

## **ENERGY SAFE VICTORIA INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT BUSHFIRE RAVAGED COMMUNITIES**

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) is the State's electricity and gas safety regulator and announces the following initiatives to assist in restoring power supplies to communities affected by the bushfires.

### **Everyone involved in the electrical trades should note the following:**

ESV supports the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) call for its members who are licensed electricians to volunteer their services helping communities when the time comes by reconnecting electrical supplies to properties where possible, making homes safe, setting up generators and other such work.

ESV will supply an initial total of 500 certificates of electrical safety free of charge to electricians supporting the ETU's call and carrying out this work.

Other registered electrical contractors/licensed electricians who issue certificates of electrical safety for electrical work carried out in bushfire affected areas will have the certificates replaced by ESV also free of charge.

### **Other major developments:**

Because of the large numbers of people who lost electricity supplies due to the bushfires, proposed changes to the electricity safety regime will be brought forward allowing Licensed Electrical Inspectors who have a G class licence to inspect the installation of generators. Normally this work is confined to inspectors with S or R licences. Changes will be made to the ESV certificate system so that G class inspectors will not need to make a licence application.

ESV will permit builders' poles to be used to connect properties in bushfire affected areas to the electricity supply, and remain in place for 12 months. This arrangement can apply to temporary accommodation, new construction or for equipment such as pumps.

The use of overhead supply builders' poles can only be used in such circumstances if there is not enough vegetation to pose a risk of fire. ESV expects everyone involved in such work – licensed electricians, licensed electrical inspectors and staff of distribution businesses – to use their judgment and assess if there is a risk by using builders' poles.

While all other electrical safety regulatory requirements remain in place, ESV will consider other initiatives which may assist communities during these difficult times. ESV extends its sympathy to all individuals and communities impacted by the fires.

**Ken Gardner**

**DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Gardner".