



# Clearance around powerlines.

Help us keep you safe.

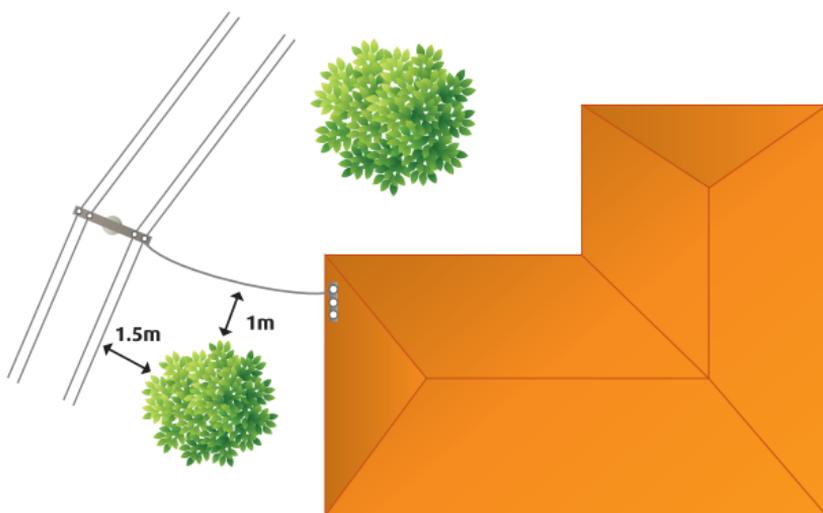
**evo**energy

## Why do trees need to stay clear of powerlines?

Trees growing too close to powerlines are a safety risk and can cause fires or even bring down lines leading to the risk of electric shock or property damage. 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 Evoenergy electricity network. When trees are referred to in this brochure, we also mean all other vegetation including shrubs or climbing plants.

## Whose responsibility is it?

If the trees are on your property it's your responsibility to check regularly that they have not grown to within the minimum legal distance of the powerlines. This clearance distance is generally 1.5 metres in urban areas but increase for lines above 1,000 volts. In high fire risk 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.



*Minimum distance of trees from powerlines is 1.5 metres in most cases. For 1000 volts or higher, the minimum distance increases to 2 metres or greater.*

For details please see the *Utility Networks (Public Safety) Regulation 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 within the minimum clearance distance, or if there's a risk of branches falling on powerlines, you must use an Evoenergy accredited arborist. For a list of accredited arborists see our website at [evoenergy.com.au](http://evoenergy.com.au) or call us on **13 23 86**.

## What does the law say?

A landowner or occupier can be fined for letting trees grow within the minimum clearance distance of powerlines. Evoenergy can require landholders to have them trimmed at your expense, unless the trees were growing there before the powerlines were installed. You can be fined if you carry out work close to powerlines yourself instead of using an Evoenergy accredited arborist. For a more detailed description of the ACT legislation please visit the ACT legislative website.

If the land you own or occupy 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 Evoenergy Electricity Networks Schedule of Evoenergy Charges available on the website or by calling **13 23 86**. 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 Evoenergy accredited arborists are authorised to work within the minimum clearance distance to aerial powerlines.

## Clearance around power poles

We regularly inspect our power poles, and for safety and operational reasons require a 1.5 metre clearance around them. Except for boundary fences, all obstructions should be kept away from the base of the power pole 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 within 1.5 metres of power poles on your property, it must be removable for routine inspections. Pavers are better than concrete, as you can easily remove and replace them. Prior to inspection or maintenance of the power pole Evoenergy could ask you to remove permanent hard surfaces, or arrange for their removal at your cost. Evoenergy is not required to replace or reinstall hard surfaces that interfere with our access to power poles or other electricity infrastructure.



## Four important things to remember

Trees must be at least 1.5 metres clear of powerlines.

Landholders are required to do this under the Utility Networks (Public Safety) Regulations 2001 (ACT).

Only Evoenergy accredited arborists 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.

# evoenergy.com.au

## General enquiries

**13 23 86**

## Emergencies and faults

**13 10 93** – Electricity

**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**