

Trees and powerlines

Trees growing too close to powerlines can risk power outages or fires – that's why we regularly inspect trees near our poles and wires and cut them back as necessary. Trees are trimmed in a way that helps us deliver a safe and reliable electricity supply while adhering to electricity safety regulations. Powercor, our contractors and local councils work together to undertake tree cutting. Customers also share responsibility for trees growing on their property.

Our tree cutting program

We inspect and cut trees around powerlines to maintain safe distances plus additional space for regrowth. Depending on the tree species and location, we may carry out additional trimming. We focus on rural (higher bushfire risk areas) areas while paddocks are dry and accessible before moving to urban (lower bushfire risk areas) during the wetter winter months.



1. Conduct inspection

We use LiDAR technology to inspect all powerlines in low and high bushfire risk areas. Spans where trees have been trimmed in the past year will be inspected during the next maintenance cycle.



2. Notification

We will leave a notification at the property 14 to 60 days in advance of trimming. This provides details allowing the customer to talk directly to the team planning the work.

Where urgent pruning is required, the normal 14-day notification period does not apply.[^]



3. Tree cutting

We trim trees to meet safety clearance rules (clearance can vary) and allow space for two years of growth. We may need to cut back more in bushfire-prone areas. Fast-growing tree species need to be cut back further.

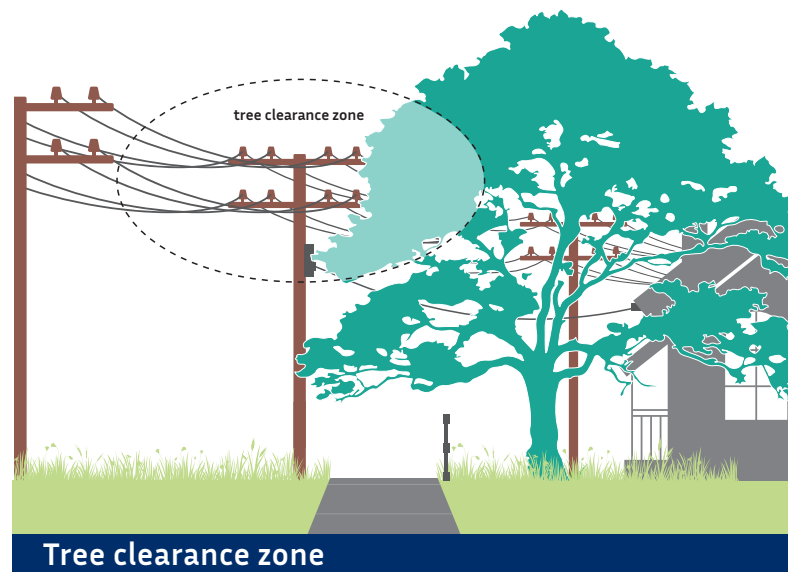


4. Debris clean up

The clean-up requires different machinery so a separate crew will collect cuttings.

We do our best to make sure that any cuttings are stored out of the way until the collection team can pick them up.

From the time of cutting, field crews will typically collect debris within five to ten business days.



[^] As outlined in the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020). These regulation set the minimum clearances required between powerlines and trees. It also outlines the division of responsibilities between councils, power companies and residents in relation to trees and powerlines.



*Tree cutting may look uneven
but it keeps trees clear of
powerlines for longer.*



Who manages trees near powerlines?

Powercor clear vegetation that poses a risk to our assets, maintaining the clearance distances between trees and other vegetation near powerlines.

We are responsible for maintaining trees:

- on private property which branch out near the main wires.
- on customer's property that impact their neighbour's service wire.
- on certain nature strips across Powercor network.

We will leave a notification in a customer's letterbox if we see trees on their property that need to be cut.

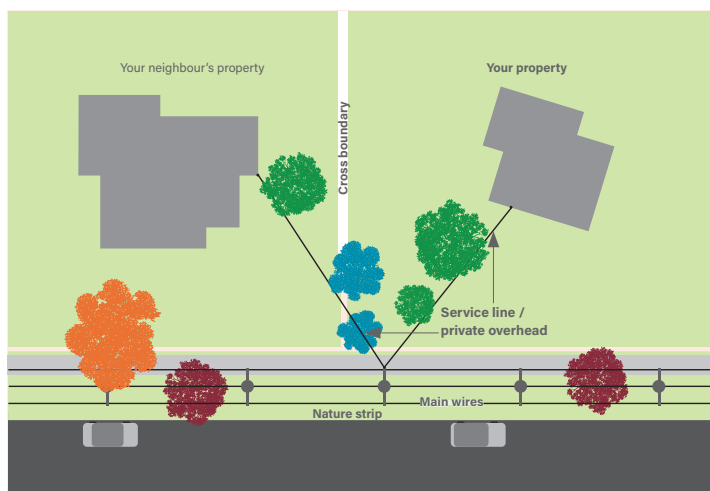
Customers are required to keep trees away from the Private Electric Line or service wires at their property.

Working near live powerlines is dangerous. The Tree No Go Zone defines the minimum safe distance when working near powerlines. Only workers authorised by Powercor can trim trees within the No Go Zone. Customers can request this service by completing our Tree No Go Zone cutting enquiry form.



Safety first

*Never trim trees near powerlines yourself.
Always use a qualified professional.*



Powercor manages trees on your property that impact your neighbour's service wire.



Customers are responsible for trees growing on their property near privately owned powerlines or service wires.



Powercor and councils share responsibility for nature strip trees across our network – contact your local council to find out who is responsible in your area.



Powercor are responsible for trees growing on private property near main wires.

For project updates:

powercor.com.au/tree-cutting

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Scan for more
tree cutting info

