

To be completed by Endeavour Energy

An order of cost estimate provided for budget purposes for establishing a connection at the above site based on:

___________ meters of high voltage line, ____________kVA substation, ___________ meters of low voltage line is $_____________ (excluding GST).

Depot issued from:

Issued by (print name):

Signature                      Date of application:    /    /