



ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE

MANAGEMENT PLAN

2024 – 2025

STRUCTURE OF PLAN	4
DISTRIBUTION BUSINESSES	4
PART 2 SECTION 9 PREPARATION OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN	4
9(2) PREPARATION OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN BY MARCH 31 ST	4
10(6) REQUIREMENTS	5
11(1) & (2) EXEMPTIONS	5
9(4) MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS	5
(A) NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON:	5
(B) NAME, POSITION, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE PERSON WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE PLAN:	5
(C) NAME, POSITION, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT THE PLAN: 6	6
(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 OR PARTS OF TREES.	6
(E) THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN:	6
(F & G) THE LAND TO WHICH THE MANAGEMENT PLAN APPLIES - MAPS:	7
(H) EACH AREA THAT THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON KNOWS CONTAINS A TREE THAT THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON MAY NEED TO CUT OR REMOVE TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE AND THAT IS –	8
(I) THE MEANS WHICH THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON IS REQUIRED TO USE TO IDENTIFY A TREE SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 9(3)(H)	11
(J) THE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES THAT THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON IS REQUIRED TO ADOPT TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE:.....	12
IDENTIFICATION OF WORK REQUIRED	12
CLEARANCE CYCLE DECISION PROCESS	13
ASSESSMENT OF REGROWTH SPACE	14
PRUNING TO MAINTAIN THE CLEARANCE SPACE	16
(II)(A) MUST SPECIFY THE METHOD FOR DETERMINING AN ADDITIONAL DISTANCE THAT ALLOWS FOR CABLE SAG AND SWAY.	17
(K) THE PROCEDURES TO BE ADOPTED IF IT IS NOT PRACTICABLE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF AS 4373 WHILE CUTTING A TREE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE.....	18
(L) A DESCRIPTION OF EACH ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISM IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON HAS APPLIED, OR PROPOSES TO APPLY, FOR APPROVAL UNDER CLAUSE 31 OF THE CODE.....	19
(M) THE DETAILS OF EACH APPROVAL FOR AN ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISM THAT	19
(N) A DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASUREMENTS THAT MUST BE USED TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON UNDER THE MANAGEMENT PLAN:.....	19
(O) DETAILS OF THE AUDIT PROCESSES THAT MUST BE USED TO DETERMINE THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON’S COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE:.....	20
STATUTORY CLEARANCE OF VEGETATION	21
RECORD KEEPING	21
(P) THE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE THAT THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON MUST REQUIRE OF THE PERSONS WHO ARE TO CARRY OUT THE INSPECTION, PRUNING OR REMOVAL OF TREES:	21
(Q) NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION PROCEDURES	23
(R) DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES.....	24
PART 2 – CLEARANCE RESPONSIBILITIES	25

DIVISION 1 – ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	25
(4) EXCEPTION TO MINIMUM CLEARANCE SPACE FOR STRUCTURAL BRANCHES AROUND INSULATED LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINES.	25
(5) EXCEPTION TO MINIMUM CLEARANCE SPACE FOR SMALL BRANCHES AROUND INSULATED LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINES	25
(6) EXEMPTION TO MINIMUM CLEARANCE SPACE FOR SMALL BRANCHES GROWING UNDER UNINSULATED LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINES IN LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS	25
(7) EXCEPTION TO MINIMUM CLEARANCE SPACE FOR STRUCTURAL BRANCHES AROUND UNINSULATED LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINES IN LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS	26
(8) OWNER OR OPERATOR OF TRANSMISSION LINE MUST MANAGE TREES AROUND MINIMUM CLEARANCE SPACE.....	26
(9) RESPONSIBLE PERSON MAY CUT OR REMOVE HAZARD TREE.....	27
PART 2 – CLEARANCE RESPONSIBILITIES	28
DIVISION 2 – MANNER OF CUTTING AND REMOVING TREES.....	28
(10) CUTTING OF TREE TO COMPLY WITH STANDARD	28
(11) CUTTING OR REMOVAL OF SPECIFIED TREES MUST BE MINIMISED:	28
(12) CUTTING OR REMOVING HABITAT FOR THREATENED FAUNA.	29
PART 2 – CLEARANCE RESPONSIBILITIES	29
DIVISION 3 – NOTIFICATION, CONSULTATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION.....	29
(17) RESPONSIBLE PERSON MUST PROVIDE NOTIFICATION BEFORE CUTTING OR REMOVING CERTAIN TREES -9(4)Q.....	29
PART 2 – CLEARANCE RESPONSIBILITIES	30
DIVISION 4 – ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF RESPONSIBLE PERSONS.....	30
(20) DUTY RELATING TO THE SAFETY OF CUTTING OR REMOVAL OF TREES CLOSE TO AN ELECTRIC LINE	30
PART 3 – MINIMUM CLEARANCE SPACES	30
DIVISION 2 - ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISMS	30
(31) APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISM.....	30
(32) FORMAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISM.....	30
APPENDIX 1 - NOTICE OF URGENT CUTTING OR REMOVAL OF TREE FROM UNEXPECTED REGROWTH OR OTHER REASONS AS PER CLAUSE 17 (2) (A), (B) AND CLAUSE 3 (A),(B),(C) OF ELECTRICITY SAFETY (ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE) REGULATIONS 2020	31
APPENDIX 2 –WORKS SCHEDULES.....	32
APPENDIX 3 – SITES FOR ANNUAL CUT.....	33
APPENDIX 4 – MAP	34
APPENDIX 5 – ELECTRICAL SAFETY (ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE) REGULATIONS 2020, SCHEDULE 2 – APPLICABLE DISTANCE FOR MIDDLE TWO THIRDS OF A SPAN OF AN ELECTRIC LINE.	35

