

Trees and high voltage power lines

Frequently asked questions

How often is line clearing around high voltage power lines carried out?

Orion's strategy in regards to tree trimming is based on a consistent, planned clearing cycle. These cycles can vary depending on tree species and growth rates. Typically, high voltage lines are addressed on average once every two years.

Who pays for maintenance work around high voltage power lines?

Generally the cost for maintenance work around high voltage lines is met by Orion. However any newly planted, or re-grown, tree or vegetation that affects the line, or encroaches the notice zone, in between our maintenance cycle will be the owner's responsibility.

How will I know when tree crews will be in my neighbourhood?

Approximately two weeks before tree work begins, you will receive a letter informing you crews will be working in your neighbourhood in the near future. If trees or vegetation on your property requires pruning away from power lines, a contractor's representative will contact you in person or will leave a notification before work is scheduled to begin.

Are our shelter belt tree trimmers trained and professional?

Yes. In accordance with ECP34:2001, and OSH approved codes of practices in tree work parts 1&2, they are qualified utility line clearance tree trimmers. Only trimmers with these qualifications can legally work within four metres of our overhead power lines.

What rights do Orion's approved contractors have to come on to my property?

Orion has a duty and obligation, as well as the right to ingress and egress private property to maintain electric facilities to provide a safe and reliable electric service. This requires us to comply with all relevant codes of practices and other rules and regulations that govern our industry. However our approved contractors must respect your property and will leave it in the same condition as when they arrived.

Can your approved contractors prune other trees while they are here?

Contractors are instructed to clear only those parts of trees which are, or may, interfere with our electricity lines or equipment. Other trees on your property that need attention are not part of our responsibility. This work may be carried out in conjunction with our work to make best use of resources but the cost associated with this will be direct to you.

Can I prune trees near high voltage power lines myself?

You should not attempt to prune any vegetation growing near or on any overhead high voltage power line. Only specially-trained line clearing professionals should work around power lines.

For more information about working with qualified tree professionals and to obtain an up-to-date list of independent tree care contractors in your area, please call our contact centre on 03 363 9898.

Does Orion remove the debris pruned from the tree?

Orion will remove debris caused by any cutting or trimming that we undertake. If the landowner would like some debris to be left (eg. felled trees for firewood) this can be negotiated.

When is tree removal the best option?

To maintain a safe distance from overhead power lines some trees require pruning more frequently than other trees, but if it is determined that pruning cannot satisfactorily meet the requirement then removing the tree is recommended. Other situations may require trees to be felled because they are at a distance that is considered to be a hazard due to falling during storms or being diseased.

What kind of trees can I plant near high voltage power lines?

Always consider the mature height and spread of the tree to ensure suitable space is available. This will help avoid future conflicts between trees and power lines. A variety of trees which are suitable for planting near or adjacent to overhead power lines can be found in our tree trimming [brochure](#) or please contact your local nursery.