

ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2025.26



**ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARED BY:
EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

REVISION HISTORY

Revision Ref. No.	Approved by	Date	Content Manager Doc No
1.	Stuart McConnell General Manager Assets and Environment	6/5/2025	D25/42544

Contents

Management Plan — General	2
Regulation 9 — Preparation and submission of this Electric Line Clearance Management Plan	2
Management plan particulars.....	3
Regulation 9(4) — Preparation of a Management Plan	3
Management procedures for maintaining line clearance	6
Exemptions, exceptions and alternative compliance mechanisms	8
Monitoring and auditing	9
Training, qualifications and experience.....	9
Notification, consultation and dispute resolution.....	10
Publishing information Regulations 10(1)–(6) — Obligations relating to this Plan	11
Schedule 1 — Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance.....	11
Part 2 — Clearance responsibilities.....	21
Part 3 — Minimum clearance spaces	28
Division 1 — Standard minimum clearance spaces.....	7
Appendices	13
Appendix 1 — Map of declared area and electrical distribution boundaries within East Gippsland	14
Appendix 2 — Sample Inspection Record Sheet.....	20
Appendix 3 — Tree maintenance zones and programmed maintenance schedule	43
Appendix 4 — Applicable distance for middle two thirds of a span of an LBRA electric line.....	45
Appendix 5 — Required training for personnel working near power lines.....	49
Appendix 6 — Sample of Notification Letter	52
Appendix 7 — Figures 1 through 5 from the Code of Practice.....	53
Appendix 8 — Examples of written notices.....	55

The following sections are as per Regulation 9 of the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025.

(Numbering references Table of Provisions in Regulations)

(4)

Party / Parties:	Roles and responsibilities:
GM Assets and Environment	Approval of Plan
Parks and Gardens Coordinator	Coordinate review of Plan prior to 31 March each year including that it meets current Electricity Safety regulations and standards, respond to ESV requests within 14 days, ensure compliance to plan
Open Space Planner	Review and ensure plan is approved by ELT
Arborist	Review Plan
Tree Crew Supervisor	Implement and ensure compliance to plan
Tree Crew Leading Hand	Implement and ensure compliance to plan
Governance Officer	Internally ensure compliance to review of plan

(4)(a) Name, address and telephone number of the responsible person

Name: East Gippsland Shire Council
Address: 273 Main Street Bairnsdale Vic 3875
Telephone Number: 03 5153 9500
Facsimile Number: 03 5153 9576
Name of Chief Executive Officer: Fiona Weigall

(4)(b) Name, position, address and telephone number of the individual who was responsible for the preparation of the management plan.

Name: Marc Taylor
Position: Open Space Officer
Address: 273 Main Street Bairnsdale Vic 3875
Telephone No.: 03 5153 9500
Facsimile No.: 03 5153 9576
Email Address: feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au

(4)(c) Name, position, address and telephone number of the persons who are responsible for carrying out the management plan.

Name: Graham Bourke, EGSC Tree Crew
Position: Tree Crew Supervisor, Tree Crew Members
Address: 273 Main Street Bairnsdale Vic 3875
Telephone No: 03 5153 9500
Email Address: feedback@egjpps.vic.gov.au

(4)(d) The telephone number of a person who can be contacted in an emergency that requires clearance of an electric line that the responsible person is required to keep clear of trees.

Name: East Gippsland Shire Council After Hours Officer
Emergency Telephone No: 03 5153 9500

(4)(e) The objectives of the management plan,

The following are identified as the key objectives of this plan in fulfilling the duties set out in the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025* for the Shire as the responsible person under the *Electrical Safety Act 1998*.

- Public Safety.
- Compliance with the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025 and Code of Practice*.
- Protection of areas of important vegetation which may be deemed as such, on the basis of those areas containing botanically, historically or culturally important vegetation or vegetation of outstanding aesthetic or ecological significance, and/or the habitat of rare or endangered species.
- Management of vegetation to maximise the amenity value of the Shire's trees and to Community satisfaction.
- Provision of a safe working place for employees and contractors.
- Community satisfaction with the manner in which the necessary works area carried out.
- Continuity of electricity supply and electrical safety to the community
- Minimise risk of fire

To achieve the objectives of this plan, Council has a one-year cyclic pruning program that inspects and conducts work on all trees near power lines throughout the declared areas. The works are undertaken by in house staff with support from contractors and are audited by Council's Arborist and Tree Crew Supervisor on completion of an area. Any non-compliances with the audit requirements are required to be rectified within an appropriate timeframe as determined by the Arborist and Tree Crew Supervisor.

(4)(f, g) The land to which the management plan applies by the inclusion of a map;

Refer to **Appendix 1** for EGSC declared areas and Hazardous Bushfire Risk Area (HBRA) / Low Bushfire Rating Area (LBRA) boundaries.

Each year prior to preparing the upcoming plan, Council will review the boundaries with the CFA via their website; <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/electric-line-vegetation-clearance>

Council will also consult with the CFA on a 4-year review cycle for verification of the boundaries. The latest review was completed in January 2023.

(4)(h) The location of areas containing trees which may need to be cut or removed to ensure compliance with the Code and that are

- **(i) Native** – Native vegetation is plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses. East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC) has within its declared areas a mixture of native and exotics which enhance the amenity of the municipality. The trees that require clearing from electric lines typically occur within nature strips, road reserves, recreation reserves and other areas of land within the Declared Areas managed by Council. Approximately 90% of Council's trees in declared areas are native and indigenous species. Council's Arborist maintains a Tree Management Database.
- **(ii) Listed in a planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance** – Main St Bairnsdale. These trees are managed by reduced pruning cycles and approved Arboriculture practices such as Pollarding. The list of tree/sites within East Gippsland can be accessed at: [East Gippsland Planning Scheme - Maps](#)

A Heritage Overlay permit exemption is listed for any action which is necessary to keep the whole or any part of a tree clear of an electric line provided the action is carried out in accordance with a code of practice prepared under Section 86 of the *Electricity Safety Act 1998*.

- **(iii) A tree of cultural or environmental significance** – A significant amount of East Gippsland is covered by a Cultural Sensitive Overlay. The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register is not a public accessible database and an application for information must be submitted by the owner of the land or a local government employee for the purpose of carrying out functions or duties required under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. Information regarding an application to the database can be accessed at: <https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-cultural-heritage-register-information-system-access>

(4)(i) The means which the responsible person is required to use to identify a tree specified in paragraph (h);

- Identification by a Qualified Arborist.
- Consult the Planning Scheme.
- Consult the National Trust Heritage Overlays.
- Consult the Register of Significant Trees.*
- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register
- Consult the Threatened Flora List **
- Consult the Flora and Fauna as listed below as threatened with a status of 'vulnerable,' 'endangered' or 'critically endangered.'**
- Consult the Threatened invertebrate Fauna list**
- Consult the Threatened vertebrate Fauna list*

A review of these lists will occur as part of Council's Electrical Line Clearance Management Plan (ELCMP) review to ensure the accuracy of the Shire's knowledge of the location of such trees.

* http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/search/nt_search

** [Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act Threatened List \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](#)

All contractors engaged by Council to carry out ELCMP works, will be advised of any tree's identified in 4(i) will be informed as part of their work order instructions.

Council's declared areas are urban areas that have been developed, it is unlikely that new important trees will be discovered.

(4)(j)(i)The management procedures that the responsible person is required to adopt to ensure compliance with the Code, which must include details of the methods proposed to be adopted for:

Managing trees

- EGSC manages over 25,000 trees in parks and streets, over 3,800 trees have power lines above or nearby, which may require clearance pruning. Council currently inspects Urban trees in playgrounds and high amenity main streets on a yearly cycle and other roadside trees in urban areas on a 3 year cycle in accordance with Council’s Urban Street Tree and Foreshore Vegetation Procedure. Electrical line vegetation clearance are not included as part of this plan and are completed in accordance with Council’s ELCMP’s.
- EGSC cyclic ELCMP program is completed as per the table shown below:

Month	Declared Area	Notes
July	Both	Audit of HBRA
October	Both	Completed cutting of HBRA by 31 October or earlier if advised by the CFA declaration of the annual fire danger period.
November / December / January	Both	LBRA Declared area
February	Both	Audit, Review of Electrical Plan.

