

Trees and powerlines



Improving the way we manage vegetation near powerlines to improve how our communities look.

Why does Essential Energy need to manage trees?

Trees growing into or falling onto powerlines pose a significant safety and power supply risk to our community.

Essential Energy and landowners have shared responsibilities under the *NSW Electricity Supply Act 1995* for preventing trees from impacting electricity network operation.

How are trees trimmed?

Most trees near our powerlines network are trimmed using arborist techniques.

Why does Essential Energy require some trees to be removed?

Trees are only removed where:

- > It is necessary to protect the power lines or safety of persons or property near the power lines
- > Alternatives (such as undergrounding the powerline) are known to not be feasible (including economically feasible)
- > Acting in accordance with our Vegetation Management Plan.

Who will remove the tree?

Where a tree must be removed, Essential Energy employs qualified vegetation management specialists to consult with the tree owner to explain why and how the tree removal must occur.

Tree removal must be undertaken in a safe manner and sometimes this requires powerline de-energisation or road traffic control.

Examples of trees Essential Energy may seek to remove



Poor tree health posing safety risk.



Fast branch regrowth exceeding trimming frequency.



Tree physically unable to live outside of clearance space.



Does not respond to directional pruning techniques.



Aesthetics of the tree after pruning are unacceptable such that it would be more appropriate to fully remove.

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How often are trees near powerlines inspected?

Inspection cycle times are dependant upon factors such as rate of growth, possible fire risk, climate and type of vegetation.

Will I be notified if work is required?

Essential Energy will consult with the landholder if vegetation is identified as encroaching upon or has the potential to encroach upon minimum safe vegetation clearances.

Notification of intended vegetation works may include:

- > An initial site inspection to scope required works
- > Discussions with the landholder, either verbal or by Notification letter, advising the scope of work
- > Notification letters provide details of work required and include contact details
- > Landholder notification is provided for works involving tree removal and consent is sought prior to work commencing.

Managing street trees?

Essential Energy will work with Councils in a cooperative manner to ensure effective vegetation management in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Essential Energy will consult with councils where specific street trees are identified for removal.



Scan QR code to learn more.

More information on how and why Essential Energy manages vegetation near powerlines can also be found at essentialenergy.com.au/trees

Who should I speak to if I have further questions?

For vegetation enquiries call **13 23 91**

For supply interruptions call **13 20 80**

If you see trees or tall growing vegetation touching or overhanging powerlines, please call Essential Energy on **13 23 91** so we can investigate.

If you see a tree in contact with powerlines following hazardous weather or any other incident, call us immediately and ensure all onlookers remain at least **8 metres clear**.

Comments: