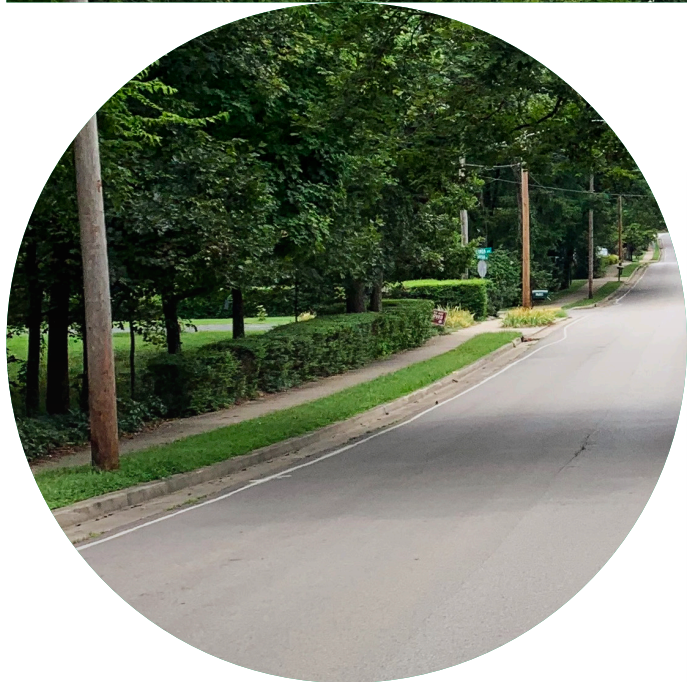
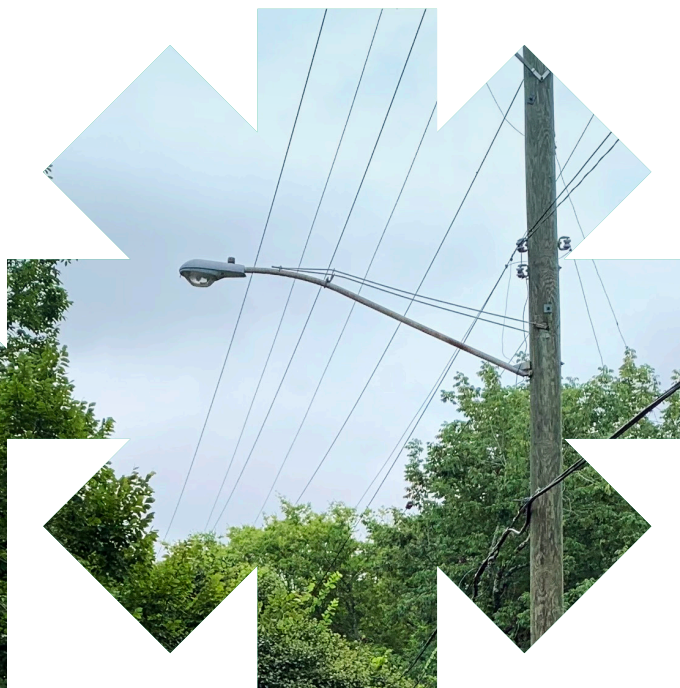


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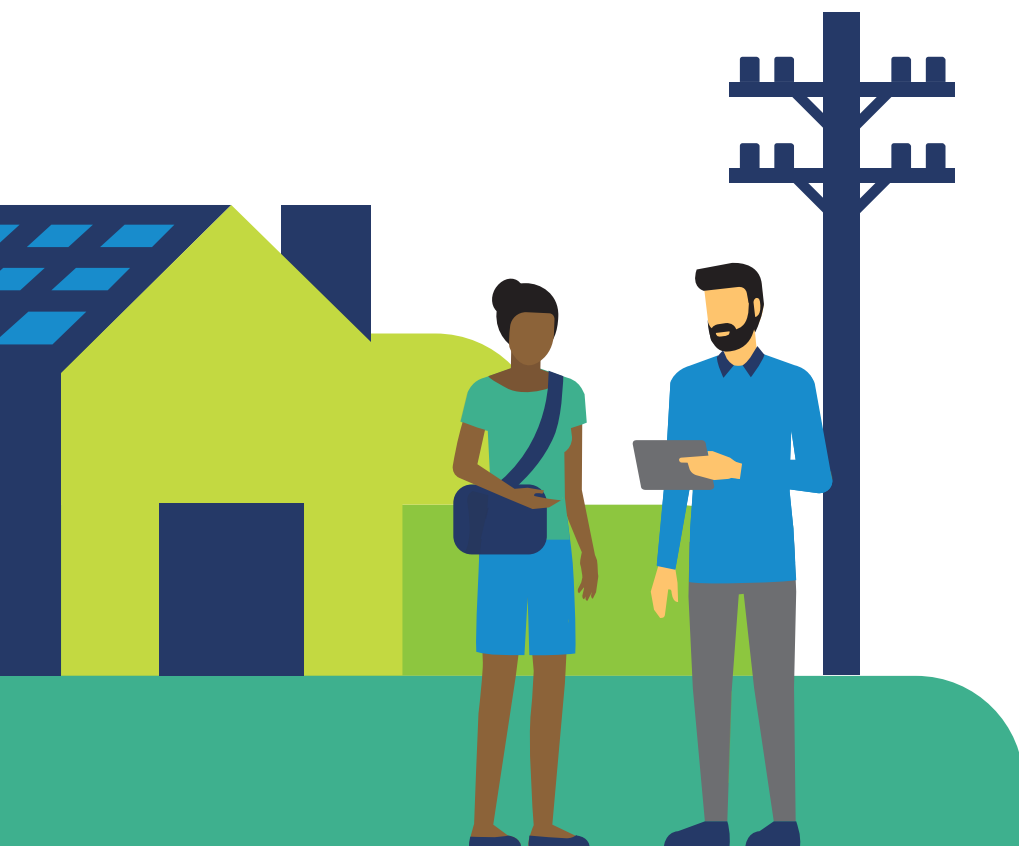


Private electric lines

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

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The background features a complex geometric pattern. The top half is dominated by diagonal stripes in various shades of blue and green. Below this, there are large, overlapping shapes in green, yellow, and dark blue. A prominent dark blue shape in the lower half contains a white, stylized cross-like symbol with four arrowheads pointing outwards.

Private electric lines

Private electric lines are the overhead and underground powerlines that connect properties to our distribution network. Most customers with private lines have private overhead electric lines (POELs).