- Council’s Tree Crew Supervisor or Leading Hand will carry out inspections of works required. Inspection results are recorded on an Inspection sheet which is then forwarded to the Council Tree crew for completion if works are identified. A copy of the inspection sheet is included in this plan as **Appendix 2**. Once works are completed, the date works were completed is record on the inspection sheet. Council’s Tree Crew Supervisor or Leading Hand then audits work to ensure they meet the requirements of the code. Council’s Tree Crew Supervisor or Leading Hand will inspect minimum 5 audits of works identified on each inspection sheet. The records the date of his audit and registers the inspection sheet in Council’s Corporate Records System, currently Content Manager.
- HBRA Declared inspection and cutting is completed prior the start of the annual Fire Danger Period as declared by the CFA.
- Pruning works scheduled in order of priority and in accordance with a timeframe that avoids identified works escalating in priority. HBRA areas will be prioritised ahead of LBRA areas.
- Trees will be pruned to the minimum clearances outlined in the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025 graphs 1-6 and figures 1-5 (**Appendix 3**). All pruning should conform to AS 4373-2007 — Pruning of Amenity Trees.
- Where trees cannot be pruned in accordance with AS 4373-2007 — Pruning of Amenity Trees, Council’s Parks and Gardens Coordinator or Arborist will determine if the tree should be removed and replaced with more appropriate species and in accordance with Council’s Urban Tree Management Procedure.
- Vegetation identified by the Distribution Company (DB) or public will be managed by one of the following methods;
 - Determined that the vegetation is not our responsibility to clear as it is located on lands not under Council’s management and DB and/or customer advised
 - Determined the site/s will be actioned in accordance with our electric line clearance program
- Council will consult with Spencer Few Stakeholder HSE and Audits Lead and conduct regular field meetings with Richard Kelaart Vegetation Field Officer - Rural East Select Solutions

Ausnet Services to manage any issues. Suppression applications are submitted using a DB supplied form.

- Transitioning overhead power lines to underground or Aerial Bundled Conductor (ABC) in areas of high conflict where budgets or projects permit.
- Requiring all subdivisions and new estates to underground proposed power lines.
- The use of appropriate plant selection for new and replacement plantings that allows for meeting of regulations and in accordance with EGSC Urban Tree Management Procedure.
- Monitoring of General Local Law 2017 and East Gippsland Shire Council Urban Tree and Foreshore Vegetation Management Procedure
- Review of Council's management procedures will be conducted in Feb each year to ensure effectiveness

(ii) Maintaining the minimum clearance space, required by the Code, between electric lines and trees;

To determine the level of pruning required to ensure adequate minimum clearance space for regrowth before the next inspection the pruning arborist will apply the following method:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Av. of annual growth extension since last prune} \\ & \quad \times \\ & \text{years to next program prune} \\ & \quad = \text{amount pruned} \end{aligned}$$

Council will refer to the minimum clearance requirements from Graphs 1-6 and figures 1-5 of the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025.

Records of inspections and audits will be maintained in Councils record management system, ECM and excel spreadsheet.

If trees are identified as needing attention to maintain compliance outside the programmed maintenance regime Council has a customer service system that can be accessed by the community or distribution companies on 5153 9500 or feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au

- If the tree is deemed to require urgent attention, action will be undertaken to complete the necessary clearance within 14 days; or
- If the tree is determined not to require urgent attention, action will be undertaken to complete the necessary works within 3 months.

Records of customer requests will be maintained in Council's record management system, ECM or Customer Request module (Pathway) and an excel spreadsheet.

Audits submitted by the Distribution Business will be recorded in Councils record management system, ECM and actioned in accordance with their guidelines.

(i(i)A, B) Determining an additional distance that allows for cable sag and sway.

Additional allowance for sag and sway is required for spans >100m in LBRA and spans >45m in HBRA. Council will use graphs 1 - 6 of the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025 to determine the applicable distance for sag and sway. Copies of these graphs will be provided to staff in the field. Where spans exceed 100m in LBRA and greater than 45m in HBRA within Councils declared areas, Council's Arborist will consult with the Spencer Few ORP Liaison Officer AusNet, (03 8612 6101, spencer.few@ausnetservices.com.au) to determine an applicable distance which will be provided to field staff for use in the field. This consultation will be recorded in Councils Information Management System for a minimum 5 years.

(4)(k) The management procedures to be adopted if it is not practicable to comply with the requirements of AS 4373 while cutting in accordance with the code.

- Use of suitably qualified personnel
- Training and induction of personnel (including yearly refresher training in Cert 2 ESI – Power line Vegetation Control)
- Selection of appropriate plant and equipment
- Selection of appropriate pruning/clearing techniques
- Auditing of pruning cuts by a qualified Arborist - The audit results are recorded on the inspection sheet and are discussed with the Tree Crew Supervisor and Tree Crew members during regular meetings and part of staff performance reviews. Councils Tree Crew is required to address any areas of non-compliance within 15 working days.
- To meet A.S 4373, Council has defined 'as far as practicable' to be;

-reasonably practicable means that which is, or was at a particular time, reasonably able to be done to ensure safety, taking into account and weighing up all relevant matters including:

a) the likelihood of the hazard or the risk concerned occurring; and

b) the degree of harm that might result from the hazard or the risk; and

c) what the person concerned knows, or ought reasonably to know, about the hazard or risk, and ways of eliminating or minimising the risk; and

d) the availability and suitability of ways to eliminate or minimise the risk; and after assessing the extent of the risk and the available ways of eliminating or minimising the risk, the cost associated with available ways of eliminating or minimising the risk, including whether the cost is grossly disproportionate to the risk.

- If a Council tree is unable to be pruned in accordance with AS 4373, Council's Arborist to inspect and confirm tree cannot be pruned to AS 4373. Where pruning to achieve clearance will not allow compliance with AS4373, East Gippsland Shire Council may elect to
 1. Increase the pruning frequency to minimise the required pruning
 2. List the tree for an exception.
 3. Remove scaffold / parent limbs initially to minimise future required pruning
 4. Investigate the potential for engineering solutions to facilitate compliance for an exception, or
 5. Remove trees where the resulting pruning would leave trees unsuitable for retention.

The decision will be guided by the cost of the options in terms of tree value, work cost and the surrounding environment of the tree.

- Review of the most current A.S 4373 to be included as part of annual review of Electrical Line clearance plan. The following website will be used. [Pruning of Amenity Trees - AS 4373-2007 - Standards Australia](#)
If the standard is found to have been updated, an updated copy will be provided to the Council Tree Crew.

(4)(m i-ii) Description of alternative compliance mechanism's

ESGC is not applying or proposing to apply for any mechanisms. Council also does not have any mechanisms in effect for the period of this plan.

(4)(n) A description of the measures that must be used to assess the performance of the responsible person under the management plan;

- Preparation of Electrical Line Clearance Management Plan (ELCMP) prior to 31 March
- Completion of inspection / pruning programs according to schedule
- Audits by Council's Arborist at the completion of programmed works
- Minimum 5 audits by Council Arborist or Tree Crew Supervisor
- Number of pruning requests from the distribution company
- Number of pruning requests from the community
- The number of annual inspections
- The number of trees in breach of the Code
- The number of emergency clearances
- Completion of inspection and clearing programs against schedule

- The number of pruning cuts found to be below standard
- The number of customer complaints
- Reviewing annually the previous year's data and discussing with staff on any trends identified.

Councils ELCMP Program is conducted by in house staff who have historic knowledge of the vegetation to be cut each year and workload involved. They also have knowledge of any works conducted on vegetation outside the ELC Program for other risk management and clearance requirements of these Council assets. In house staff are included in the review and preparing of Council's ELCMP.

The records of requests are kept in Councils Information Record System, Customer Request Module (CRM) and excel spreadsheet.

(4)(o) Details of the audit processes that must be used to determine the responsible person's compliance with the Code;

Council's WPH&S rep, Tree Crew Supervisor and Arborist will conduct as a minimum 5 audits of pruning works and at the completion of programmed works. Each audit will consist of 5 spans in a declared area on a monthly cycle during the cutting periods nominated in the EGSC ELCMP program table (Pg 6 of this plan).

Audits assess as a minimum;

- Code compliance of Council trees within the declared area
- Quality of works, ensure pruning in compliance with AS4373 as far as practicable
- Work site management / HSE whilst pruning works are being undertaken
- Personnel qualifications and competency prior to and during completion of pruning works
- Customer satisfaction with ELC program

Audits must be conducted with at least one staff member who holds a current Cert 2 in ESI and minimum 3 years' experience in Electrical Line Clearance.

