

# YOUR TREES & POWER SUPPLY



The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 help by setting out your responsibilities to manage the trees on your property. They also include our responsibilities to inform you and advice on how you can manage your trees.

As the electricity network owner that serves the Horowhenua Kapiti regions, Electra Ltd is responsible for delivering a reliable power supply and ensuring the safety of its community around electricity.

Trees growing through, or close to, power lines are a threat to this as they pose a major safety hazard. In high winds, trees and their debris can also cause power cuts by disrupting the flow of electricity through the power line or damaging electrical equipment.

Managing trees near power lines is an important part of being a tree owner. Take some time to learn more about the danger of trees near power lines and what your responsibilities are as a tree owner.

## YOU DON'T HAVE TO TOUCH A POWER LINE TO RECEIVE A SHOCK!

Trees growing close to, or through, power lines are dangerous because they create a potential path for electricity to travel to the ground.

People that come into contact with this path (by touching, climbing, trimming or cutting down the trees) put themselves at serious risk of being electrocuted or receiving significant electrical burns.

In dry weather conditions, trees near power lines are also a serious fire risk.

## RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE

Prevent future tree issues by choosing your tree carefully before planting. Electra recommends that you don't plant trees near power lines. However, if you do decide to plant a tree anywhere near power lines, please choose your tree carefully.

As a tree owner, you are responsible for the costs of keeping trees near power lines trimmed and outside of the 'Growth Limit Zone'. As outlined in the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003, trees owners could face penalties for failing to keep trees clear of power lines and may be responsible for the costs of damage to power lines or equipment, caused by a tree.

## MANAGING TREES NEAR POWER LINES

Cutting or trimming trees in the vicinity of power lines is dangerous. Touching a live power line or a tree close to the line can result in serious injury, or even death by electrocution.

### Responsibility

According to the Regulations, no person is permitted within four metres of a power line without prior approval from Electra.

Therefore, only Electra approved contractors can be used to safely trim or cut down trees growing within four metres of any power lines. Request a quote to have your trees trimmed by Electra's certified team of arborists at: [www.electra.co.nz/](http://www.electra.co.nz/) contact us.

### Felling trees near power lines

Check there is a distance of at least twice the height of the trees between the tree and any nearby power lines. If it is within this distance you will need to use an Electra approved contractor, or you could be liable for the cost of any damage to our network if the tree lands on our lines – not to mention the potential safety risk of coming into contact with live lines!

### Trimming trees near power lines is also a danger to your bank balance!

As outlined in the Regulations, tree owners could face penalties for failing to keep trees clear of power lines. The cost of repairing power lines and other equipment damaged by trees is significant – and could be passed on to you.

## KNOWING WHEN IT'S TIME TO TRIM OR REMOVE TREES

The Regulations state exactly how close trees may come to power lines before cutting or trimming is required. These zones are known as the Growth Limit Zone and the Notice Zone.

### Growth Limit Zone

This zone is the space around the power line (measured in metres) where trees must not encroach, even in windy or stormy conditions. If your trees are encroaching on the Growth Limit Zone you will be issued with a Cut or Trim Notice.

### Notice Zone

This zone is one metre beyond the Growth Limit Zone. If your trees are encroaching on the Notice Zone you will be issued with a Hazard Warning Notice.

### Controlled Access Zone

This zone is four metres from any conductor. No unapproved person may enter this zone and if any part of the tree is within this zone an Electra-approved contractor must be used to cut or trim that tree.

### First cut or trim

Electra may cover the cost to perform the first cut or trim on a tree encroaching on a power line, if the following conditions apply, or are met:

- according to Electra's records, the trees have not been subject to a previous cut or trim at our cost,
- the trees have not been the subject of a previous agreement, and
- the tree owner grants access to the site.

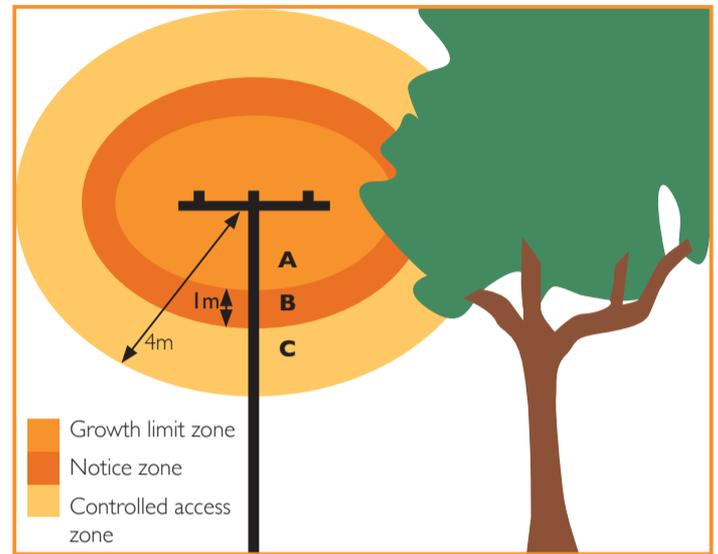
If all of these conditions apply, Electra will issue you with a Notice and perform the work at no charge to you. Subsequent to this, the responsibility for on-going tree clearance work and the associated costs will be with the tree owner.

## NO INTEREST TREE NOTICES

If a tree owner does not want to maintain an interest in any trees growing close to electricity lines, then they may give a no-interest tree notice to Electra in accordance with the Trees Regulations. (There are some trees for which a no-interest tree notice cannot be given). This removes the obligation on the tree owner to cut or trim the tree, and the cost and responsibility falls on Electra to either trim or remove the tree. Please contact Electra for further information of giving a no-interest tree notice.

### Tree owner offences and penalties

Regulation 26 sets out the offences and penalties that a tree owner can face under the Tree Regulations. A tree owner who is given a Cut or Trim Notice but fails, without reasonable excuse, to have the tree cut or trimmed, or allows the tree to be cut or trimmed and fails to advise Electra of the time and location of the cutting or trimming of the tree, commits an offence. The possible penalty for either offence is a fine not exceeding \$10,000, and if the offence continues, a further fine not exceeding \$500 a day for every day or part of a day the offence continues.



Overhead Line	A Growth Limit Zone	B Notice Zone
33kV	2.5 metres	3.5 metres
11kV	1.6 metres	2.6 metres
400/230kV (low voltage)	0.5 metres	1.5 metres

These distances apply to power lines with spans between poles up to 150 metres.