



POWER LINES AND TREES

The biggest single cause of unplanned power outages is trees coming into contact with overhead power lines. This is a particular problem during windy conditions when branches, twigs and bark can be blown onto the High Voltage lines.

These unplanned outages are inconvenient to our customers and expensive for us.

On-Going Vegetation Management

One of the most important maintenance activities we undertake is trimming and felling trees that are within a 5 metre distance of our HV network cables. We have increased this distance from 3 metres. This aims to keep the overhead power lines clear from trees and other vegetation.

This essential work ensures that:

- Trees and other vegetation do not come into contact with overhead power lines during bad weather
- People cannot accidentally come into contact when climbing or working on trees
- A safe and reliable supply of electricity is maintained

Help us help you

- If you have trees on your land, please keep them cut well back away from overhead power lines.
- You should not attempt to prune or climb a tree near an HV power line or uninsulated LV line, if in doubt please call for advice on 22255
- We have a rolling programme of inspections, but it is impossible to monitor all trees all of the time. If you notice trees that appear to be growing close to the overhead lines, please report it to our customer service office on 22255 or email enquiries@connect.co.sh.

Planting new trees

Another way in which you can help us to minimise electricity disruption from trees is to be careful when planting new vegetation near to power lines.

- Look up before you plant and consider the final height of the tree when it's fully grown both upwards and outwards
- We strongly recommend that you do not plant anything directly underneath any of our electrical equipment
- Different species grow at different rates depending on the climate and ground conditions were they are situated. If in doubt about growing heights and spread, consult ANRD for advice
- Follow the advised planting distances as recommended in the three zones below:



- Low zone: This area extends 5 metres on either side of the outer power line. Trees planted here should have a maximum mature height of 6 metres or less.
- Medium zone: This area extends 10 metres on either side of the outer power line. The maximum, mature height of trees in this zone should be 12 metres.
- Tall zone: More than 10 metres from outer power lines, virtually any strong, healthy tree is fine to be planted in this area.

Over height trees in the **medium zone** cause many of the outages. Falling branches and toppling trees can bring down power lines, causing power interruptions and severe safety hazards. Flying debris like eucalyptus bark gets tangled in the lines which creates an outage until it is identified and removed.

PLANTING TREES NEAR POWER LINES

TALL ZONE

Any strong healthy tree is acceptable in this zone

MEDIUM ZONE

The maximum height of trees growing in this should be 12 metres

LOW ZONE

Trees planted in this area should have a maximum height of six metres