*East Gippsland Shire WPH&S team conduct a formal yearly workplace inspection of Council's in house tree crew and ad hoc inspections at various times.

The results of the audits will be recorded on Councils Field Inspection sheet and registered in Councils Information Record System.

The audit results are recorded and are discussed with the Tree Crew Supervisor and Tree Crew members during regular meetings that are documented and part of annual staff performance reviews. Councils Tree Crew is required to address any areas of non-compliance within 15 working days. The auditor who identified the non-compliance, must then reinspect the location within 5 working days and update the inspection record.

(4)(p) The qualifications and experience that the responsible person must require of the persons who are to carry out the inspection, cutting or removal of trees

Electrical Line Clearance (ELC) personnel are operating as Qualified workers as per the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations.

Council will ensure that only suitable qualified staff performing scoping works or hazard inspections around electric lines will have:

- the qualification of National Certificate III in Arboriculture including the "Perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation" unit of competency, or an equivalent qualification; and
- At least 3 years' field experience in assessing trees.

Council will ensure that all staff performing pruning and removal works around electric lines conforms to:

- 'Pruning of Amenity Trees' Australian Standards AS4373-2007.
- Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019 Reg 616.
- The "Blue Book".
- ESV Electrical Safety Rules for Vegetation Management work near overhead powerlines

Staff will hold the following minimum qualifications:

<p>Arborist / Tree Climber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UET20321 – Certificate II in ESI Powerline Vegetation Control. • AHC30816 – Certificate III in Arboriculture. • UEECD007 – Apply OH&S regulations, codes and practices in the workplace. • AHCMOM213 – Operate and maintain chainsaw. • UETDRMP010 – First Aid in an ESI environment (including annual refresher training). • HLTAID009 – Provide CPR (including annual refresher training). • UETDRVC010 – Perform rescue form with a tree in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus (including annual refresher training). • FWPHAR2208 – Operate a mobile chipper/mulcher. • RIIWHS205D – Control traffic with stop-slow bat. • RIIWHS302D – Implement traffic management plan. • UETTDREL14A – Working safely near live electrical apparatus as non-electrical worker. • UETDRVC009 – Monitor vegetation control work in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus. • UETDRVC006 - Control vegetation in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus form within the tree. • UETDRVC007 – Control vegetation using pruning techniques. • Safe Approach Distance (SAD) – Vegetation work (including annual refresher training).
<p>EWP Operator / Cutter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ▪ UET20321 – Certificate II in ESI Powerline Vegetation Control. • ▪ UEECD007 – Apply OH&S regulations, codes and practices in the workplace. • ▪ AHCMOM213 – Operate and maintain chainsaw. • ▪ UETDRMP010 – First Aid in an ESI environment (including annual refresher training). • HLTAID009 – Provide CPR (including annual refresher training). • UETDRMP015 – Perform EWP descent escape (including annual refresher training). • UETDRMP016 – Perform EWP rescue (including annual refresher training). • RIIWHS205D – Control traffic with stop-slow bat. • RIIWHS302D – Implement traffic management plan. • UETTDREL14A – Working safely near live electrical apparatus as non-electrical worker. • UETDRVC009 – Monitor vegetation control work in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus. • TLILIC2005A – Licence to operate a boom-type elevating work platform. (>11 meters) • High Risk Work licence – WP code Boom-type elevating work platform operation licence. • UETDRVC004 – Control vegetation in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus from an EWP. • UETDRVC005 – Control vegetation in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus form ground level. • UETDRVC006 – Control vegetation in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus form within the tree. • UETDRVC007 – Control vegetation using pruning techniques. • Safe Approach Distance (SAD) – Vegetation work (including annual refresher training).

<p>Arborist / Supervisor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 3 years industry experience. • At least 3 years of field experience in assessing trees. • UET20321 – Certificate II in ESI Powerline Vegetation Control. • AHC30816 – Certificate III in Arboriculture. • UEECD007 – Apply OH&S regulations, codes and practices in the workplace. • AHCMOM213 – Operate and maintain chainsaw. • FWP HAR2208 – Operate a mobile chipper/mulcher. • UETDRMP010 – First Aid in an ESI environment (including annual refresher training). • HLTAID009 – Provide CPR (including annual refresher training). • RIIWHS205D – Control traffic with stop-slow bat. • RIIWHS302D – Implement traffic management plan. • AHCARB408 – Perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation. • UETTDREL14A – Working safely near live electrical apparatus as non-electrical worker. • UETDRVC009 – Monitor vegetation control work in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus. • UETDRVC002 – Assess vegetation in an electricity supply industry environment. • AHCPCM204 – Recognise plants.
<p>Assessor / Tree Inspector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 3 years industry experience, • At least 3 years of field experience in assessing trees, • UET20321 – Certificate II in ESI Powerline Vegetation Control, • AHC30816 – Certificate III in Arboriculture, • AHC50524 – Diploma of Arboriculture, • UEECD007 – Apply OH&S regulations, codes and practices in the workplace, • AHCMOM213 – Operate and maintain chainsaw, • FWP HAR2208 – Operate a mobile chipper/mulcher, • UETDRMP010 – First Aid in an ESI environment (including annual refresher training). • HLTAID009 – Provide CPR (including annual refresher training). • RIIWHS205D – Control traffic with stop-slow bat. • RIIWHS302D – Implement traffic management plan. • UETTDREL14A – Working safely near live electrical apparatus as non-electrical worker. • AHCARB408 – Perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation. • UETDRVC009 – Monitor vegetation control work in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus. • UETDRVC002 – Assess vegetation in an electricity supply industry environment. • AHCPCM204 – Recognise plants.

EGSC Human Resources department maintains staff training records in Councils HR management program. Annual Refresher training for Cert 2 ESI is monitored and training arranged by the Open Space Coordinator and Learning and Development Officer. Frequency and programming of other relevant qualifications is managed by ELMO and the Learning and Development Officer.

Council's Arborist and Tree Crew Supervisor will ensure all electrical line clearance personnel have the appropriate training including site induction and current qualifications before commencing works. Any personnel identified as not having these requirements will not be permitted to carry out any works and instructed to leave the worksite.

(4)(q) & Schedule 1 (17) Notification and consultation

Council will notify all affected persons of programmed works using the following process. Notification will be at least 14 days and not more than 60 days before the intended pruning or removal is to occur;

- On the Shire's website which is available to any person located in the locality of the land in which the trees are to be pruned or removed.

Example -

'Vegetation clearance works – Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance districts

In accordance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025, the Shire's tree crew is currently conducting electrical line vegetation clearance works in the Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance districts. Works are programmed for completion up until _____, weather permitting.

Further information - Marc Taylor

Council's Tree Crew Supervisor (TCS) is responsible for monitoring the cutting program. If works are not completed within 14 -60-day timeframe, the TCS will advise the Open Space Coordinator, and an updated notification will be made.

(4)(r) Dispute resolution procedure

Internal Disputes

Disputes between Council and the public relating to issues with the pruning of Council trees to comply with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025 will be resolved in accordance with Council's Citizen Response and Complaints Resolution Procedure four step Complaints Handling Approach.

1. Frontline Resolution
2. Investigation
3. Internal Review
4. External Review

The full policy is available on Council's website:

[Publications, Policies and Reports \(eastgippsland.vic.gov.au\)](http://eastgippsland.vic.gov.au)

The officer responsible this procedure is;

Title:	Manager Governance
Telephone No:	03 5153 9500
Email:	feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au

External

If the Council's dispute resolution process is unsuccessful in resolving the issue, the plaintiff will be referred to the local distribution company or the Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria whichever is most relevant.

10(2)(a, b) Copy of the Electric Line Clearance Plan available to the public.

The East Gippsland Shire Electrical Line Clearance Management Plan is available to the public (on request) at the Shire's Principal Business Centre, Service Street, Bairnsdale. Council's Principal Business Centre is open between 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday excluding gazetted public holidays.

It is also available on Councils website:

[Native Vegetation \(eastgippsland.vic.gov.au\)](http://NativeVegetation(eastgippsland.vic.gov.au))

Council's Open Space Planner will ensure that most recent plans are available at the locations by 1 July each year.

11(2) Exemption applications (Vegetation Risk Management)

EGSC does not have any exemptions for alternative compliance mechanisms.

