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## **Electrifying safety performance wins award**

ETSA Utilities has won the top national safety award, for 'Best Workplace Health and Safety Management System' announced in Canberra last night (Tuesday) by Safe Work Australia.

CEO Lew Owens said the award showed the substance behind ETSA Utilities' reputation as a leader in safety.

"This award recognises the efforts of everyone in ETSA Utilities to ensure staff and customers are safe. That commitment brings real benefits to our people and to the business," Mr Owens said.

"We are very proud of our reputation as an industry leader in health and safety, but we know we can not be complacent, because a serious injury could be just around the corner.

Mark Rogers, Manager Health and Safety, said ETSA Utilities had a number of challenges in delivering health and safety.

"We're a big organisation with a huge diversity of work locations and activity and that's why it is essential we have a comprehensive safety management system in place.

"Working with electricity is inherently dangerous – not only is it invisible, odourless and deadly, but it is distributed via overhead or underground infrastructure requiring working from heights or in confined spaces. Supply and restoration work also is performed in extreme weather conditions and at any time of the day or night. Also, given the geographic spread of the electricity distribution network, our staff drive millions of kilometres every year to ensure electricity is available when people need it," Mr Rogers said.

"There also is a significant amount of manual handling involved, so that means we have to deal with the full range of key causes of injury and death in Australian workplaces."

Mr Rogers said ETSA Utilities was committed to ensuring reliability of supply to customers, but always operated on the basis that safety for customers and staff comes first.

"A key aspect of our safety management system is that it is not just a plan, a framework or system, but a living part of how we do things.

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### **About ETSA Utilities**

ETSA Utilities is South Australia's electricity distributor, delivering energy from the transmission network through poles, wires, substations and transformers to about 800,000 customers. With more than 60 years experience, we are one of South Australia's largest organisations, employing more than 1750 people throughout metropolitan and regional South Australia.

ETSA Utilities is 51 percent owned by Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited and Hongkong Electric Holdings, which form part of the Cheung Kong Group of companies. The remaining 49 percent is owned by Spark Infrastructure, which began trading on the ASX in December 2005.



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“The system has been developed over many years in consultation with management and staff, health and safety representatives and our unions,” Mr Rogers said.

“It is designed to engage the whole workforce – all levels of staff and management have clear responsibilities and are held accountable for safety performance.

“Apart from implementation of specific policies and procedures, we also have an active communication program that keeps safety constantly up front and fresh in people’s minds and reinforces the key message ‘Be Safe – Not Sorry’.”

Lew Owens said “the reality is that safety is a 24 hour a day seven day a week job and we want our staff and their families to be safe so they can fully enjoy life and work.

“That is a driver for us all to continue to strive for our vision of ‘a workplace free of accidents or injury’,” Mr Owens said.

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