

Plan before you plant near powerlines

We know trees are important to your home, your street and your community, however trees growing too near powerlines can risk power outages or fires, especially during severe weather conditions.

We regularly inspect and cut trees near our poles and wires to maintain a safe distance. Trees are trimmed in a way that helps us deliver a safe and reliable electricity supply while adhering to electricity safety regulations.

While we understand the tree's appearance after trimming may not always be aesthetic, it ensures that we're keeping our community safe.

Planting guidelines

One of the best ways to keep trees away from powerlines is to avoid planting underneath or directly next to powerlines altogether.

Where planting is unavoidable, we ask that you consider the following points before you plant.

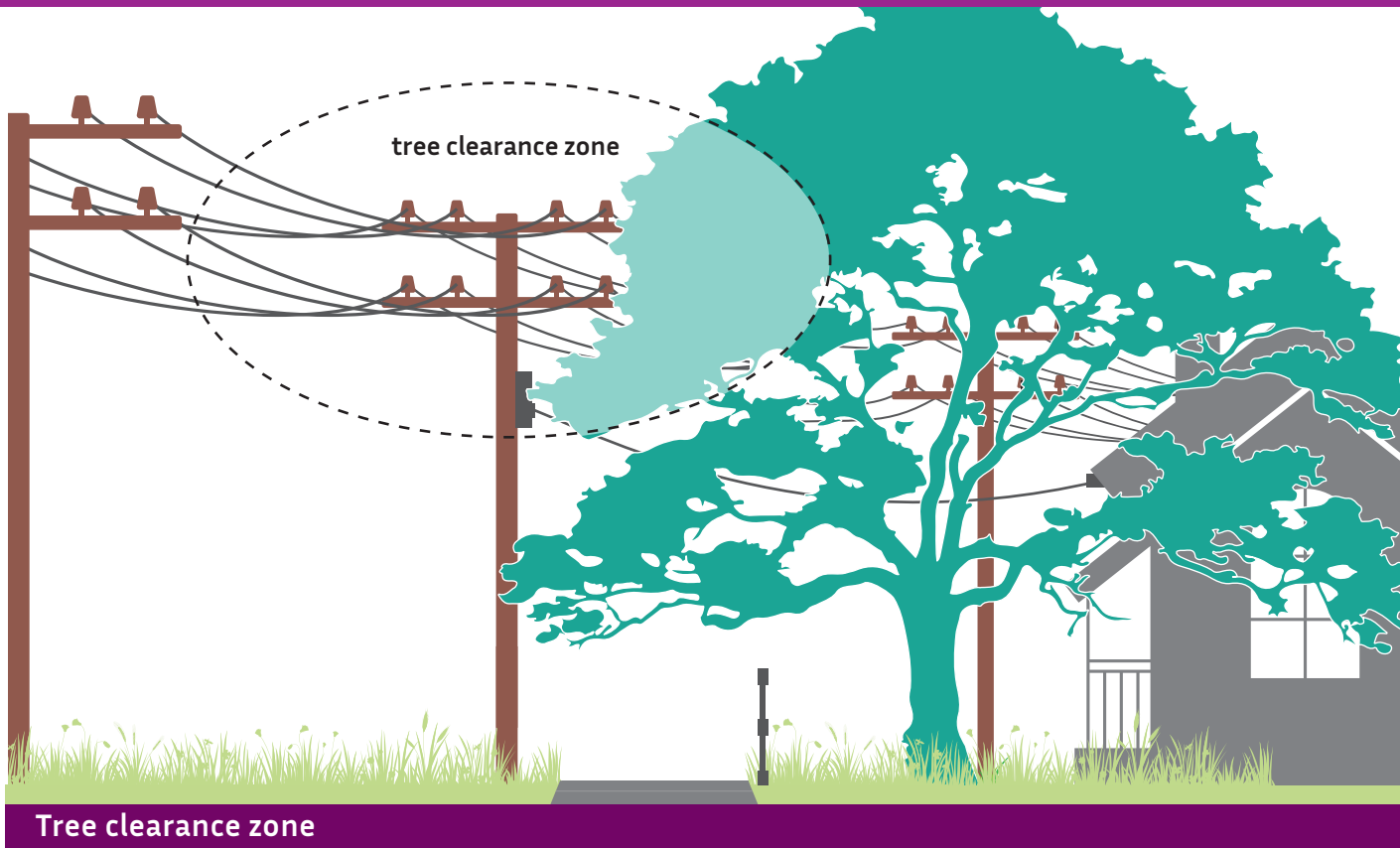
- Consider the type of tree or vegetation, only plant vegetation with a maximum height of 3 meters or less, within 7 meters of a powerline.
- Check with your council for approvals before planting on the nature strip.
- Do not plant climbing trees or plants near the base of power poles, they can grow up into the powerlines and become a safety issue.
- Plant away from underground pits, so roots don't become a problem.



Before starting work visit lookupandlive.com.au to identify powerline locations.



Check beforeyoudig.com.au to request information about underground cables on or near your property.



Tree clearance zone

Clearance guidelines

As your electricity distributor, we will clear vegetation that poses a risk to our poles and wires.

The safe distance between vegetation and powerline is called the minimum clearance space. To maintain this distance, vegetation needs to be cut before it grows within either:

- one metre of a service line or
- two metres from a bare wire private electric line (previously known as Private Overhead Electric Line or POEL).

We may need to cut back more in bushfire-prone areas. Fast-growing tree species need to be cut back even further.

Only authorised powerline contractors can cut trees touching or near powerlines.

The Electricity Safety Act, including the (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations, set the minimum clearances required between powerlines and trees.

These guidelines are based on a range of criteria including whether the powerline is in a hazardous or low bushfire risk area, whether the powerline is high or low voltage and the length of the section of the powerline between poles

Unsuitable trees to plant near powerlines

Choosing the wrong tree can lead to ongoing pruning, safety risks, and even power outages. Consider how your tree will grow over time not just how it looks today.

Trees that are not suitable near powerlines include:

- Fast-growing species: these quickly reach into powerlines and require frequent cutting to stay safe.
- Tall-growing trees (over 2 metres): even if planted a few metres away, these trees will eventually grow into clearance zones.
- Spreading or wide-canopy trees: branches can extend horizontally into powerlines, even if the trunk is positioned at a distance.
- Climbing plants or vines: these can grow up poles and into lines, creating safety hazards and maintenance issues.
- Dense or brittle branching trees: more likely to drop limbs during wind or storms, increasing outage risk.



Safety first

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

For project updates:

📍 unitedenergy.com.au/tree-cutting

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