Schedule 1 –Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance

Part 2 Division 1 (4- 7)

Exception to minimum clearance space's

- EGSC does not have any exceptions for minimum clearance spaces.
- Council will consider transitioning overhead power lines to underground or Aerial Bundled Conductor (ABC) in areas of high conflict where budgets or projects permit.

(9) Responsible person may cut or remove hazard Tree.

- A hazard tree maybe a tree that:
 - has or is likely to fail and will contact an electric line if this occurs
- Council will ensure that all trees are assessed by a suitably qualified Arborist that holds a minimum Arboriculture Certificate Level 3 and /or has at least 3 years' field experience in assessing trees.
- The assessment will consider all locally foreseeable conditions such as weather, environmental, significant vegetation, protected fauna and flora and habitat, that it is reasonable to assess within the scope of the expertise of the inspecting Arborist that indicate the likelihood of contact with an electric line.
- Hazard trees that are found to **NOT** be the responsibility of Council will be reported to the DB by phone or email.

Division 2(10 - 11) Manner of Cutting and removing trees including

- **Native trees**
- **Listed in a planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance**
- **A tree of cultural or environmental significance**
- Cutting to comply with Australian Standard 4373
- Council will, as far as practicable, restrict cutting or removal of these to the minimum extent necessary to ensure best practice pruning standards and compliance with the requirements of the code of practice or to make an unsafe situation safe. An unsafe situation may include:
 - Hazard Tree
 - regrowth into clearance space before next scheduled visit
 - vegetation in HBRA found in clearance after declaration
- An inspection and advice will be provided by Suitably qualified Arborist if the tree is to be removed. Removal is only permitted if pruning the tree to compliance will make the tree unviable

(12) Cutting or removal of habitat for threatened Fauna

- Council currently does not have habitat trees within the Shire's declared areas that require electrical line clearance maintenance. If a habitat tree is identified the following process will be implemented to manage the tree/s.
- Before cutting season check threatened fauna list. Any changes identified will be shared with the tree crew and contractors.
- Pruning conducted out of the breeding season wherever practical.
- Translocation of the fauna if not practical to undertake outside of the breeding season.
- Cutting only to occur when not practicable to cut or remove outside the breeding season.

Division 4(20) Duty relating to the safety of cutting or removal of trees close to an electric Line.

- EGSC has no clearance responsibilities in relation to a span of an electric line that is part of a railway supply network or tramway supply network

- **Distribution Business for EGSC**

Name: AusNet - Spencer Few ORP Liaison Officer

Phone: 1300 360 795

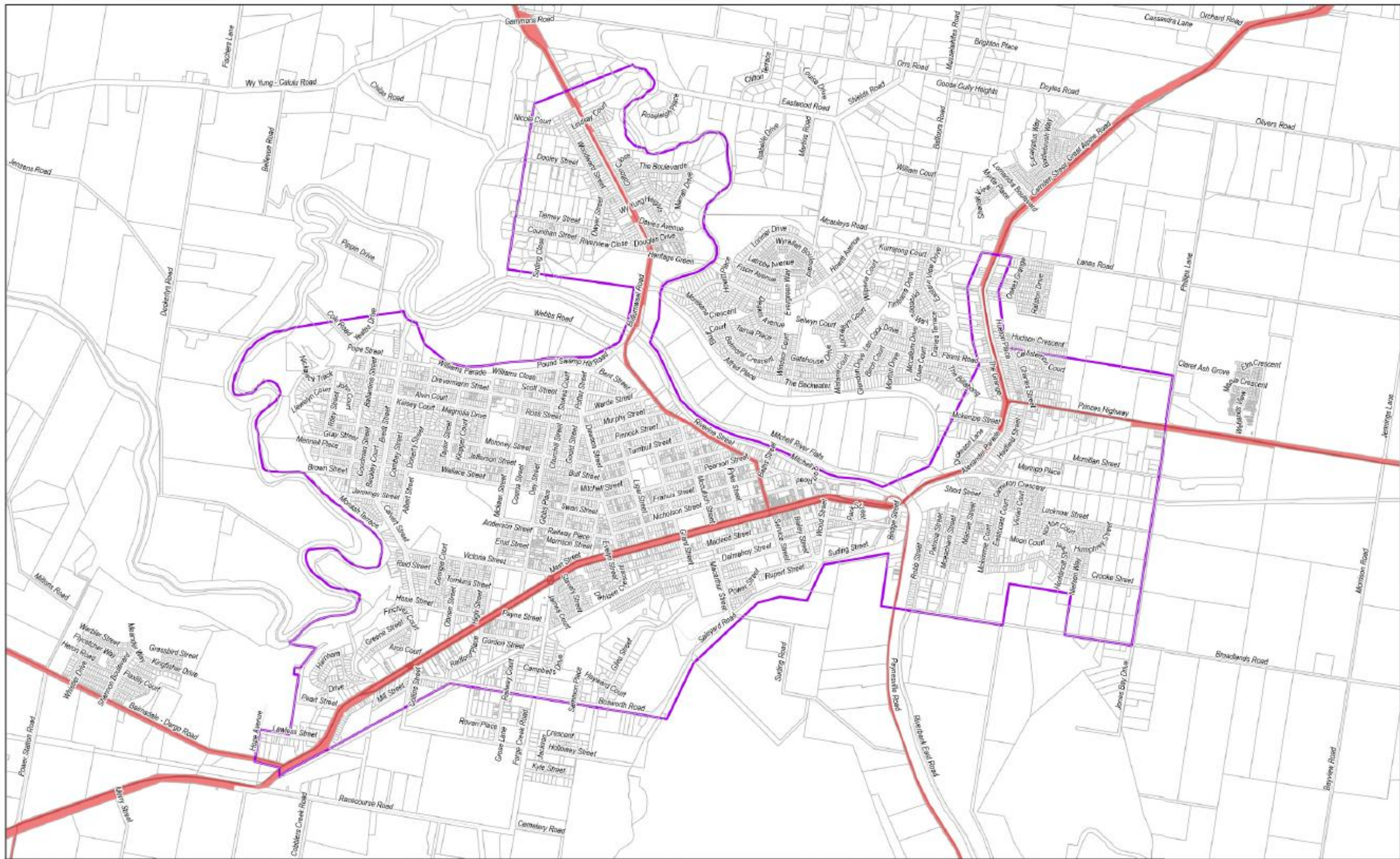
- **Owner Operator of Rail Line within East Gippsland V-Line**

Jai Nunn, Director Infrastructure V/Line Corporation
452 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000
1800 800 007

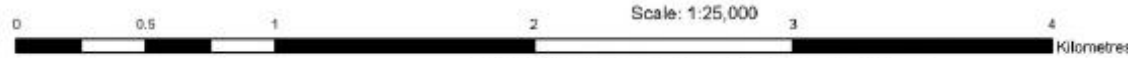
Matthew Trevaskis, Head of Network Structures, Facilities and Vegetation
V/Line Corporation
452 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000
1800 800 007

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Maps of Declared Areas and Bushfire Risk Ratings



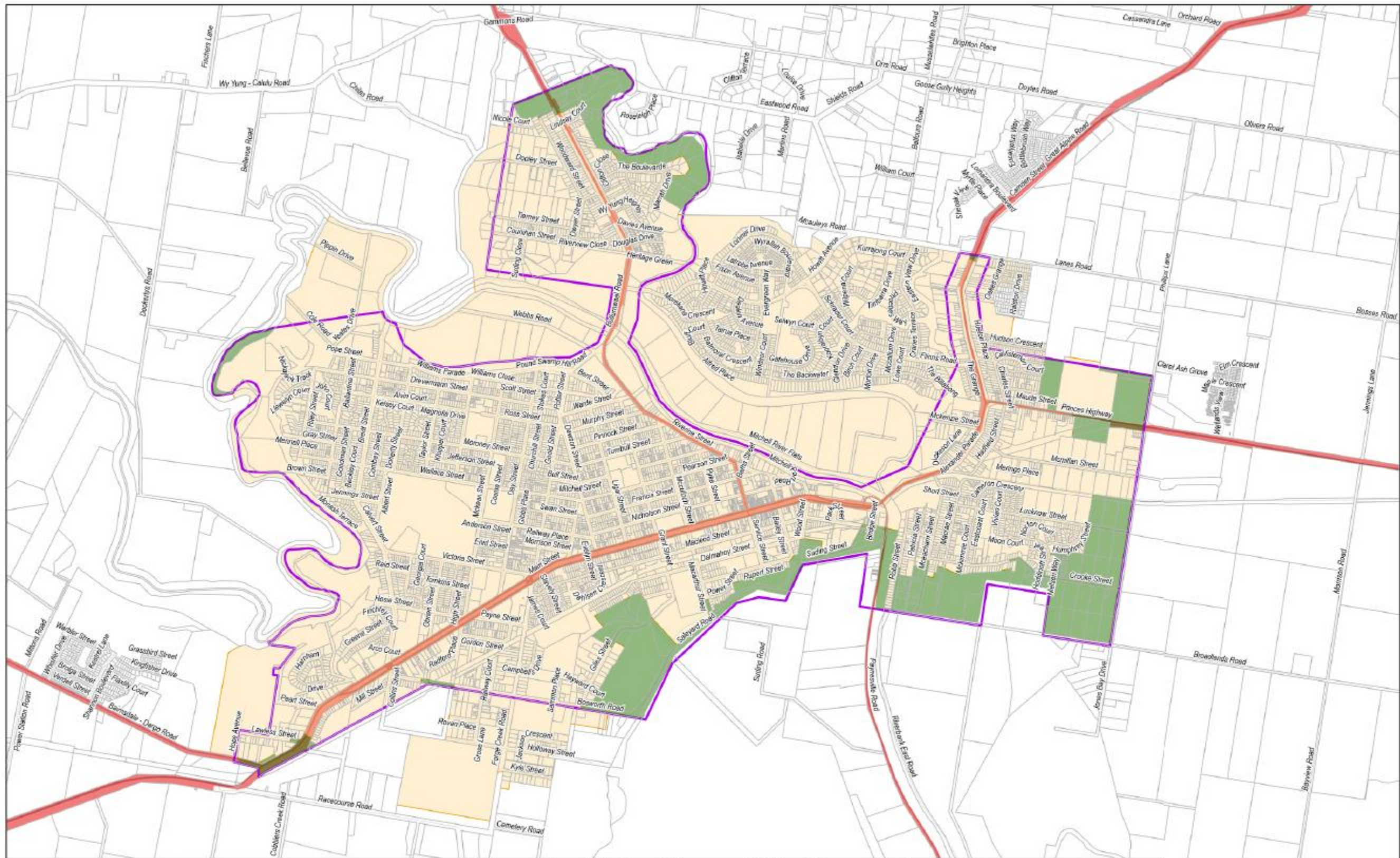
Bairnsdale – Declared Area



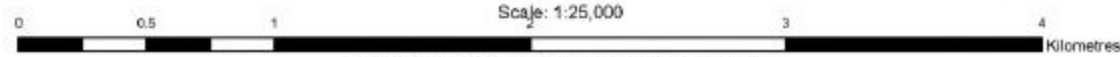
Data Source: © Copyright State Government of Victoria
 Data Date: 14 APR 26
 Produced By: East Gippsland Shire Council
 Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
 Year Produced: 2026

- LEGEND**
- Road Area
 - Property Boundary
 - Declared Area





Bairnsdale – Declared Area and Fire Hazard Rating



Data Source: © Copyright State Government of Victoria
 Data Date: 14 APR 26
 Produced By: East Gippsland Shire Council
 Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
 Year Produced: 2026

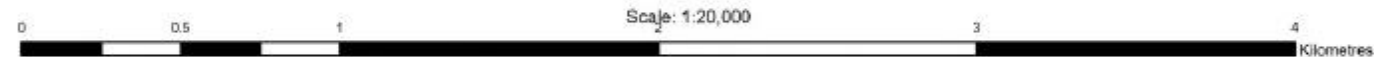
LEGEND

- Road Area
- Property Boundary
- LBRA (Low Bushfire Risk Area)
- Declared Area
- Hazardous Bushfire Risk Area HBRA





Lakes Entrance – Declared Area



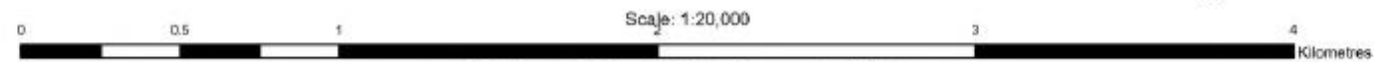
Data Source: © Copyright State Government of Victoria
 Data Date: 14 APR 26
 Produced By: East Gippsland Shire Council
 Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
 Year Produced: 2025

- LEGEND**
- Road Area
 - Property Boundary
 - DeclaredArea





Lakes Entrance – Declared Area and Fire Hazard Rating



Data Source: © Copyright State Government of Victoria
 Data Date: 14 APR 26
 Produced By: East Gippsland Shire Council
 Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
 Year Produced: 2025

LEGEND

- █ Road Area
- Property Boundary
- LBRA (Low Bushfire Risk Area)
- Declared Area
- Hazardous Bushfire Risk Area HBRA

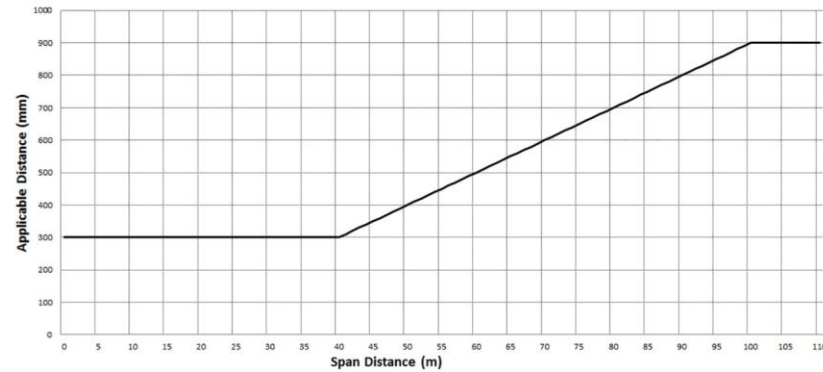


Appendix 3

Schedule 2—Applicable distance for middle two thirds of electric line span

Graph 1—Insulated electric lines in all areas

Clauses 3 and 24



Graph 1 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle two thirds of an electric line span to which clause 24 applies is calculated as follows—

For $0 < SD \leq 40$, $AD = 300 \text{ mm}$

For $40 < SD \leq 100$, $AD = 300 + ((SD - 40) \times 10)$

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 900 \text{ mm}$

where—

SD is the span distance;

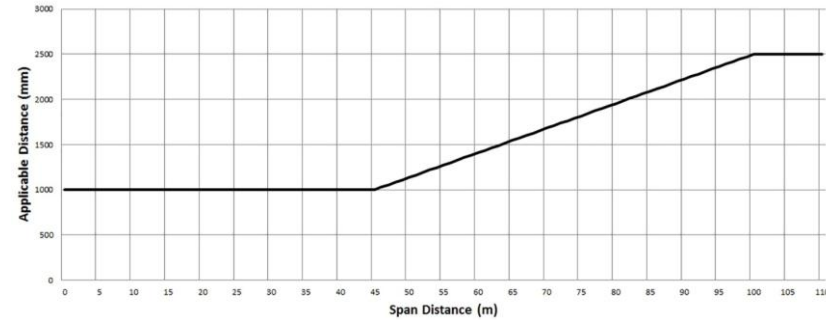
AD is the applicable distance.

Notes to Graph 1

- 1 The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the conductor.
- 2 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 24 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 3.
- 3 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 24 applies is 300 millimetres.

Graph 2—Uninsulated low voltage electric line in a low bushfire risk area

Clauses 3 and 25



Graph 2 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle two thirds of an electric line span to which clause 25 applies is calculated as follows—

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, $AD = 1000 \text{ mm}$

For $40 < SD \leq 100$, $AD = 1000 + ((SD - 45) \times (1500 \div 55))$

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 2500 \text{ mm}$

where—

SD is the span distance;

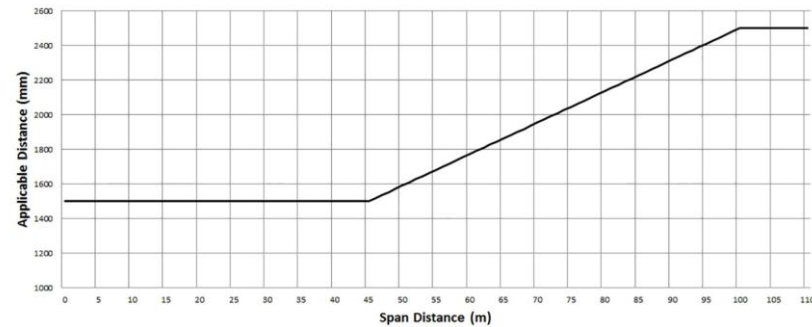
AD is the applicable distance.

