

Safety will be the overriding requirement of Essential Energy in granting approval for the installation of agricultural netting around powerlines.

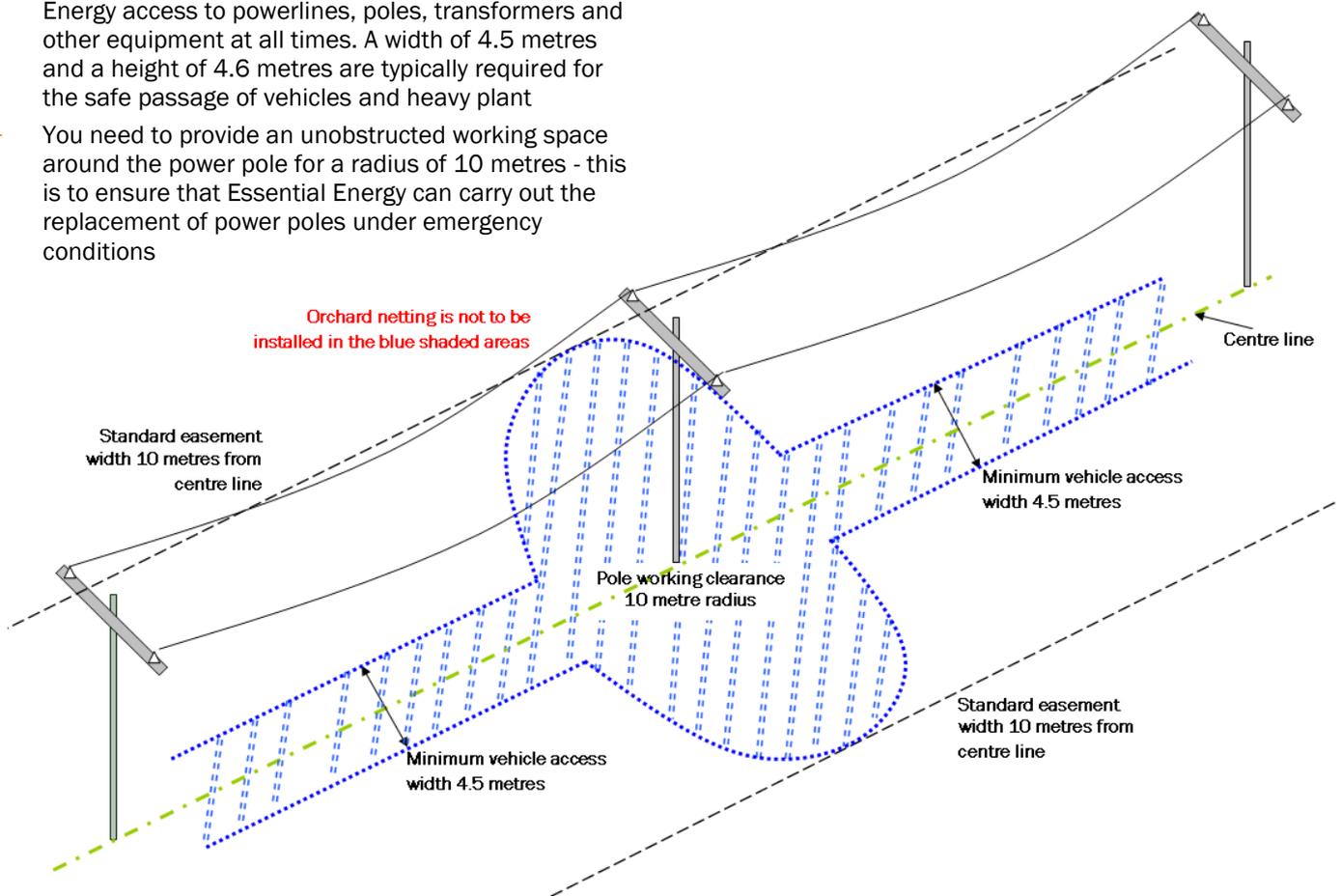
Essential Energy may be prepared to allow agricultural netting to be erected within the powerline corridor provided safety and access requirements are met. Essential Energy recognises landowner's desires for improved crop production. In order to ensure safety and the reliability of supply it is necessary to meet certain criteria before we can grant approval to erect agricultural netting inside the easement corridor.