About AusNet

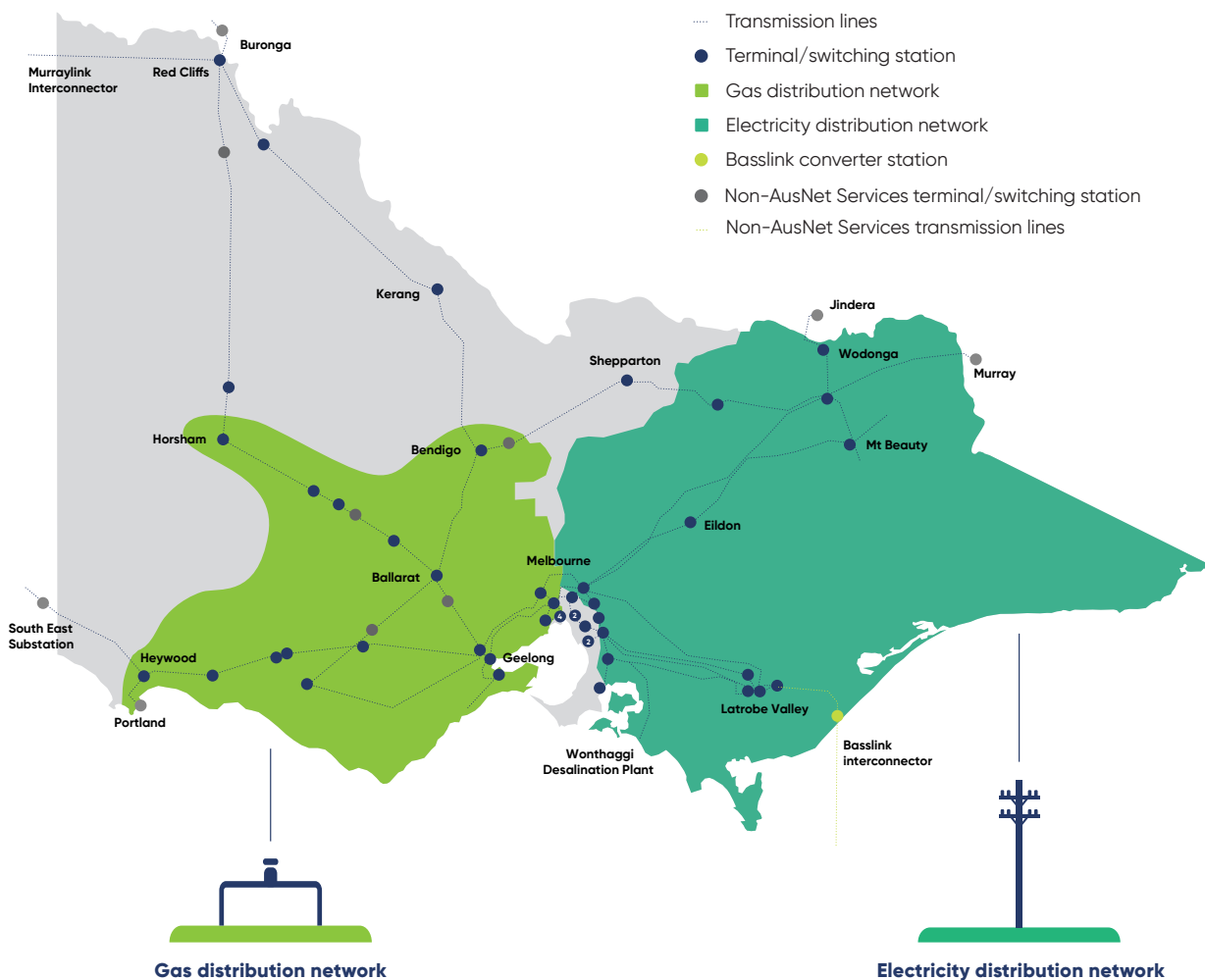
We are one of five electricity distributors in Victoria. We own and operate:

- Victoria's high voltage electricity transmission network
- a gas distribution network in western Victoria
- an electricity distribution network across eastern Victoria, which supplies electricity to over 800,000 residential and business customers.

For more information on who we are and what we do, visit ausnetservices.com.au/About.

We're committed to providing our customers with a safe and reliable supply of electricity.

However, if you own private electric lines, you also have some responsibilities.



Rights and responsibilities

Your responsibilities

You're responsible for all wires, poles and other electrical equipment running from the point of supply on your property. You're not responsible for our metering equipment.

It's your responsibility to regularly inspect your POEL to make sure it's in good condition and clear of trees and branches. This will help ensure a safe and reliable power supply to your property and reduce the chances of electrocution or bushfires starting. Binoculars or a telescope are an excellent aid to see the cable covering (insulation). Check your poles to ensure they aren't rotting or damaged. To download our maintenance checklist, visit ausnetservices.com.au/private-electric-lines.

