

Private poles explained

Private poles indicate all the components of a private electrical network such as the power pole, the overhead powerlines, or underground wires, crossarms and any other associated equipment and fittings that reside WITHIN your property boundary AFTER the Connection Point.

These electricity assets are your property which you are responsible for maintaining, in the same way you look after the electrical wiring in your home.

Private poles allow you to have electricity available where you want it on your property. Generally, they were installed at the landholder's request. Many of these private power poles have been in place for decades and through multiple changes in land ownership.

What is the connection point?

The connection point is the location where Essential Energy's network joins your electrical installation. The diagram below gives a simple explanation of a connection point.

What are private assets?

In some cases, properties will need private poles to bring power from the connection point to where it is needed. Since the connection point is located **on or before** these private poles, the private poles are owned by the landowner who is responsible for maintaining them (see diagram below).

This simple illustration shows an example of connection point and private poles. You can visit our website essentialenergy.com.au/privateassets for more examples of different types of connection points.



Who is Essential Energy?

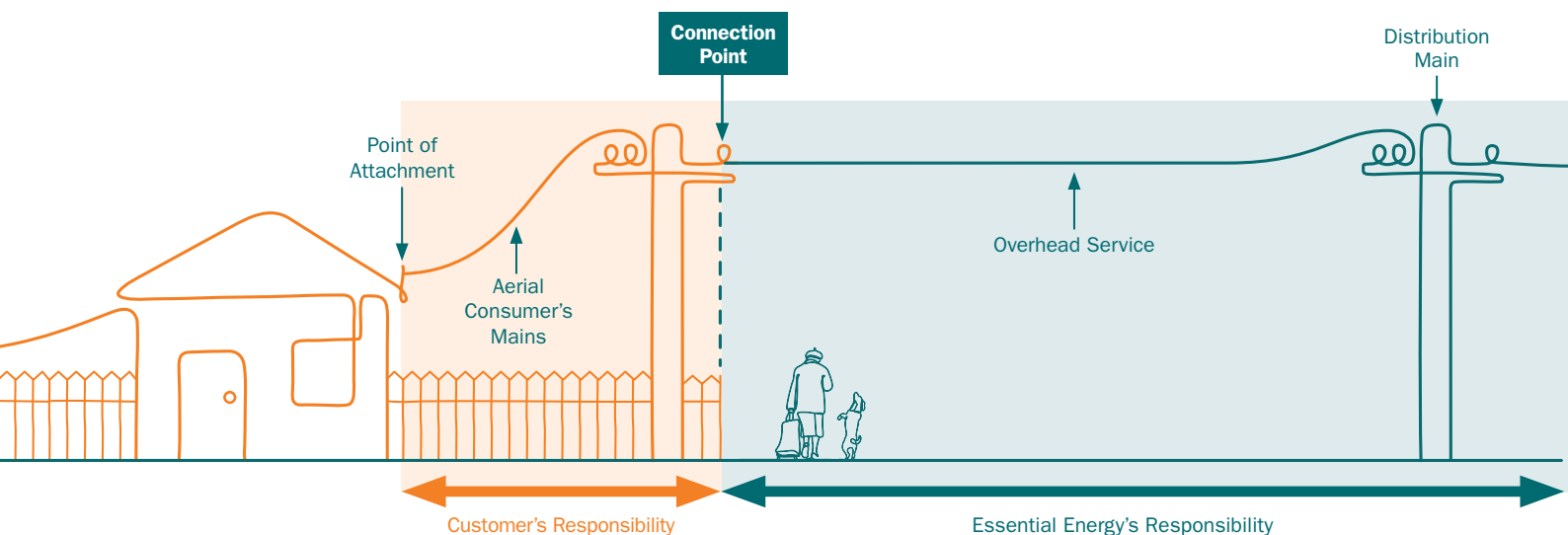
Essential Energy installs, operates and maintains power poles, powerlines and other electrical network assets required to safely bring electricity to homes, businesses and anywhere power is needed. To bring the power to you, we install and maintain the network **up to the Connection Point** on your property.



How will you know if you have a private pole?

Private poles should have a plaque with **PP** followed by an asset number attached to the pole to indicate **Private Pole**. As we progress our asset inspection program, we will ensure that all private owned poles have a **PP** plaque on them to indicate private ownership. We are informing customers as we identify private poles as part of our ongoing inspection programs.

If you are unsure if a power pole on your land belongs to you, visit our website essentialenergy.com.au/privateassets to see more examples of private pole configurations.





Your responsibilities

If you have privately-owned power poles on your property, it is your responsibility to make sure they are safe and correctly maintained, so they do not pose an electrical safety risk or become a bushfire hazard.



You can help reduce these risks by:

- ☒ Regularly inspecting the general condition of poles and powerlines on your property
- ☒ Ensuring trees near the poles and powerlines are not touching or are far enough from powerlines if they sway in strong winds; and that nearby trees do not pose a risk of touching the powerlines if they were to fall
- ☒ Allowing Essential Energy or its representatives to access your property to inspect the network
- ☒ Engaging a suitably qualified electrical or vegetation contractor to fix any damage that we notify you of.

We recommend customers regularly inspect private poles, especially prior to bushfire season, but also after major storms. If you suspect damage, arrange for an appropriately qualified electrical contractor to assess and, if necessary, repair the defect.

Your electrical contractor can also help you with the inspection and maintenance of your private poles and powerlines.

If you find that trees and other vegetation around the private power poles need to be trimmed to within the safe clearance zones, always use a qualified tree trimmer (also known as an arborist), as this can be dangerous.



Essential Energy's rights

As your private electricity assets are connected to the Essential Energy network, we must make sure that they are being properly maintained to help reduce the risk of bushfire and other safety incidents, and to help keep your power on.

We perform inspections under the provisions of the Electricity Supply Act 1995 and Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014.



What happens if Essential Energy identifies a defect?

If we identify a defect on your private pole, we will advise you in writing, and let you know what needs to happen to fix the defect and how long you have to complete this. The time you have to fix the defect will depend upon its severity and risk.

In most cases when you are required to fix a defect, you will need to engage a suitably qualified electrical or vegetation contractor.

If the defect is not fixed within the time-frame, the Electricity Supply Act and/or Regulations permit Essential Energy to either complete the work ourselves and charge you for the work, or disconnect your property from the electricity network – depending on the nature of the defect.

These legal provisions authorise us to take these actions in the interests of public safety. We will consult with you and give you opportunities to arrange for the defects to be fixed before taking any actions. You can read our information about defect notices on our website.



Essential Energy on your property

We will give you notice that we're attending your property and give you the opportunity to let us know about any special access conditions.

You don't need to be present for the inspections. However, if our inspectors are likely to experience any difficulties accessing your property — caused for example by locked gates, livestock or dogs — please let us know and we will work with you to complete our inspection.

All Essential Energy employees and contractors carry photo identification cards. You can ask the asset inspector to show you their identification card before you let them onto your property.

We will carry out our inspections free of charge.

Further information

Contact Essential Energy on **13 23 91** Email private.assets@essentialenergy.com.au

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