

For your safety and the reliability of power supply to you and others, we have prepared this leaflet to assist you as a tree owner to help understand the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations.

Trees cause a significant number of unnecessary power outages every year in townships and in remote rural locations.

We all know that trees are an important part of our environment and community but we also value a reliable power supply.

Keeping trees well away from power lines is a critical factor in electricity safety and reliable power supply.

Regulations are now in place to assist tree owners and line companies.

The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003, have been introduced to provide a system to help ensure trees are kept well clear from power lines.

These Regulations require the companies that own power lines and tree owners to take appropriate action when trees are too close to power lines or are an immediate danger to persons or property.

What is required of Powerco?

Powerco (when it becomes aware of a tree(s) that needs clearance away from power lines) will, through a Contractor, issue the tree owner with a Cut & Trim Notice setting out Powerco's recommendations.

Powerco will accept declarations of 'no interest' for the purposes of the regulations in any tree that satisfies the criteria under the Regulations. If a tree is accepted as a no interest tree, Powerco can determine if the tree is cut or felled.

What is required of the tree owners?

Tree owners should not attempt to cut trees near power lines themselves.

Tree owners should never plant fast growing or tall species trees near power lines.

Tree owners should listen to the Powerco Contractor's advice on what is required to make trees safe.

Payment for tree work

The Regulations now require Powerco to pay reasonable costs for cutting or trimming each tree near power lines once in its life.

After Powerco has paid to cut each tree, the tree owner is responsible for the costs of keeping that tree clear of lines.

Powerco may agree to pay to fell a tree instead of cutting, to save the tree owner future cost.

Failure to keep trees away from lines

A tree owner could be fined up to \$10,000 for not arranging to have tree work carried out by the Contractor within a specified time frame. The tree owner could also be liable for costs if power lines and equipment are damaged by trees.



Help keep your power on and everyone safe. Keep trees well clear of power lines through the use of a qualified contractor.