Electrical work on private lines

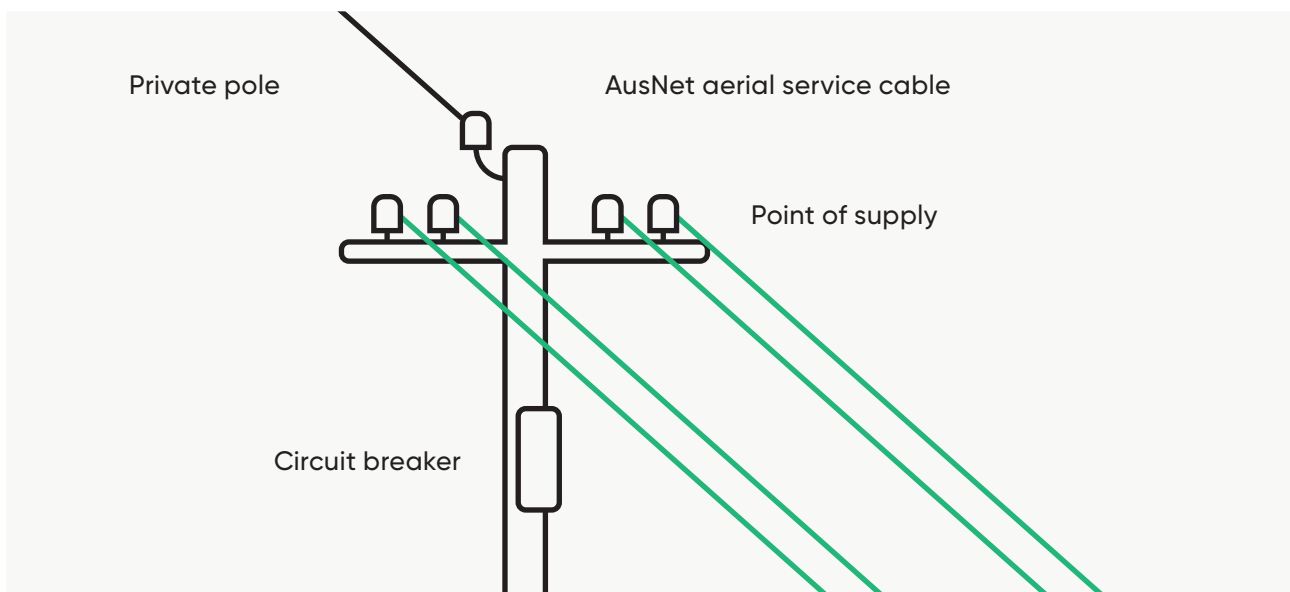
We recommend inspecting your private electric line(s) and poles at least once a year or ask a registered electrician to inspect it for you and repair any damage or wear and tear.

When an electrician alters, repairs or maintains your private electric lines, the entire line must comply with the current AS3000 wiring rules and Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019. Make sure you get a Certificate of Electrical Safety from the electrician, you'll need to provide us with this certificate after any work is done.

Circuit breakers

When a registered electrician carries out maintenance on your private electric line, they must fit a circuit breaker if there isn't one already. A circuit breaker is a switch installed at the start of your private electric line. It works like a fuse box where the breaker will automatically switch off the power source to avoid a dangerous situation. If this circuit breaker 'switches off', you may be able to restore electricity supply yourself. If you're not comfortable doing this yourself, we recommend calling a registered electrician.

If a circuit breaker is switched off for tree pruning or maintenance, ask your registered electrician to confirm the private electric line has been isolated and isn't live before starting work.





Our responsibilities

The Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2023, require us to inspect POELs at least every three years in high bushfire risk areas, and every five years in other areas. We may also inspect your private electric line(s) at any time to check the safety of the entire POEL, including the pole, crossarms and wires.

If we find any defects, we'll send you a letter explaining what you need to do. If we find a dangerous situation, especially on total fire ban days and in conditions deemed highly dangerous, we have the right to disconnect your electricity supply immediately without notice to keep you and the community safe. You'll be charged a disconnection and reconnection fee.

We're responsible for all high voltage powerlines, even if they cross your property. To check whether a powerline is privately owned or owned by us, call 1300 360 795, Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm.

Is this a legal requirement?

Electricity customers have always been responsible for their POELs. In 1984, the legislation governing this clearly defined the 'point of supply' and reinforced the need for POEL owners to keep their lines clear of vegetation. You could be liable if your POEL causes injury or property damage. This is why it's important to regularly inspect your POEL and organise necessary repairs if you find any damage.