Notes to Graph 2

- 1 The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the conductor for a span up to and including 100 metres in length.
- 2 For a span longer than 100 metres, the applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 25(2)(b)).
- 3 A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network or a tramway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance that allows for sag and sway of the conductor (see clause 21(2)).
- 4 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 25 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 4.
- 5 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 25 applies is 1000 millimetres.

Graph 3—Uninsulated high voltage electric line (other than a 66 000 volt electric line) in a low bushfire risk area

Clauses 3 and 26



Graph 3 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle two thirds of an electric line span to which clause 26 applies is calculated as follows—

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, $AD = 1500 \text{ mm}$

For $45 < SD \leq 100$, $AD = 1500 + ((SD - 45) \times (1500 \div 55))$

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 2500 \text{ mm}$

where—

SD is the span distance;

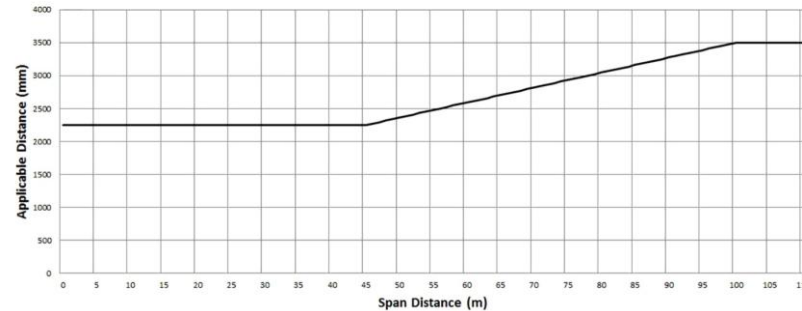
AD is the applicable distance.

Notes to Graph 3

- 1 The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the conductor for a span up to and including 100 metres in length.
- 2 For a span longer than 100 metres, the applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 26(2)(b)).
- 3 A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network or a tramway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance (see clause 21(2)).
- 4 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 26 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 3.
- 5 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 26 applies is 1500 millimetres.

Graph 4—Uninsulated 66 000 volt electric line in a low bushfire risk area

Clauses 3 and 27



Graph 4 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle two thirds of an electric line span to which clause 27 applies is calculated as follows—

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, $AD = 2250 \text{ mm}$

For $45 < SD \leq 100$, $AD = 2250 + ((SD - 45) \times (1250 \div 55))$

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 3500 \text{ mm}$

where—

SD is the span distance;

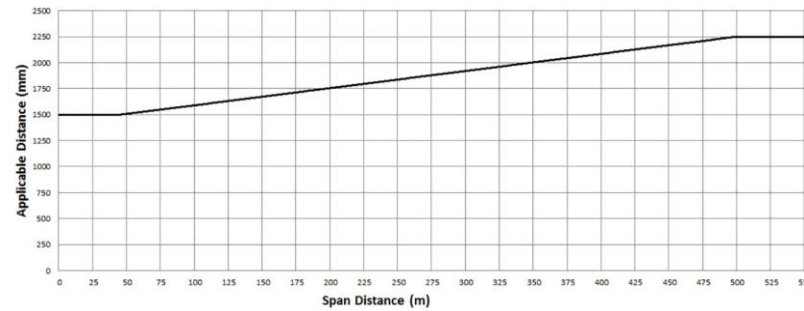
AD is the applicable distance.

Notes to Graph 4

- 1 The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the conductor for a span up to and including 100 metres in length.
- 2 For a span longer than 100 metres, the applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 27(2)(a)(ii)).
- 3 A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network or a tramway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance (see clause 21(2)).
- 4 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 27 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 5.
- 5 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 27 applies is 2250 millimetres.

Graph 5—Uninsulated low voltage and high voltage electric line (other than a 66 000 volt electric line) in a hazardous bushfire risk area

Clauses 3 and 28



Graph 5 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle two thirds of an electric line span to which clause 28 applies is calculated as follows—

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, $AD = 1500 \text{ mm}$

For $45 < SD \leq 500$, $AD = 1500 + ((SD - 45) \times (500 \div 303))$

For $500 < SD$, $AD = 2250 \text{ mm}$

where—

SD is the span distance;

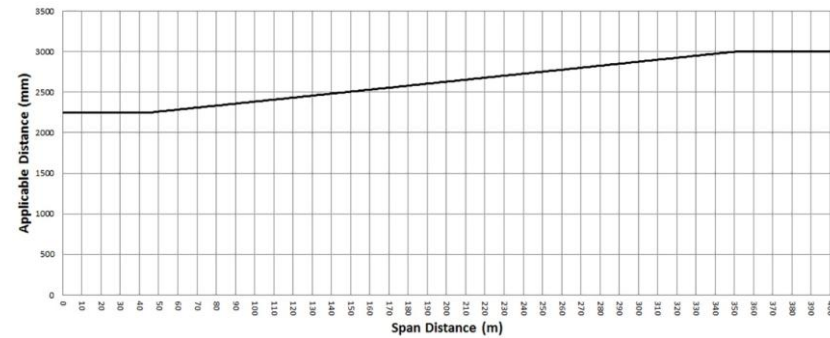
AD is the applicable distance.

Notes to Graph 5

- 1 The applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 28(2)(a)).
- 2 A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network or a tramway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance (see clause 21(2)).
- 3 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 28 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 5.
- 4 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 28 applies is 1500 millimetres.

Graph 6—Uninsulated 66 000 volt electric line in a hazardous bushfire risk area

Clauses 3 and 29



Graph 6 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle two thirds of an electric line span to which clause 29 applies is calculated as follows—

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, $AD = 2250 \text{ mm}$

For $45 < SD \leq 350$, $AD = 2250 + ((SD - 45) \times (750 \div 305))$

For $350 < SD$, $AD = 3000 \text{ mm}$

where—

SD is the span distance;

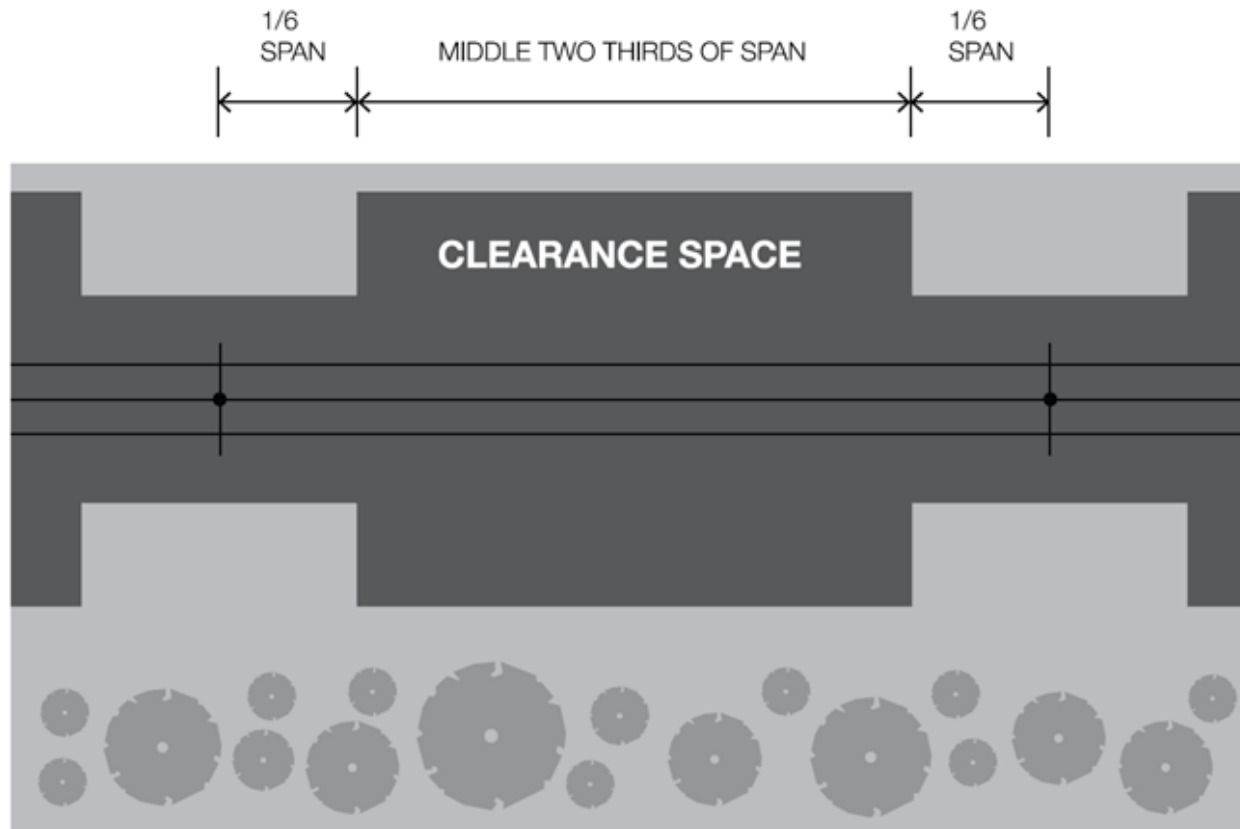
AD is the applicable distance.

