

# Aerial mustering near transmission lines



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**Safety is essential every day for our landholders, community and our people.**

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## About this brochure

This brochure provides specific advice for landholders and aerial mustering contractors about flying safely near electricity transmission lines.

## Safe working habits

**Please consider the work habits below before conducting aerial mustering near high voltage transmission lines:**

**Check ahead:** Do a pre-flight reconnaissance to identify hazards.

**Risk assessment:** Conduct a specific risk assessment which includes electrical safety hazards.

**Pre-starts and inductions:** Formal induction process to ensure all workers, landholders and visitors are inducted on the risks of electrical hazards.

**Techniques:** Use appropriate flying techniques such as crossing over lines at towers rather than mid-span.

**Weather:** Ensure weather conditions are appropriate and there is adequate visibility to conduct the activity.

**If an aircraft makes contact with a high voltage transmission line:**

**Live:** Assume ALL powerlines and cables are live.

**Don't approach:** If powerlines are in contact with or near the aircraft do not approach, as the immediate area could be live.

**Turn off fuel supply:** If safe to do so, pilots should turn off the fuel supply to minimise the risk of igniting a fire.

**Don't move:** If you are inside the aircraft, stay inside the cabin until the power has been switched off. If it is unsafe to stay, jump clear with both feet together, avoiding any contact with the aircraft and any fallen powerlines or components.

**Call Triple Zero (000):** Tell the operator it is a life threatening situation and advise them that the powerlines are down and the power needs to be turned off. Provide the exact location of the incident.

**Stay ten metres away:** Keep at least ten metres away from the aircraft and fallen powerlines or cables.

**Call Powerlink:** Please contact us on 1800 353 031 to advise us of the incident.

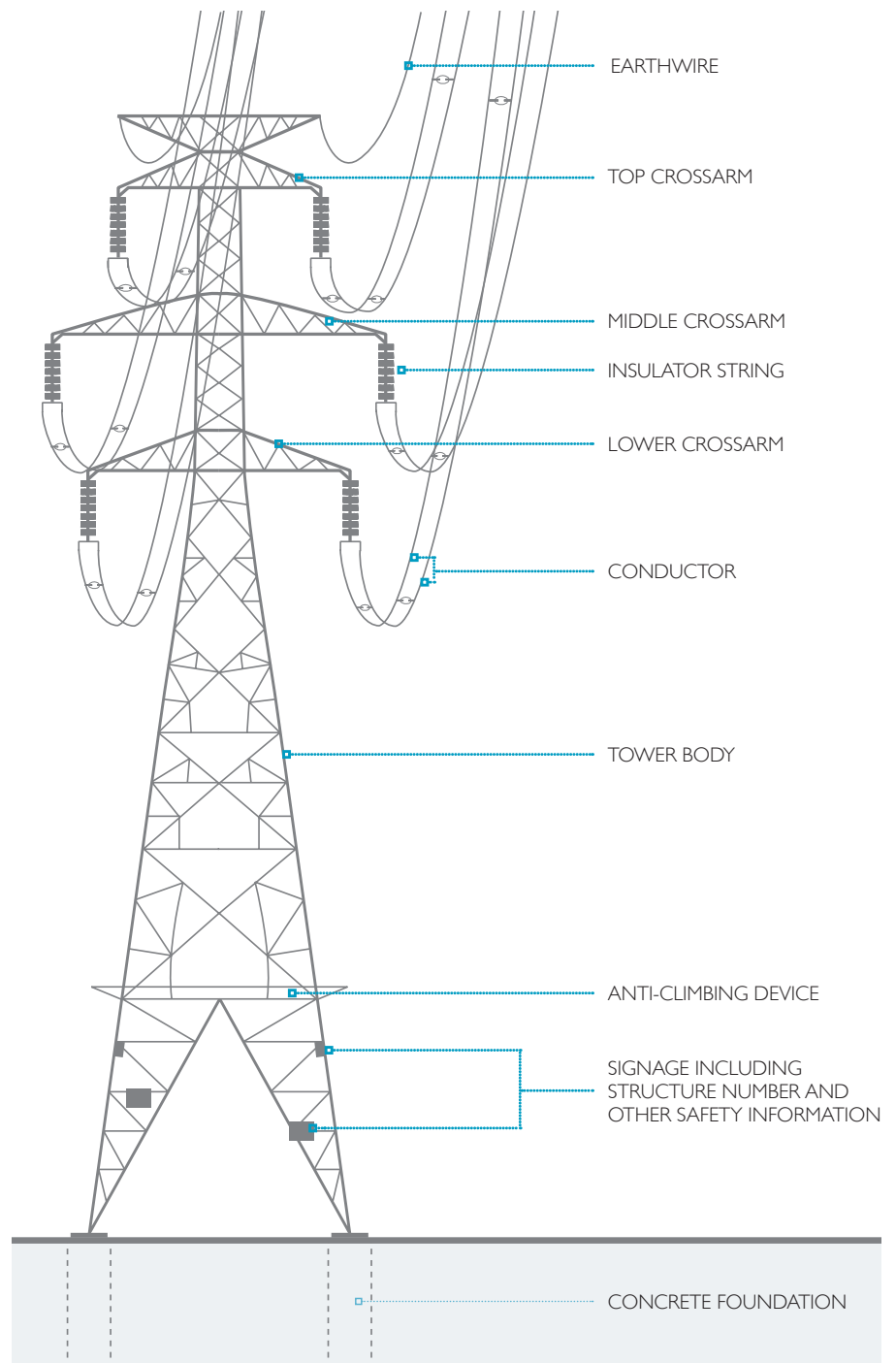
### General information

Helicopters are widely used in Queensland to muster cattle. This low-level flying activity can expose pilots to hazards such as dust and poor visibility, trees and electrical hazards (including transmission lines and towers).

We strongly encourage helicopter mustering contractors to take the time to understand the configuration of the transmission network and the components of a transmission tower (see diagram opposite).

Weather conditions can also have a major influence on the visibility of the different components on a transmission tower. For example, the earth wire that runs on top of the tower is not as thick as the conductor (powerline) and is more difficult to see.

Pilots need to be vigilant at all times, but should be particularly careful when flying near earth wires, flying in an area for the first time or where new transmission lines have been built.



*Indicative of a particular transmission tower design.*

### Contact Us

Further information about Powerlink and our projects can be downloaded from [www.powerlink.com.au](http://www.powerlink.com.au)

General Enquiries FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours) and ask for Property Services

In case of emergency FREECALL 1800 353 031 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Email [Property@powerlink.com.au](mailto:Property@powerlink.com.au)

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Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday.