



## Key points

- Visit [lookupandlive.com.au](http://lookupandlive.com.au) - our powerline planning map to identify powerline locations and make a plan to work safe near powerlines.
- Before planting, consider how tall and wide your tree will grow
- Plant smaller species of trees and shrubs that will grow to no higher than 4 metres if planting near powerlines
- If you wish to plant on your footpath, even if there are no powerlines overhead, check with your local council first
- To avoid damaging your underground service, call Dial Before You Dig on 1100 or go to [www.1100.com.au](http://www.1100.com.au).

## Safety risks

Don't trim trees near powerlines yourself. Trimming trees may seem fairly easy, but it's just not worth the risk of electric shock, falling or even being killed.

Remember:

- Never attempt to trim trees or other vegetation near powerlines yourself. Always call a professional tree trimmer to trim any trees near powerlines
- If you intend clearing trees near powerlines with machinery, call us for safety advice, as trees can fall across powerlines.

To identify powerline locations, visit [lookupandlive.com.au](http://lookupandlive.com.au) and make a plan to stay safe when working near powerlines.



Scan with smartphone

Working safely around electricity near **trees and powerlines**

## Call for safety advice



1800 635 369



Part of the Energy Queensland Group

13 74 66



13 12 53

1800 353 031

Emergency numbers

13 16 70

13 19 62



Part of the Energy Queensland Group



[ergon.com.au](http://ergon.com.au) | [energex.com.au](http://energex.com.au)

EGE190512

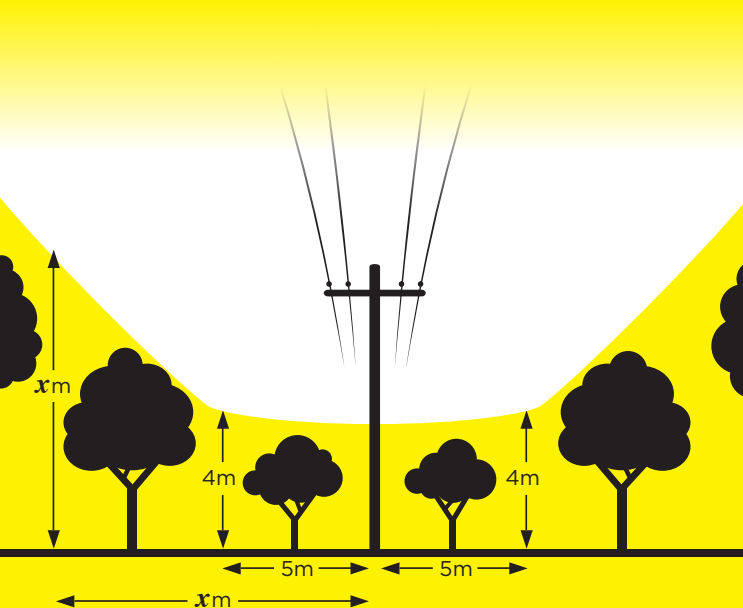
**Trees enhance our homes and provide shade and privacy. However, trees coming into contact with powerlines can interrupt power supply and bring powerlines down, particularly during storms and high winds. To help prevent this happening and to ensure the safety and reliability of your power supply, you need to plant smart.**

## Planting guidelines

Always take care when planting and maintaining vegetation near powerlines and service lines. That small touch you add to your front garden or footpath could grow to be a big problem.

Consider how high and how wide your tree will grow. If planting near powerlines, choose a low-growing, powerline-friendly species.

For advice on powerline friendly plants in your council region visit [ergon.com.au/plantsmart](http://ergon.com.au/plantsmart) or [energex.com.au/safetree](http://energex.com.au/safetree)



## Always think before you plant

- Before starting work, take the time to plan. Visit [lookupandlive.com.au](http://lookupandlive.com.au) - our powerline planning map to identify powerline locations and make a plan to work safe.
- Plan where you are going to plant. Plants must be at least three metres from power poles. Plant shrubs or small trees one metre inside the kerb where the council footpath is a minimum of four metres wide. Allow for at least a two metre gap between the service wire to your home and the height of mature trees
- If your tree will grow to five meters, you should plant it five meters away from the power pole. If it will grow to ten meters, it should be ten meters away. Keeping trees away from powerlines helps keep the power on and you safe
- Do not plant climbing trees or plants near the base of power poles, they can grow up into the powerlines and pose a safety risk or interrupt power
- Consider which type of tree you should plant. Choose a powerline-friendly plant. Check with your local plant nursery or council for recommendations
- Check with your council for planting guidelines, especially if planning to plant on your council footpath. Residents who wish to plant trees on council-controlled land in locations other than streets or council footpaths, may need written permission
- Consider the location of overhead and underground services, including the service line to your home. Call 'Dial before you dig' on 1100 to request information about underground cables on or near your property
- Check the visibility from your driveway, intersection sight lines and access to your property
- Consider pedestrian traffic, mail service and garbage truck access
- Check required clearance from street lights.

## Vegetation maintenance program

As part of a carefully controlled annual cycle, we employ qualified staff and contractors specifically trained to manage the vegetation growing close to and underneath powerlines.

### Trimming trees, shrubs and plants

Trimming trees, shrubs and plants is an essential part of maintaining a safe and reliable electricity supply. It's important that a safe distance be maintained between powerlines and surrounding trees and shrubs. Where possible, branches are carefully trained to grow away from powerlines and correct pruning to the nearest branch collar or growth point is applied to enhance the health of the trees. However, in some cases it may be necessary for us to remove large trees and shrubs.

### On your property

Most of the time, the nature strip outside your property will provide adequate access for us to trim roadside trees and shrubs, to provide a safe and reliable electricity supply. However, at times, we may need to trim over your property line or go onto your property if for instance, a tree from your property has grown into the safe clearance space around powerlines in the street. This work is normally carried out for customers free of charge.

However, any other trimming of trees, shrubs and plants required on private property to maintain safety clearances around the electricity service line, which runs from the roadside power pole to your property, is generally the responsibility of the owner or occupier.

**Get a professional. Never attempt to trim trees or other vegetation near powerlines yourself. Always call a professional tree trimmer to trim any trees near powerlines.**

## Trees are good conductors

If tree branches or foliage is touching overhead powerlines, voltage can pass through the tree making it 'live' with electricity. Hazardous voltage may also be present for some distance around the base of the tree at ground level.

Stay at least 10 metres away from the tree. Warn others to stay well away and call triple zero (000) to report it immediately.



If tree foliage is touching the overhead conductors, transferring voltage to the base of the tree, hazardous voltages may also be present for some distance around the base of the tree at ground level. This area is called the Surface Voltage Gradient area.

This person could be affected by a value of step potential.