For more information about the Electricity Safety Act 1998, visit esv.vic.gov.au.

Did you know?

Under the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019, any POEL in a high bushfire risk area that is more than 20% defective (either in wiring and/or poles), must be replaced with an underground alternative at the POEL owner's cost. You can avoid this additional cost by regularly inspecting your POEL.

Types of private electric lines

There are two types of private electric lines:

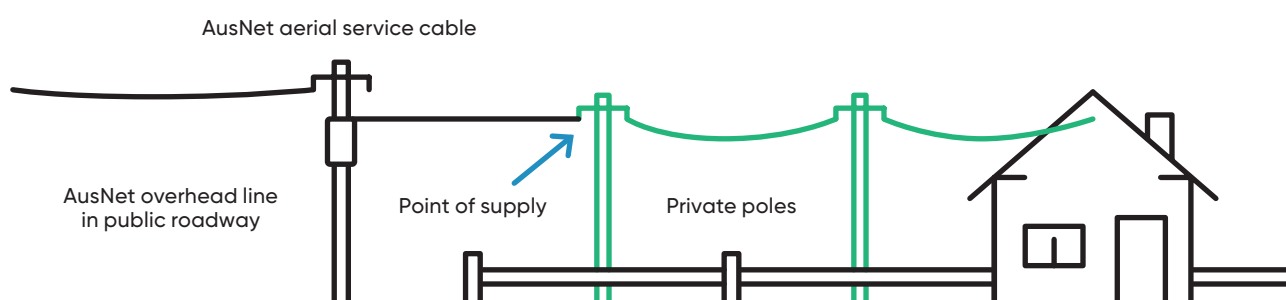
- Bare and insulated private overhead electric lines (POELs).
- Underground powerlines.

Both types of private electric lines begin at the point of supply.

Bare and insulated POELs

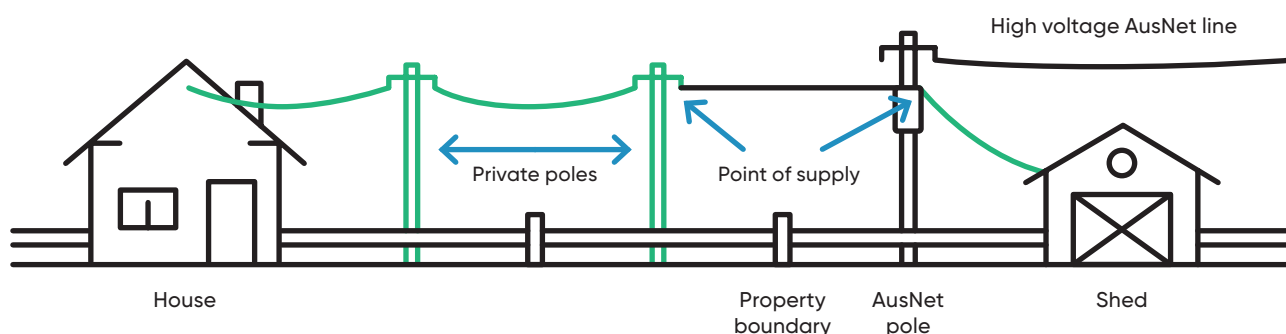
Situation 1

When an overhead line starts from a public road and is carried onto your land by private poles, the point of supply and your maintenance responsibility starts from the first private pole. See the lines and poles marked green below.



