

Spinning powerline markers designed to save lives

You're driving at dusk and you don't spot the wallaby until it starts bounding across the road.

It's a familiar story for country drivers and one that explains the effectiveness of spinning powerline markers.

"Humans are hard-wired to notice movement, so by installing spinning markers on powerlines in high-traffic areas on farms we can increase visibility and reduce the risk of heavy vehicles, machinery and aircraft coming into contact with high-voltage wires," Ergon Energy's Community Safety Manager Aaron Smith said.

"Powerlines are such an integral part of our lives they blend into the scenery and we may not notice them, which isn't a problem until your life depends on it."

Eye-catching Rotamarkas cost around \$100 each and Ergon has made them a more affordable option for farmers by covering the installation costs for up to ten markers per customer.

"Once customers place an order for the powerline markers with Ergon, we can coordinate it so that when our field crews are doing other work in the area, they'll do the installation for free.

"It's a simple but worthwhile investment, especially in areas where aerial application and harvesting frequently happens within close proximity of powerlines," Aaron said.

Powerline markers are a potentially lifesaving control measure for workers in high-risk industries.

In the last financial year, there were 40 reported incidents in the agricultural sector and four in aviation.

"While it's heartening to have seen a reduction in incidents in the last year there is no room for complacency because we all agree one incident is one too many.

"We've been working closely with the agriculture and aviation industries to prevent incidents because any contact with powerlines can have serious consequences, including severe burns or death," Aaron said.

Rotamarka order forms and powerline safety information are available on the Look up and Live app now available in the app stores.

