

# Safe work practices for felling or trimming trees near power lines



Felling or trimming trees near power lines is dangerous. Always call the network company for advice on safe work practices before you start work.

## Getting consent from your network company

For safety reasons, electricity regulations require property owners to get consent from the network company for any work within the following distances from power lines:

- Four metres from most power lines
- Six metres from power lines above 110kV

The network company can give you advice about how to stay safe from electrical hazards where your equipment or activity could come close to or touch the power lines. Examples include using equipment such as cherry pickers or cranes, trucks with high loads or raised trays, ladders, and long tools. Trimmings from trees or felled trees can come close or fall into power lines.

## Trees under a Cut or Trim Notice

Workplace safety practice requires trees under a Cut or Trim Notice to be trimmed by specially qualified arborists who are trained and equipped to trim or fell trees near live power lines. Many network companies have a list of specially qualified arborists you can hire.

## Trees near service lines

The safety advice available through your network company also applies to trimming trees near your own overhead "service" lines onto your property. This may include a list of specialists able to trim these trees.

For the future, plant smart – avoid planting species of trees that could grow or fall into power lines.

**DISCLAIMER:** *This fact sheet provides general information only. It is not legal advice. If you need guidance on this subject matter, you should seek your own legal advice.*

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