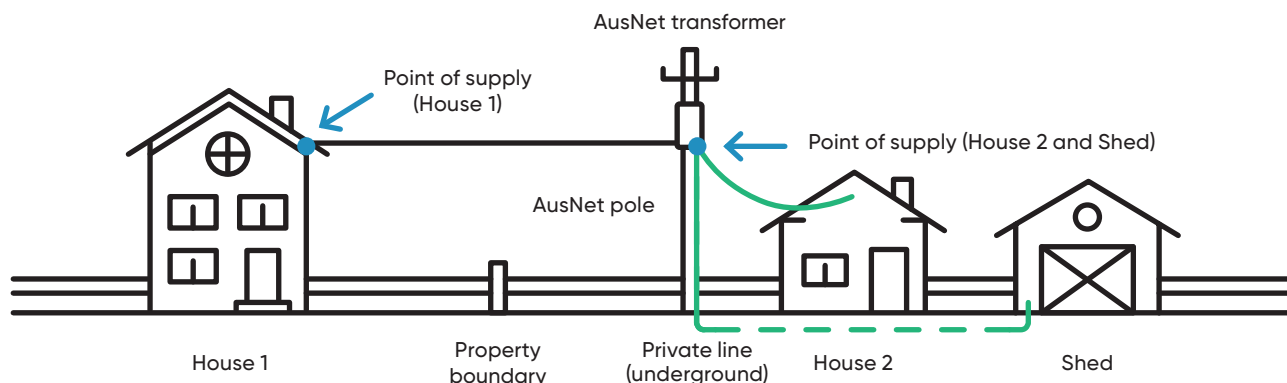
Situation 2

If some private lines on your property have a transformer fitted on the pole, the point of supply starts where your lines connect to our pole – this can be a single or double connection. In this case, you're responsible for all connection boxes and circuit breakers mounted or associated with your line(s). See the lines and poles marked green below.



Situation 3

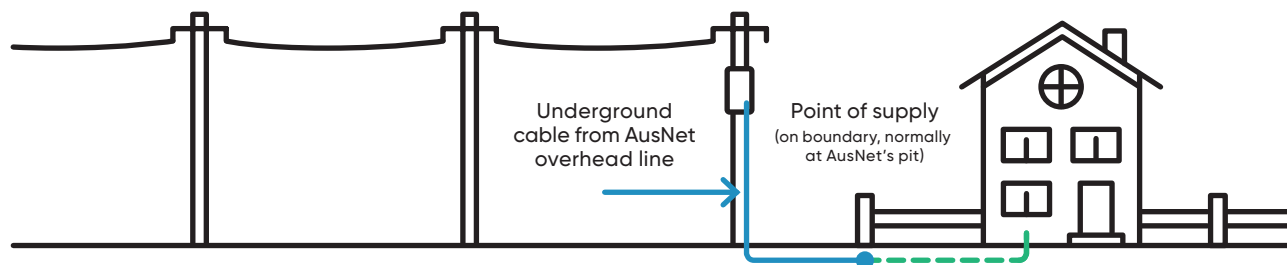
It becomes a little more complex when there are two houses involved. The point of supply for House 2 and its shed is where the private lines are connected to our pole (see Situation 1). If there is a second house located across a boundary line which doesn't need a private pole, the point of supply is where the wire connects to the actual house. In the diagram below, the green line indicates the responsibility for House 2 and its shed, and the blue dots indicate the points of supply.



Underground lines

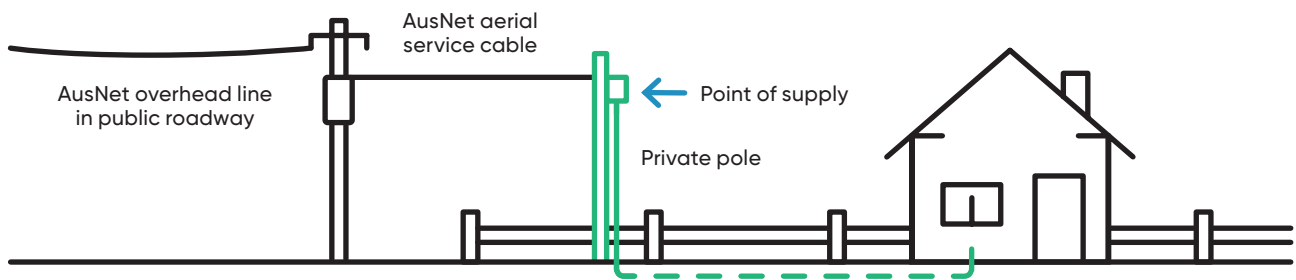
Situation 4

The diagram below shows an example of how an underground line might work. The underground supply is where the cable crosses your property boundary or connects to your property at our boundary service pit. In this case, you're responsible for clearing and maintaining vegetation over and around the pit. We'll service and maintain the underground supply cable.



