

Four important things to remember

- Trees and vegetation growing near powerlines and utility infrastructure must not come within the minimum distances.
- Land owners and tenants are required to keep trees and other vegetation on their properties clear of powerlines and utility infrastructure.
- Only ActewAGL-accredited tree surgeons are authorised to work in close proximity to powerlines.
- If there is an electricity outage, planned or otherwise, overhead powerlines must continue to be treated as live and considered unsafe for tree trimming or any other purpose.



GREY 18498

More information

For more information about trees and powerlines call **6248 3555** or visit actewagl.com.au/safety

Customer enquiries

13 14 93 – electricity, water, sewerage
13 18 86 – natural gas

Emergencies and faults – 24 hours

13 10 93 – electricity and electric shock reports
13 11 93 – water, sewerage and stormwater
13 19 09 – natural gas

Language assistance

如果您需要幫助，請打電話給下面的號碼。

¿Necesita un intérprete? Llame al número indicado abajo.

هل تحتاج إلى مترجم؟ اتصل بالرقم أدناه.

Trebate li pomoć tumača? Nazovite niže navedeni broj.

Nếu quý vị cần sự giúp đỡ, vui lòng gọi số bên dưới.

Se vi serve un interprete, telefonate al seguente numero.

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα, τηλεφωνείτε στον αριθμό παρακάτω.

13 14 50 – 24 hours

ActewAGL | GPO Box 366 | Canberra ACT 2601



ActewAGL
Always.

ActewAGL Distribution ABN 76 670 568 688 a partnership of ACTEW Distribution Limited ABN 83 073 025 224 and Jemena Networks (ACT) Pty Ltd ABN 24 008 552 663.

For safety's sake, keep trees trimmed



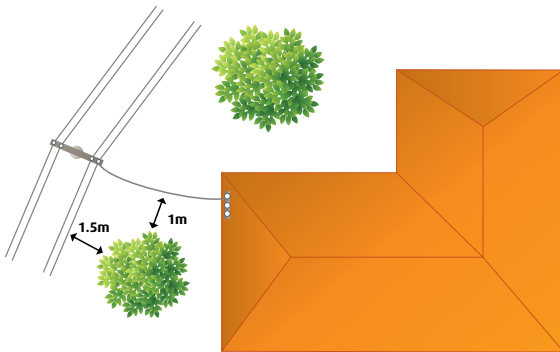
Let's power ahead. **ActewAGL**
Always.

Why do trees need to stay clear of powerlines?

Trees growing too close to powerlines are a safety risk – they could cause fires or even bring down lines leading to electrocution. They also affect reliability, because they can cause interruptions to the electricity supply and make it difficult to carry out the work that's necessary to maintain the ActewAGL electricity network. When trees are referred to in this brochure, we also mean any other vegetation like shrubs or climbing plants.

Whose responsibility is it?

If the trees are on your property – whether you're the property owner or a tenant – it's your responsibility to check regularly that they are not within the minimum legal distance of powerlines. This distance is generally 1.5 metres. In bushfire-prone areas, we recommend an additional 0.5 metre clearance. You should always allow extra clearance for regrowth and the space above the powerlines should be kept clear at all times. A list of shrubs suitable for growing under powerlines is available on the website.



Minimum distance of trees from powerlines is 1.5 metres in most cases. For higher voltage powerlines the minimum distance increases.

For details please see the *Utility Networks (Public Safety) Regulations 2001 (ACT)*.

Who can trim trees?

If the trees are more than the minimum distance away from powerlines, you can trim them yourself, as long as it is not likely that any part of the tree will fall too close to a powerline. However, if trees are already too close, or if there's a risk of branches falling on powerlines, you must use an ActewAGL-accredited tree surgeon. For a list of accredited tree surgeons see our website at actewagl.com.au/safety/powerlines, or call us on 6248 3555.

What does the law say?

As a land owner, you can be fined up to \$1,000 if you let trees to grow too close to powerlines. The law says ActewAGL can require property owners and tenants to have them trimmed at your expense, unless the trees were growing there before the powerlines were installed. You can also be fined if you carry out work close to powerlines yourself instead of using an ActewAGL-accredited tree surgeon. For a more detailed description of the legislation please visit the website.

If your lease falls within a heritage precinct, please call the Department of Territory and Municipal Services on 13 22 81 before any tree trimming work commences.

Fees

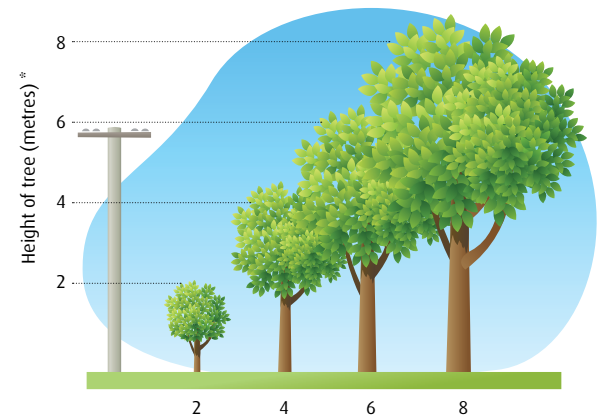
If we have to interrupt the electricity supply for trees to be trimmed clear of powerlines we charge a set fee to de-energise the lines. This contributes to our costs in arranging the interruption to electricity supply and notifying the customers who will be affected. The fee is listed in the ActewAGL Schedule of Electricity Network Charges available on the website or by calling 6248 3555. If more than one person arranges for an interruption to the electricity supply at the same time, the fee will be shared between all those involved.

Even when the electricity supply is interrupted, only ActewAGL-accredited tree surgeons are authorised to work close to aerial powerlines.

Clearance around power poles and other equipment

We regularly inspect our power poles, utility assets and infrastructure and require a 1.5-metre clearance around them. Except for boundary fences, all obstructions should be kept away from our assets to allow us to check them thoroughly. This includes things like trees, vegetation, garden sheds, compost heaps, cubby houses and chicken pens.

If there is a hard surface too close to power poles and utility infrastructure on your property, it must be removable for routine inspections. Pavers are better than concrete, as you can easily remove and replace them. If ActewAGL needs to inspect or maintain assets, you could be asked to remove permanent hard surfaces, or arrange for them to be removed at your cost.



The minimum distance is 1.5 meters. This diagram shows the recommended distance of trees from powerlines.

** Height of poles may vary*