What do you need to do?

Prior to installing agricultural netting closer than 10 metres of overhead distribution powerlines:

- You must provide continuous, unobstructed access along the full length of the corridor to allow Essential Energy access to powerlines, poles, transformers and other equipment at all times. A width of 4.5 metres and a height of 4.6 metres are typically required for the safe passage of vehicles and heavy plant
- You need to provide an unobstructed working space around the power pole for a radius of 10 metres - this is to ensure that Essential Energy can carry out the replacement of power poles under emergency conditions

- In the case that boundary fences prevent Essential Energy's approach to powerlines, you must provide entry via clearly marked access roads under the netting or by a permanent gap in the netting. Provision must be made for the turning of long vehicles
- Supporting catenary must either be earthed or non-conductive. Non-conductive catenaries are preferred but conductive catenaries may be used provided they are earthed. Where earthing is required, the earth connection resistance must be less than 100 ohms. Contact Essential Energy on **13 23 91** for more information about earthing design
- All catenaries must be secured to prevent uplift and inadvertent contact with powerlines. Consideration must also be given to the fact that powerlines sway in the wind and sag in warmer weather or under maximum load.



Be safe, because they need you



What you must not do:

- Power poles must not be used to support catenaries
- The netting structure must not be accessible by any person and shall not support the weight of a person which would allow dangerously close proximity to powerlines
- Do not attempt to directly measure the height of overhead powerlines as it may cause serious injury or be potentially fatal. Measurements must only be made with specialised measuring equipment that is safe to use in close proximity to powerlines. If in doubt contact Essential Energy.



What are the minimum safe approach distances when working near powerlines?

Workers and their equipment must not approach overhead powerlines any closer than the following, when machinery is being operated, unless approved training and precautions are adhered to in accordance with the WorkCover NSW Code of Practice for Work near Overhead Lines.

Powerlines with voltages up to 132 000 volts	e.g. low voltage and high voltage distribution and subtransmission lines, usually on poles	3m
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It is essential that you know the height and voltage of the overhead powerlines in your work area and the height of your machinery in both the operating and transport positions.

If you are unsure of the height and voltage of powerlines you should contact Essential Energy for more information. Be aware that height of powerlines can vary; therefore a visual inspection for changes in powerlines should be carried out before commencing any activity or passing near or under them.

Maintain safe working clearances during construction and adhere to the requirements of the WorkCover NSW Code of Practice for Work near Overhead Powerlines.



For more information

Essential Energy's Public Safety team is available to facilitate Electrical Hazard Awareness sessions and discuss any questions relating to electrical safety.

For more information on electrical safety please call Essential Energy:

General enquiries **13 23 91**
Power outages **13 20 80**

Follow us  

or visit [essentialenergy.com.au/safety](https://www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety)

Essential Energy recommends you familiarise yourself with the latest SafeWork NSW Code of Practice 'Work near Overhead Powerlines', which can be viewed at www.safework.nsw.gov.au or you can purchase a copy of the Code of Practice by contacting SafeWork NSW on **13 10 50**.

SAFETY FIRST:

- Contact Essential Energy on **13 23 91** at the planning stage of any construction or removal activity for safety advice. If any electricity services need to be upgraded, relocated, disconnected or de-energised, a formal request needs to be submitted well in advance of the work commencing
- You can still be injured without directly contacting an overhead powerline, as electricity can arc across open spaces – so keep your distance!
- The height and position of powerlines will vary with the wind, temperature and the amount of load being carried at the time
- Always treat all powerlines as alive even though they may appear to be dead.