Situation 5

Sometimes the point of supply is both above and below ground as shown in the diagram below. In this case, you're responsible from the point of supply on the pole, including the underground electricity line.



If your POEL needs a lot of reconstruction or repair, we're bound by legislation to ask you to replace your overhead line with an underground line. This is safer than an overhead line that is not in good working condition, as it reduces the risk of fires and electrocution.

Be careful when digging near underground electricity cables and always check with Before You Dig Australia first. For more information, visit byda.com.au

Planting and pruning vegetation around powerlines

Vegetation

It's important to keep your POEL clear of overgrown trees, shrubs and grass. Before adding new plants or trees, consider whether these will impact your POEL in the future. To view our guidelines for planting near electric lines, visit www.ausnetservices.com.au/vegetation

Clearance space between vegetation and electric lines

There is always a bushfire risk when plants are too close to powerlines. If in doubt, don't plant any trees close to powerlines.

Some tips:

- The safe distance between vegetation (trees, branches and shrubs) and powerlines and poles is called a recommended clearance space.
- Plant species with a maximum mature height of 3 meters or less, can be planted within 3-7 meters of a powerline.
- Larger species should be planted more than 7 metres away from powerlines.
- Plant vegetation at a far enough distance that prevents it from falling on the powerlines during storms or as they age. For example, plant a tree that can grow 10 meters at least 13 meters from a powerline.

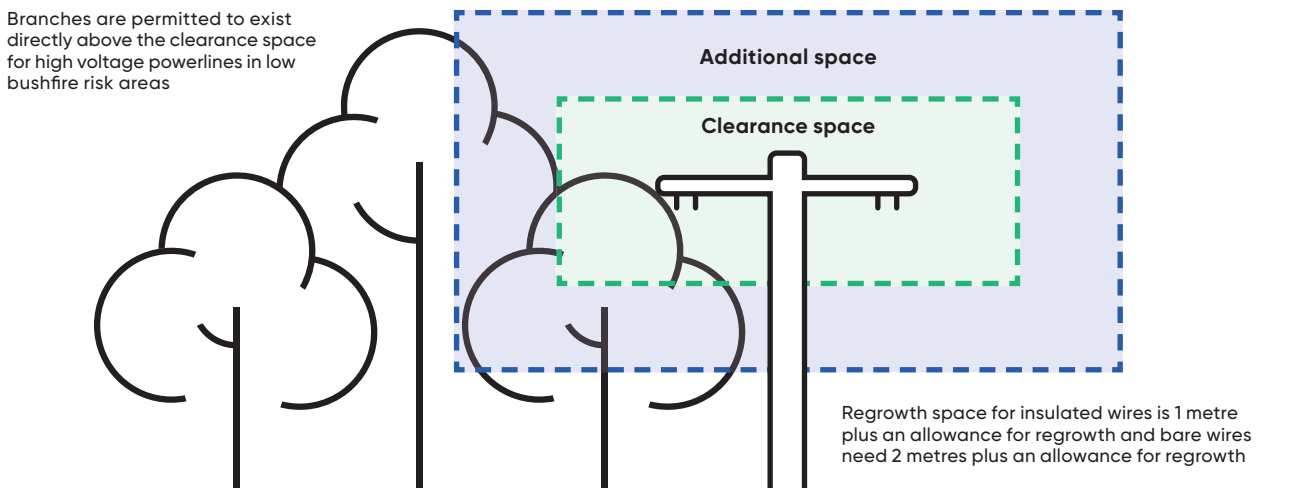
Low bushfire risk area (generally urban areas)

In low bushfire risk areas, branches can grow directly above the clearance space for high voltage powerlines.

