

[Date]

[First name][Last name]

[Address]

[City]

Dear property owner/occupier

Trimming vegetation around power lines – Hazard Warning Notice

Orion New Zealand Limited owns and operates one of the largest electricity distribution networks in New Zealand. Our network covers 8,000 square kilometres across central Canterbury between the Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers and from the Canterbury coast to Arthur's Pass.

Orion has in place a tree management programme which involves monitoring, trim/cut and removal of trees or vegetation that may contact the distribution network. The program undertaken is in accordance with the **Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003**.

Overall our objective is to assist tree owners in managing their trees or vegetation and to remove any potential dangers that may arise from contact between power lines and trees.

Once Orion is aware of trees or vegetation encroaching or actually growing in the **'Zones'** stipulated in the regulations we are required to advise the tree owners that they need to carry out a **cut/trim** of trees to remove any potential contact with overhead power lines.

Location of vegetation which requires trimming

We have been made aware that that some trees or vegetation are in or encroaching the **'Notice Zone'** around the «Location_of_TreeVegetation» and requires a cut/trim to prevent further growth towards the **'Growth Limit Zone'** for compliance.

We note that our records show we have carried out an **initial/first cut/trim** and any subsequent work, responsibility and liability is now yours.

Action to be taken by you

You can manage this situation and prevent further growth by organising a cut/trim. To facilitate this work we recommend that you hire professionals with the necessary competencies and expertise to ensure that all work around power lines is carried out safely and appropriately.

This work must be undertaken by a competent worker(s) who are qualified or trained in accordance with **Section 3** of the approved **"Code of Practice for Safety and Health in Tree Work – Part 2: Maintenance of Trees around Power Lines"**.

Once organised would you please advise Orion, of the time this work will be undertaken and by whom, at least three working days before the work begins.

Orion can assist if you require us to do so and we will monitor the situation to ensure compliance with the regulations.

If you take no action to remedy this situation and the '**Growth Limit Zone**' is breached then you will be served with a cut/trim notice.

To further assist tree owners' in managing their obligations under the regulations, Orion provides a 'safety cut' and post cut asset condition assessment program to manage and identify any vegetation that is in proximity of the overhead power lines and associated equipment. The safety cut programme is a continual cycle that fits into two categories of High and Low Voltage.

The timing cycle occurs every 2 years for High Voltage (generally rural) and 5 years for Low Voltage (generally urban). At the mid cycle point in time for the High Voltage network, there is an inspection to re-assess the vegetation growth in proximity to the electrical conductors. If it is found that additional work is required for re-growth then the tree owners will be notified by Orion.

It is important to note that between cycles it is the tree owners' responsibility to manage their trees/vegetation and Orion is available to assist with this if required.

Orion does not manage all existing or newly planted trees/vegetation as some tree owners have already taken responsibility to ensure that their vegetation remains outside of the prescribed distances.

It is envisaged that over time, this combined approach will significantly remove the issues that problematic vegetation can cause and minimise unplanned power outages and any potential danger.

All trees (including protected trees) and vegetation are to be kept clear of overhead power lines to prescribed minimum distances. The enclosed leaflet explains further the details of mandatory requirements.

If you are a recent newcomer to the property would you please contact us so we can update our records.

Additional information about the regulations and our requirements can be found on our website www.oriongroup.co.nz.

If you have any questions about this notification or require further information about managing your trees/vegetation please call us on telephone (03) 363 9898.

Yours sincerely

[First name] [Last name]
[Position]