

Vegetation management near powerlines

Throughout the year we plan ahead and manage vegetation near powerlines to reduce the risk of power outages and potential bushfires caused by vegetation falling on, or coming into contact with powerlines.

Continuous vegetation management:

- > Reduces the potential harm to people; damage to property; or the local environment
- > Minimises tree-related power outages
- > Reduces the incidence of branches contacting powerlines and potentially causing bushfires.

Essential Energy engages contractors to undertake inspection and trimming services. Contractors may contact you directly, either by door knock or letter box drop, to advise you of vegetation management work in your area.

If you have any questions about vegetation management please contact the contractor directly using the contact details they have provided you, or visit our website essentialenergy.com.au/trees for further information.

Vegetation clearances

Tree trimming clearances used by our contractors meet the state wide standard for vegetation clearance distances from powerlines. Tree trimming clearance requirements are updated from time to time. Always refer to Essential Energy's Vegetation Management Plan at essentialenergy.com.au/trees for the current clearance requirements.

The Vegetation Clearances around Urban and Rural Powerlines diagram and table shown overleaf, outlines typical Minimum Vegetation Clearance distances that must be maintained at all times, so far as is reasonably practicable.

An additional clearance allowance for vegetation regrowth is removed at the time of treatment to ensure that Minimum Vegetation Clearances are maintained between vegetation management cycles.

In some rural situations where powerline spans are longer than 100m, greater clearance distances are required in the middle of the span to cater for the sag and swing of powerlines in hot and windy conditions.

Remember - tree trimming can be hazardous near overhead powerlines and should only be performed by qualified tree trimmers – leave it to the experts.

To report vegetation growing too close to our network, complete our online form at essentialenergy.com.au/trees

Plan before you plant

The wrong trees planted near powerlines can cause interference to the powerlines with the potential for serious consequences. To reduce or avoid the need for tree trimming and the potential for costly tree removals, we encourage landowners to plant responsibly – please **plan before you plant**.

When planting, follow these guidelines:

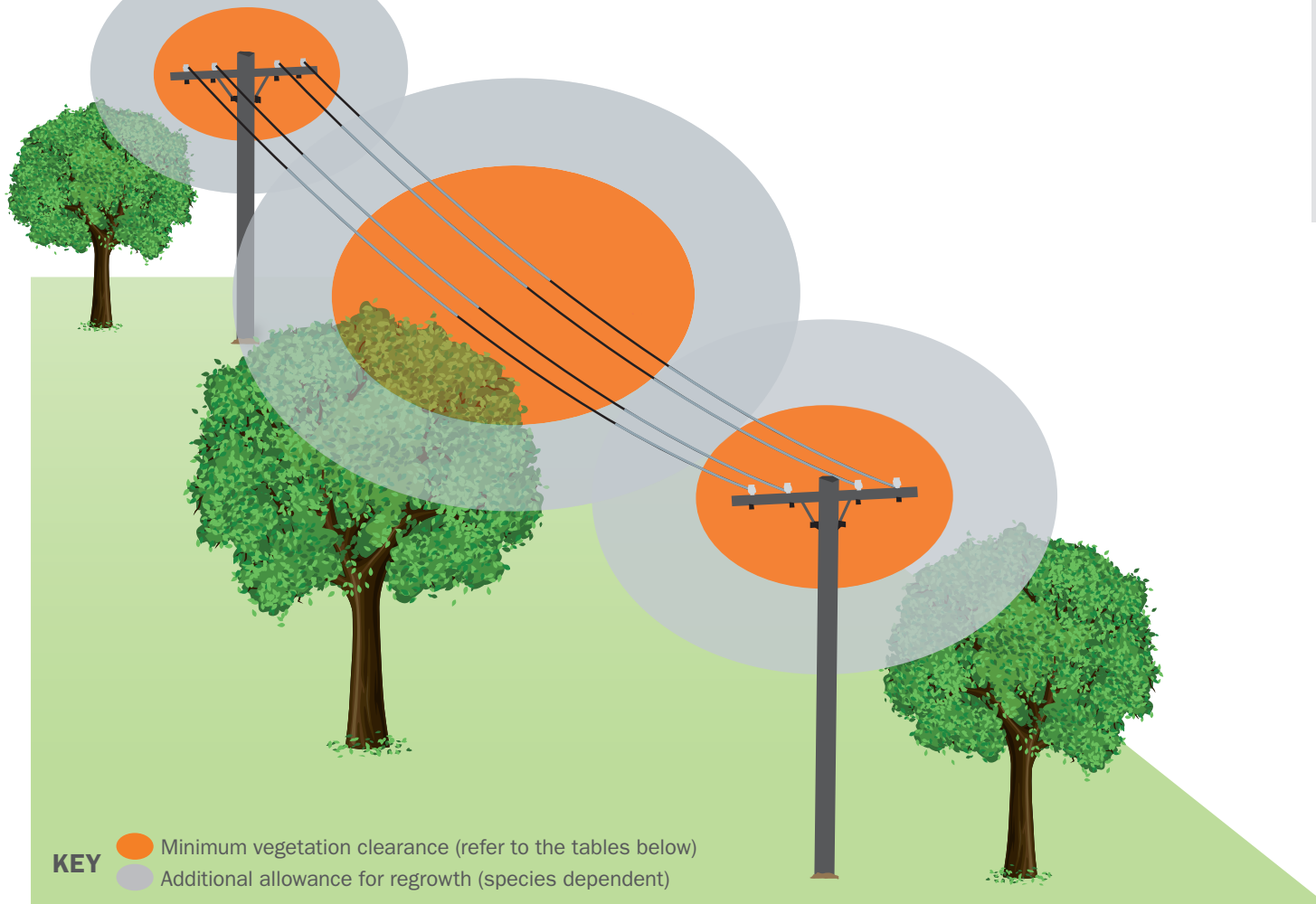
- > Look up before you plant
- > Consider how big the tree or vegetation will grow and what will be affected
- > Plant taller varieties furthest away from powerlines
- > Do not plant on the nature strip without local council approval
- > Remember that access to powerlines is required for maintenance and repairs in the future
- > Select appropriate plant species that are native to the area and avoid planting species that could invade the surrounding environment
- > Plant away from underground pits, pillar boxes and padmount transformers so roots don't become a problem
- > Review our Unsuitable Trees Guide at essentialenergy.com.au/trees or call **13 23 91** for further information.