For insulated wires, regrowth space is one metre plus an allowance for regrowth.

For bare wires, regrowth space is two metres plus an allowance for regrowth.

Branches are permitted to exist directly above the clearance space for high voltage powerlines in low bushfire risk areas

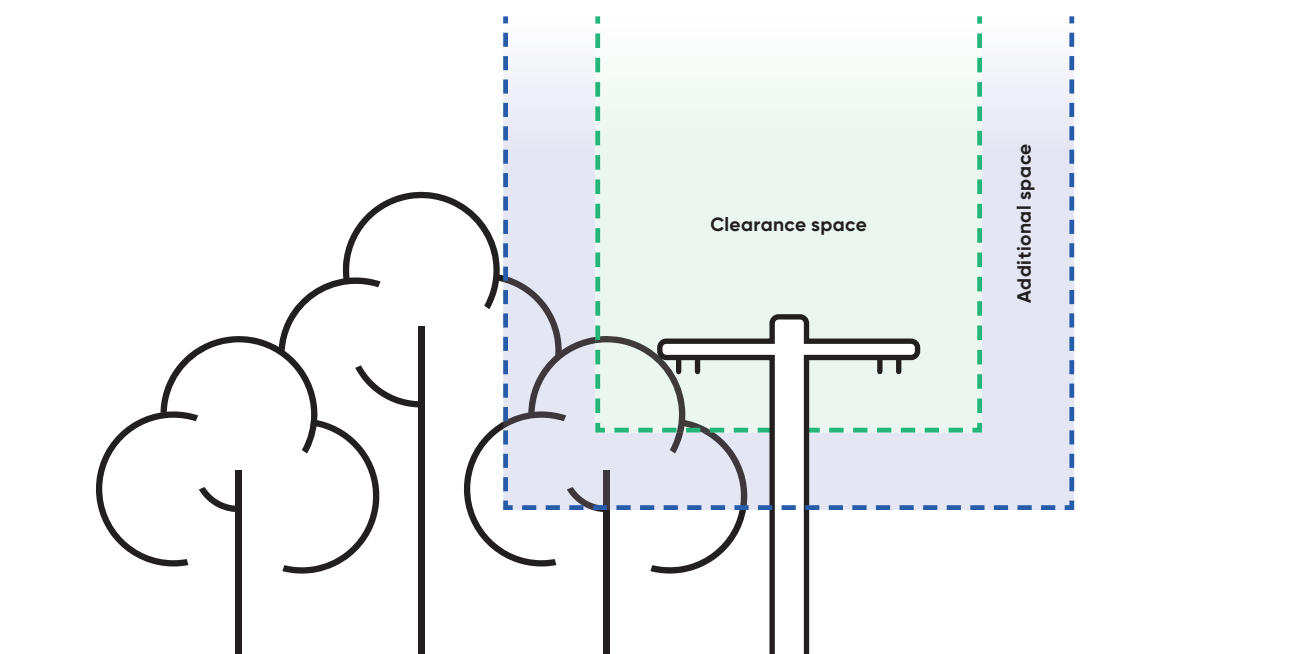


High bushfire risk area (generally rural areas)

In high bushfire risk areas, branches must not grow directly above the clearance space.

For insulated wires, regrowth space is one metre plus an allowance for regrowth.

For bare wires, regrowth space is two metres plus an allowance for regrowth.



Use a qualified tree clearer

Never climb a power pole or prune branches near powerlines. Touching live wires can kill or cause serious injury. The best option is to contact a registered electrician or a certified tree clearer to cut or clear vegetation away from powerlines. This small investment will make sure everyone stays safe.

Council permits

In some areas, you may need a local council planning permit before you can cut or prune a tree. However, if you get a notice from us asking you to prune trees around your POEL, you don't need a council planning permit before engaging a certified tree clearer.

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