



Private powerlines and poles

Your property has been identified as having private powerlines and poles. Please read the following information.

Private powerlines and poles are your responsibility

ActewAGL does not own and maintain all electricity infrastructure in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). For example, there are around 1,000 power poles with associated powerlines that are privately owned.

ActewAGL inspects all poles up to the metering point. It is the responsibility of the lessee or property occupier to ensure that poles beyond the metering point are inspected and kept in serviceable condition. This will help to ensure a reliable power supply and reduce the risk of electrocution and bushfires.

If ActewAGL becomes aware that safety standards of private power poles are not being maintained, ActewAGL has a responsibility and legal right to disconnect the electricity supply.

How can I tell if a pole or line is private?

A private power pole will generally have a yellow Private Pole tag attached and/or be marked with a number starting with "P". Each pole will also have an identifying number that should not be removed.

However, a pole may be a private pole even if it is not marked and they can be difficult to identify. ActewAGL is undertaking a work program to fix yellow private pole signs to those private poles not currently marked to assist in their identification. If you need assistance in the meantime, please seek advice from a qualified electrical contractor.

ActewAGL has been maintaining these private poles. What's changed?

As part of our commitment to providing a safe and secure network ActewAGL has in the past carried out some maintenance work on some private poles where an obvious issue was identified when inspecting ActewAGL-owned poles.

People with private powerlines and poles on their property were notified of their responsibility for maintaining them by the ACT Government in September 2007. This approach is consistent across most of Australia. Accordingly, unless a contractual arrangement exists between ActewAGL and the relevant property owner, ActewAGL will no longer inspect or maintain powerlines and poles beyond the metering point.

As noted above, ActewAGL is undertaking a work program to progressively mark private poles, which will assist occupiers in identifying private poles on their property so that it is clear which powerlines and poles the occupier has the responsibility to maintain.

How much does it cost to maintain private power poles?

Replacing defective poles can be expensive, so ActewAGL recommends that you arrange for private poles on your property to be regularly inspected and maintained to prolong the need for substantive work. If your power poles require maintenance work, there are a number of providers, so shop around and ensure that they are qualified. As a starting point look at the listings of electrical contractors in the Yellow Pages.

You may also wish to check the extent to which your insurances cover pole replacement or loss or damage caused by defective private poles.

Helpful information

Listed below are some general actions you can take in relation to safety and maintenance of private powerlines and poles.

Safety checklist

- Reduce the potential for fire damage to poles by keeping vegetation and clutter clear of the base of poles.
- Maintain trees on your property to ensure they remain well clear of powerlines to reduce the risk of electrocution or bushfires.
- Check for obvious line defects, such as broken crossarms, strands of wire, loose or damaged insulators, broken or damaged pole stay-wires and arrange repairs immediately with an electrical contractor.
- Arrange for regular inspection of your private power poles.

Maintenance tips

- You can contribute to the life of the pole and assist in the inspection process by carrying out regular weed and bush removal around its base.
- Regular whipper-snipping around the base of a steel pole can remove the galvanising, so be careful as this may significantly reduce its life.
- Do not whipper-snip around underground cables terminated on the pole.
- If you notice defects, such as poles on a significant lean, nuts and bolts missing, steelwork hanging loosely, wires too close to the ground and broken insulators or wires, arrange for repairs to be carried out as soon as possible by an electrical contractor.
- Avoid building up the ground around any pole base, for example, garden features, as this hinders pole inspection.

How can ActewAGL help you?

ActewAGL offers line inspection, testing and maintenance services for private powerlines and poles. ActewAGL's usual charge out rates apply for these services.

If when inspecting ActewAGL-owned assets a defective private powerline or pole is noticed on your property, ActewAGL will contact you. However, it is your responsibility to arrange for testing and maintenance of poles past the metering point.

Further information and contacts

Further information on private powerlines or poles is available on the ActewAGL website or by contacting the ACT Planning and Land Authority on 6207 9370. Alternatively, you can call ActewAGL on 13 10 93.

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