Please scan QR code to learn more.



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KEY ● Minimum vegetation clearance (refer to the tables below)
● Additional allowance for regrowth (species dependent)

Vegetation clearance around urban and rural powerlines

- > Where practical, trimming is carried out to meet the *Australian Standard 4373* which may require branches be cut back to growth points
- > Clearances between trees and powerlines increase as voltage and span length of the powerlines increase
- > Clearances in the middle of the span are greater to allow for conductor swing and sag for any spans greater than 100m. An additional allowance for regrowth is trimmed at the time of treatment to ensure that Minimum Vegetation Clearances are maintained at all times
- > Always plant a tree at least 15m away from powerlines, or at a distance equal to its mature height – whichever is greater. Some properties may be subject to easement conditions that impose even greater clearance distances
- > A tree's proximity to powerlines and the trimming required to maintain clearance distances may mean some trees are removed completely
- > For more information see our **Vegetation Management Plan** at essentialenergy.com.au/trees

Typical minimum vegetation clearance* around bare powerlines in urban areas			
Voltage	Spans 0-50m	Spans 50-100m	Around pole
Urban LV	1.0m	1.0m	2.0m
Urban HV 11kV-22kV	1.5m	2.5m	2.0m
Urban 33-66kV	3.0m	3.0m	2.0m
Urban 132kV	6.0m	6.0m	2.0m

Typical minimum vegetation clearance* around bare powerlines in rural areas			
Voltage	Spans 100-200m	Spans 200-300m	Around pole
Rural LV	2.0m – 3.0m	4.0m – 4.5m	2.0m
Rural HV 11kV-22kV	2.5m – 4.0m	2.5m – 5.5m	2.0m
Rural 33-66kV	3.5m – 4.5m	5.0m – 6.5m	2.0m
Rural 132kV	6.5m	6.5m – 7.0m	2.0m

Typical minimum vegetation clearance* around insulated powerlines in urban areas			
Voltage	Spans 0-50m	Spans 50-100m	Around pole
Urban LV Service Lines	0.5m	N/A	2.0m
Urban LV Insulated Mains	0.5m	0.5m	2.0m
Urban HV ABC	0.5m	0.5m	2.0m
Urban HV CCT	1.0m	1.0m	2.0m

Typical minimum vegetation clearance* around insulated powerlines in rural areas		
Voltage	Span length	Around pole
Rural LV Service Lines	0.5m all spans	2.0m
Rural LV Insulated Mains	0.5m – 1.0m all spans	2.0m
Rural HV ABC	0.5m – 1.0m all spans	2.0m
Rural HV CCT	1.0m all spans	2.0m

* Typical Minimum Vegetation Clearance to be maintained at all times. An additional clearance allowance for vegetation regrowth is also removed at the time of treatment. Always refer to Essential Energy's Vegetation Management Plan for current specific clearance distances.