Notes to Graph 6

- 1 The applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 29(2)(a)).
- 2 A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network or a tramway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance (see clause 21(2)).
- 3 The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 29 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 5.
- 4 The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 29 applies is 2250 millimetres.

Figure 1—Plan view of electric lines in all areas

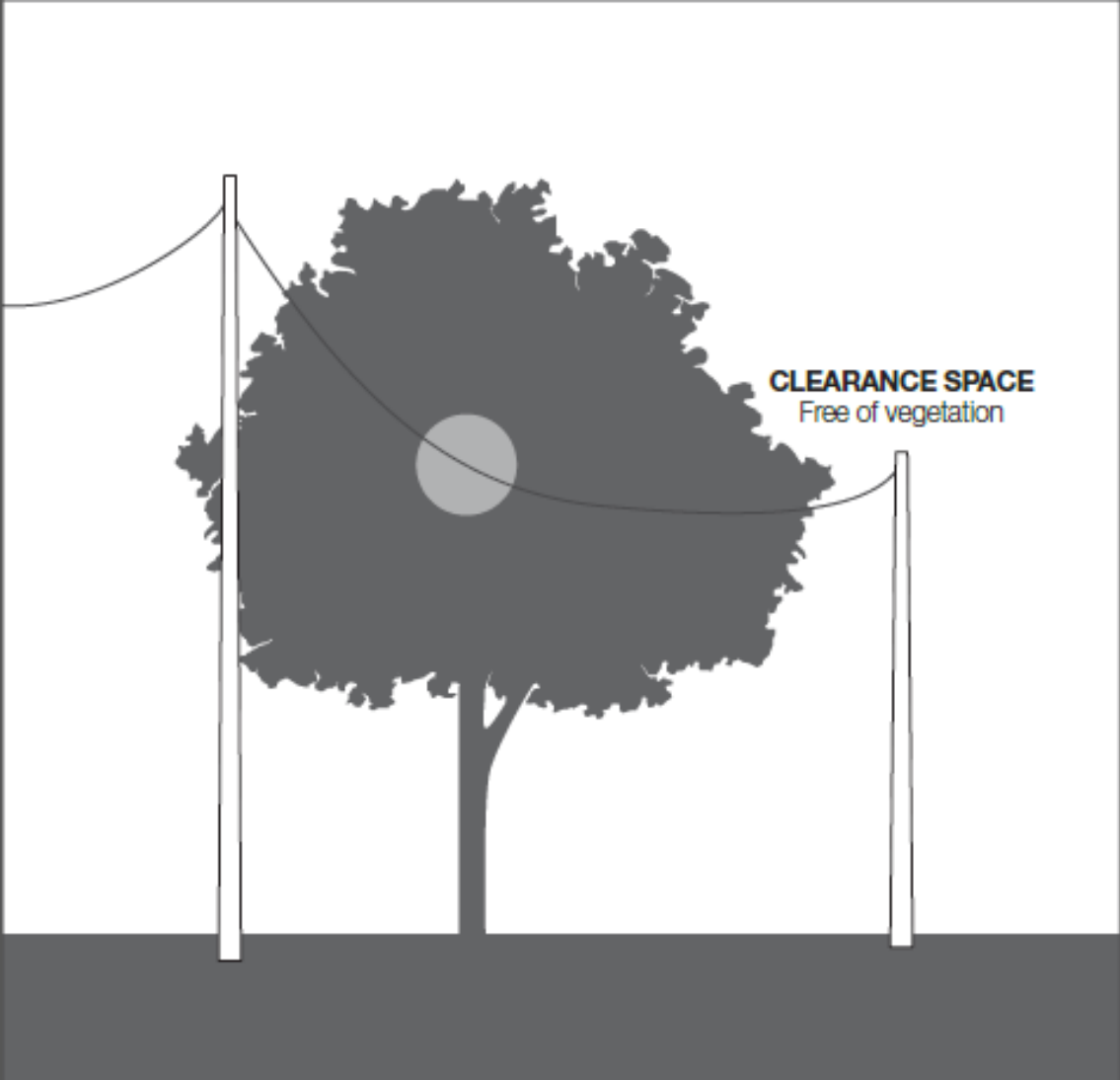
Clauses 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29,
Graphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 2—Insulated electric lines in all areas

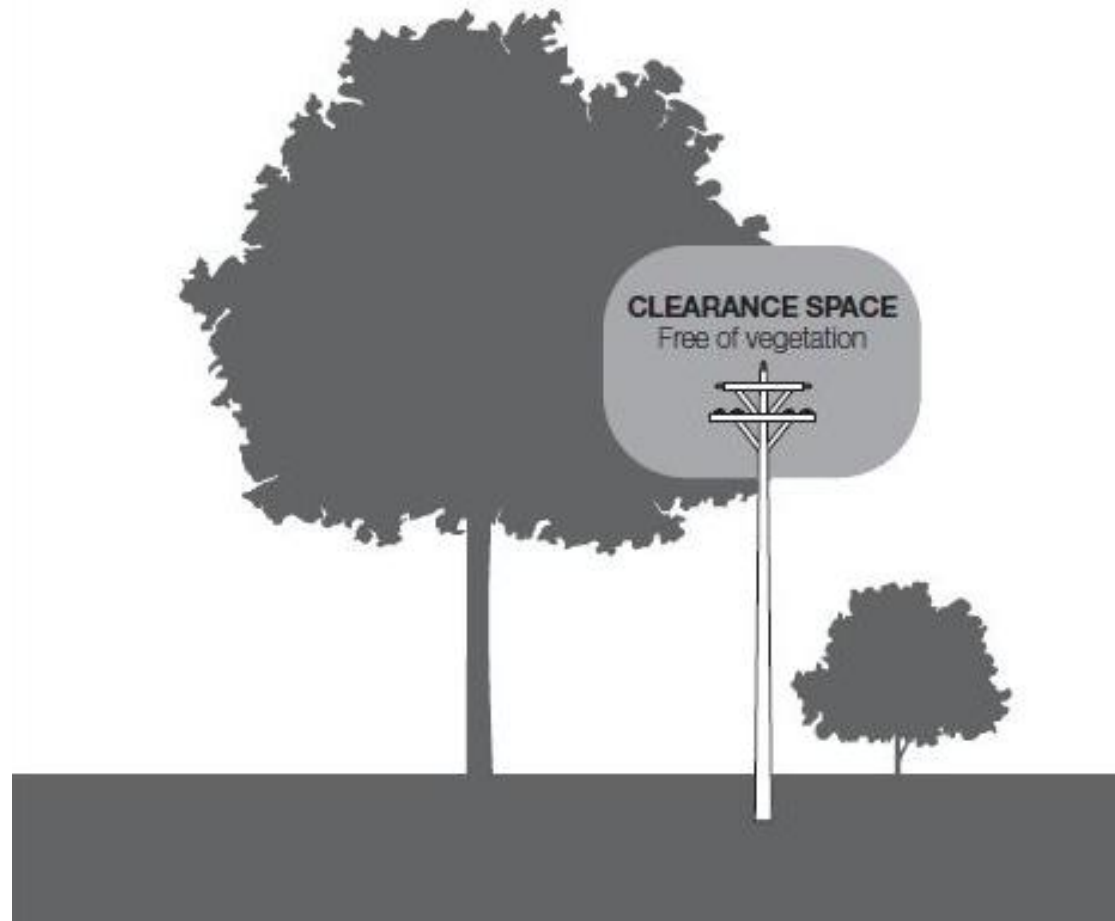
Clause 24, Graph 1



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 3—Insulated electric lines in all areas and uninsulated high voltage electric lines (other than 66 000 volt electric lines) in low bushfire risk areas

