

May 2019

ACROSS*the*LINES



Justin Peterson.

Staff survey helps drive further improvements to Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Balancing safety, comfort and durability is the aim when outfitting field teams, PowerNet's general manager business growth Justin Peterson says.

Feedback from teams via a company-wide survey has led to the trialling of new lighter weight outer garments.

PPE needs to guard teams against the possibility of arc flash or electric shocks, but also needs to be lightweight and comfortable enough, so that people aren't overheating while working outside, he says.

Justin says the survey – which had a 97% response rate from operational staff – encouraged them to source the new lighter weight garments for all year-round use.

The survey gauged how people felt about the gear they use every day. While most said their gear was suitable, management had taken on board feedback around a need for light weight gear.

Staff commented that equipment that could be worn comfortably year-round was important.

PowerNet health, safety and environment manager Phil Johnson says the company tries to do everything it practically can do to ensure staff have suitable and effective protective gear on in the field.

"In the unlikely event of something going wrong, they've got the best protective gear on."

Justin says the new gear seems to be a winner with staff who have tried it to date.

"We trial our equipment before we push it out to our field teams."

Keeping teams dry when working in wet conditions was of course a high priority – and feedback that gear was water-proof and durable was pleasing to hear, he says.

An overall focus on improving safety, comfort and durability for field team gear was part of PowerNet's continuous improvement approach, Justin says.