

Thursday, 4 January, 2020



## Lineys help save wildlife in 37-degree scorcher

Powercor crews helped rescue a koala and swamp wallaby within minutes of each other at Cobram East on Monday, in an action-packed afternoon for line workers.

No strangers to spending time up poles in all conditions, Cobram lineys Brett Anthony and Kevin Bristol were called to assist local wildlife shelter Dutch Thunder after nearby residents noticed a koala at the top of a 12.5-meter power pole on Chapel Road.

The koala appeared distressed in the 37-degree heat and the Powercor crew were able to access the marsupial using an Elevated Work Platform vehicle.

Liney Brett explained the delicate nature of the rescue.

“They were live wires, so we had to be careful with how we moved the koala and it looked like it was pretty dehydrated,” Brett said.

“Kev was able to guide it down the pole using his HV insulated stick and we had the wildlife rescue people down the bottom who were able to look after it.”

While up the pole, Kevin noticed a second animal that appeared to be battling with the hot and windy conditions on the Total Fire Ban day.

“There was a wallaby on the channel bank nearby and we were able to direct the rescuers in his direction.”

“I’ve been doing this job for a long time and we don’t get too many wildlife rescues, let alone have two in the same day.”

You can read more about the rescue on Dutch Thunder Wildlife Shelter’s [Facebook page](#).

**ENDS**

**For more information call Powercor’s media line on 03 9683 4342**



## **About Powercor**

Powercor distributes electricity to 850,000 customers across the western suburbs of Melbourne and through central and western Victoria to the South Australian and New South Wales borders. Electricity is distributed in the region via a network comprising over 88,400 kilometres of wires, supported by more than 577,420 poles and associated infrastructure.

Residential households account for 86 per cent of connections. Our customers are dispersed over a wide geographic area in a density of just 12 people per square kilometre.

Our network also supports 11,200 medium, commercial and industrial businesses and 106,500 small businesses dominated by health care and social assistance, agriculture, forestry and fishing. These businesses generate 25 per cent of Victoria's Gross Domestic Product.

Our teams operate from 13 depots, our Bendigo-based customer contact centre and our CBD headquarters, to deliver reliable, safe and affordable electricity by operating, managing and maintaining all network assets and metering services. This means managing a network that is reliable and safe, particularly in relation to bushfire risks.