

SA Power Networks Managing trees around powerlines

Keeping the community safe and maintaining reliability

SA Power Networks takes its regulatory obligations and the safety of South Australians seriously and is committed to continuously improving how we manage vegetation near powerlines.

~40%
of OUTAGES in South Australia are caused by VEGETATION

Some tree growth can PREVENT SAFE ACCESS to powerlines, which may delay power restoration, particularly in windy conditions.

Trees and powerlines

CONTACT BETWEEN POWERLINES AND TREE BRANCHES can occur due to a number of reasons such as strong winds and falling trees. This contact can potentially damage the powerlines causing the risk of electric shock, fire or supply interruptions.

Why do we prune vegetation?

While we recognise the value of trees in our community, we need to manage trees near powerlines to:

- Ensure PUBLIC SAFETY
- Mitigate BUSHFIRE RISK
- Maintain RELIABILITY of electricity supply

Who is responsible for trimming?

State legislation sets out specific requirements for property owners/occupiers and SA Power Networks.

Responsibility of SA POWER NETWORKS

SA Power Networks is responsible for maintaining the clearance zone around all public powerlines. On private land, we are also responsible for keeping naturally occurring vegetation away from powerlines.

Responsibility of the owner/occupier

The owner/occupier of private property is responsible for keeping the required clearance zone free of planted or nurtured vegetation around the powerlines that supply their property. A private supply line only supplies you and your property, and operates at 19,000 volts or less.

When do we prune vegetation?

1 YEAR for HIGH BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS

In high bushfire risk areas, we undertake an annual program of vegetation clearance.

3 YEARS for NON-BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS

In non-bushfire risk areas, we undertake a three-year program of vegetation clearance.

How much needs to be trimmed?

This is determined by legislation and varies according to:



whether the vegetation is in a BUSHFIRE RISK area



the VOLTAGE of the conductor

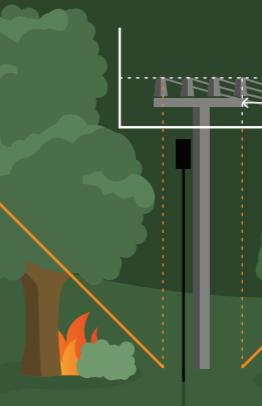


the SWING and SAG of the conductor



whether the line is INSULATED or BARE

BUSHFIRE RISK AREA



CLEARANCE ZONE

The minimum safe distance of vegetation from powerlines,

allowing the lines to

safely swing in windy

conditions without being

damaged or starting fires.

SA Power Networks is

legally obliged to keep

this zone free of

vegetation.

BUFFER ZONE

The additional area beyond a Clearance Zone in bushfire risk areas to allow for tree growth/regrowth and movement in windy conditions.

It ensures that the vegetation does not grow, regrow or bend into the 'clearance zone' around the power line.

The area around a Clearance Zone in a non-bushfire risk area. It indicates the extent to which vegetation can be trimmed.

P Clearance at pole

More information

If you require more information about the pruning activity in your area, please contact our **Customer Response** team during business hours on 13 12 61 or by email at customerrelations@sapowernetworks.com.au. More information can also be found in the Office of the Technical Regulator **Trees and powerlines** document.

For more information on the **TYPES OF TREES** you can plant near or under powerlines, refer to the Botanic Gardens plant selector tool here: plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au