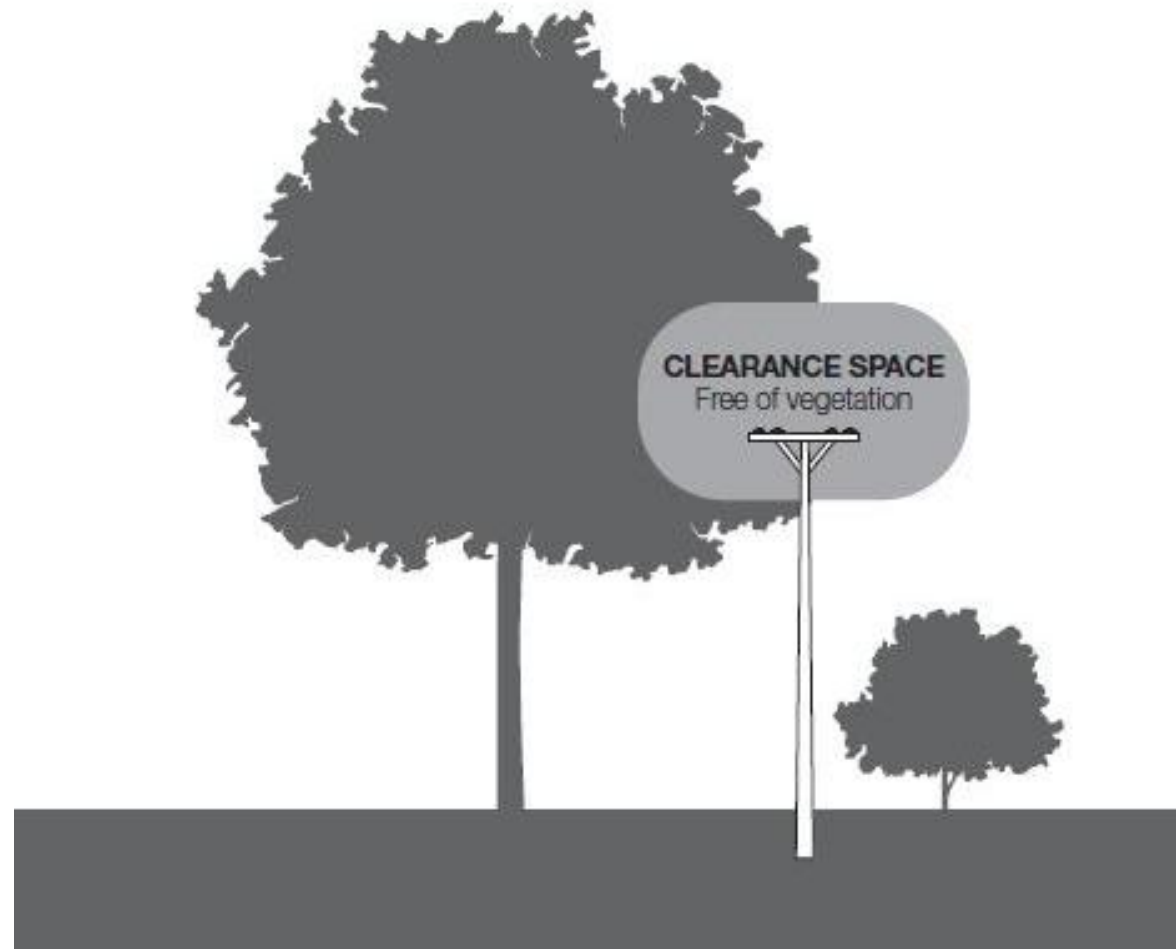
Clauses 24 and 26, Graphs 1 and 3



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 4—Uninsulated low voltage electric line in a low bushfire risk area

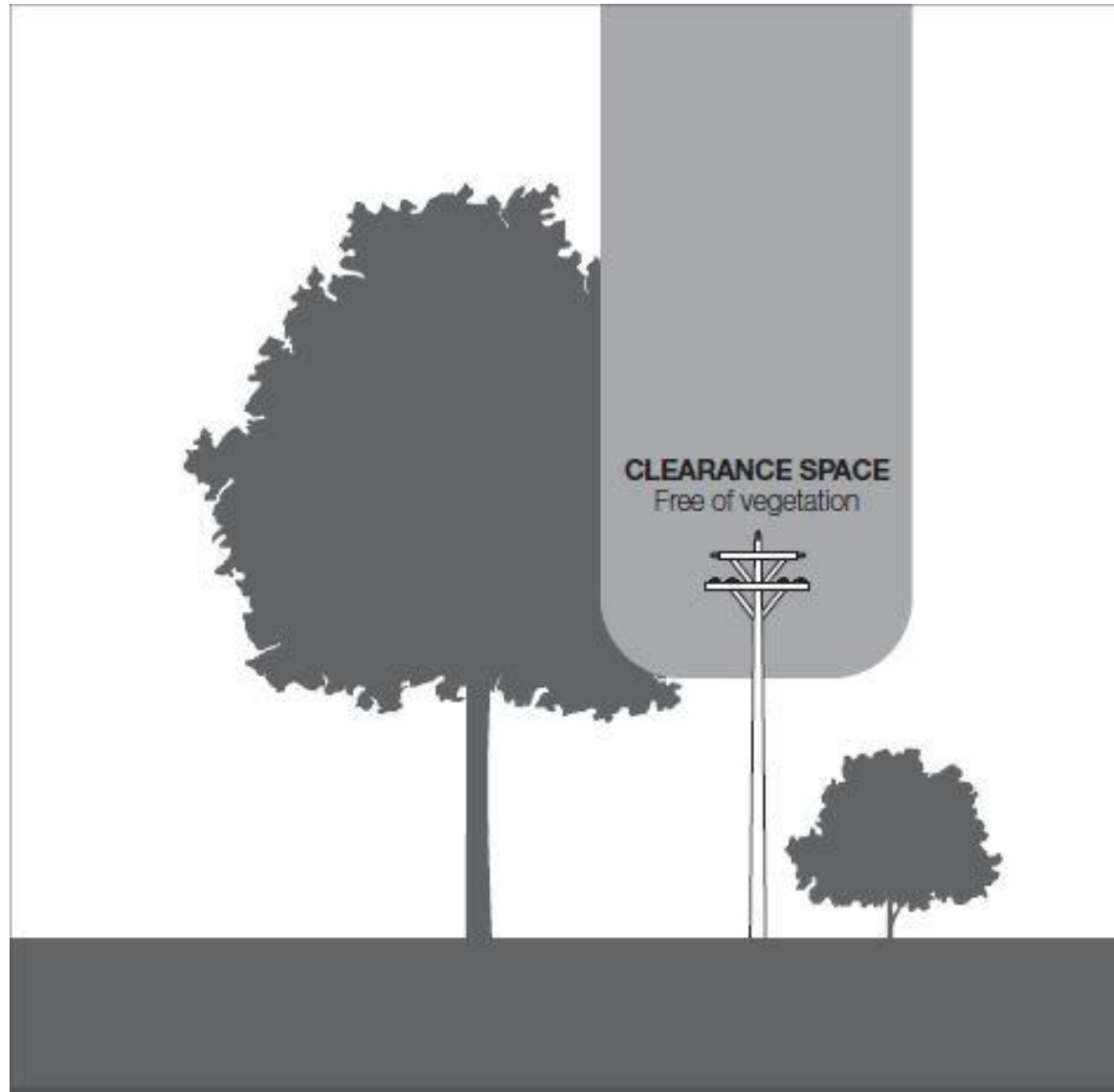
Clause 25, Graph 2



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 5—Uninsulated 66 000 volt electric line in a low bushfire risk area and uninsulated electric line in a hazardous bushfire risk area

Clauses 27, 28 and 29, Graphs 4, 5 and 6



NOT TO SCALE