Structure of Plan

The Management Plan has been structured to align with the relevant clauses of the Regulations.

The corresponding section of the Plan is numbered identically to the section of the Regulations to allow for cross referencing as shown in the table above.

Date of plan approval	28.03.24
Document number (eClip)	24/183296
Version	2.0
Revised	May 2024

Distribution Businesses

The names and contact details for the Distribution Businesses that operate within the Maroondah City Council are:

Ausnet Services

Address: Level 31, 2 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank VIC 3006
Contact number: 13 17 99
Direct Contact: Brett Nelson 0408 575 203

Metro Trains Melbourne

Address: E-Gate, off Footscray Road, West Melbourne,
Contact name: Tree Clearing & Conformance Officer
Contact number (03) 9619 7121

Specific contact details are held by tree management personnel and liaison is undertaken on as needed basis with the relevant organisations.

PART 2 SECTION 9 PREPARATION OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN

9(2) Preparation of a Management Plan by March 31st

Maroondah City Council is a Responsible Person required to prepare an Electric Line Clearance Management Plan for the purpose of the Regulations. This document is prepared in accordance with Section 9 of the Regulations.

The implementation and review of the Plan is part of Council's strategic reporting framework and is reported within the Business Unit's Works Quarterly Report.

- Council will conduct a review by the March 31st annually to address any changes in personnel, policy, or programs.
- Approval of the new Plan will be completed in March with the approved Plan uploaded onto Council's public website by July 1st annually.
- A complete review of the Plan will also be implemented should there be a change of Contractor or Contract methodology. This review could occur at any time.

- The Plan and the requirement to comply with the Plan will be brought to the attention of Council's contractors annually, at the monthly contract meeting following the review.
- The Plan and the requirement to comply with the Plan will be brought to the attention of relevant Council personnel following each annual review.

10(6) Requirements

The Plan is stored in Council's eCLIP document management system and will be available on request by ESV and for review on the Council's website at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

11(1) & (2) Exemptions

No exemptions are in operation and therefore none are required to be displayed.

Council reviews the Electric Line Clearance Management Plan prior to the March 31st deadline each year to confirm compliance requirements and the status of the Plan's implementation. Such reviews will be recorded and reported to Council's Authorising Officer.

9(4) Management Plan requirements

(A) Name, address and telephone number of the responsible person:

Name: Steve Kozlowski, CEO, Maroondah City Council

Address: Braeside Avenue, Ringwood 3134

Telephone Number: 1300 88 22 33

(B) Name, position, address and telephone number of the person who was responsible for the preparation of the plan:

Name: Adam Todorov

Position: Director Assets & Leisure

Electronic signature



Address: Braeside Avenue, Ringwood 3134

Telephone Number: 1300 88 22 33

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

Name: Vincent King

Position: Operations Manager

Address: Operations Centre, 24-28 Lincoln Road, Croydon

Telephone Number: 1300 88 22 33

(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 or parts of trees.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE No: 1300 88 22 33 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

(e) The objectives of the plan:

The following are identified as the key objectives of this Plan:

Council's Electric Line Clearance Management Plan (ELCMP) reflects Council's commitment to providing high quality, best practice services to the community, ensuring long term viability of Council's Tree asset population so that:

- Public safety is ensured at all times in relation to fire risk, human injury and continuity of supply resulting from the contact between power lines and vegetation;
- A safe work environment is provided for employees and contractors that undertake tree pruning work;
- Council employees and contractors aim to ensure Electricity Safety:
- Compliance is achieved with the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 and the incorporated Code of Practice:
- Trees requiring yearly pruning to ensure compliance are identified and managed in accordance with *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*;
- All trees deemed hazardous as per *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* are inspected by a qualified arborist and appropriate works assigned as required;
- All tree related works are carried out in accordance with the Maroondah Planning Scheme, the Maroondah Public Tree Policy and associated guidelines, management plans and levels of service, ensuring that Council tree assets remain viable in the long term;

- Areas of high value vegetation remain sustainable and are protected;
- Establishing an open dialogue with relevant distribution company(s) vegetation management group to ensure both parties have a clear understanding of each other priorities. This will be achieved through an annual meeting with relevant distribution company(s) managers and Maroondah City Council’s responsible employee; and
- To ensure community satisfaction with the way the necessary works are carried out.

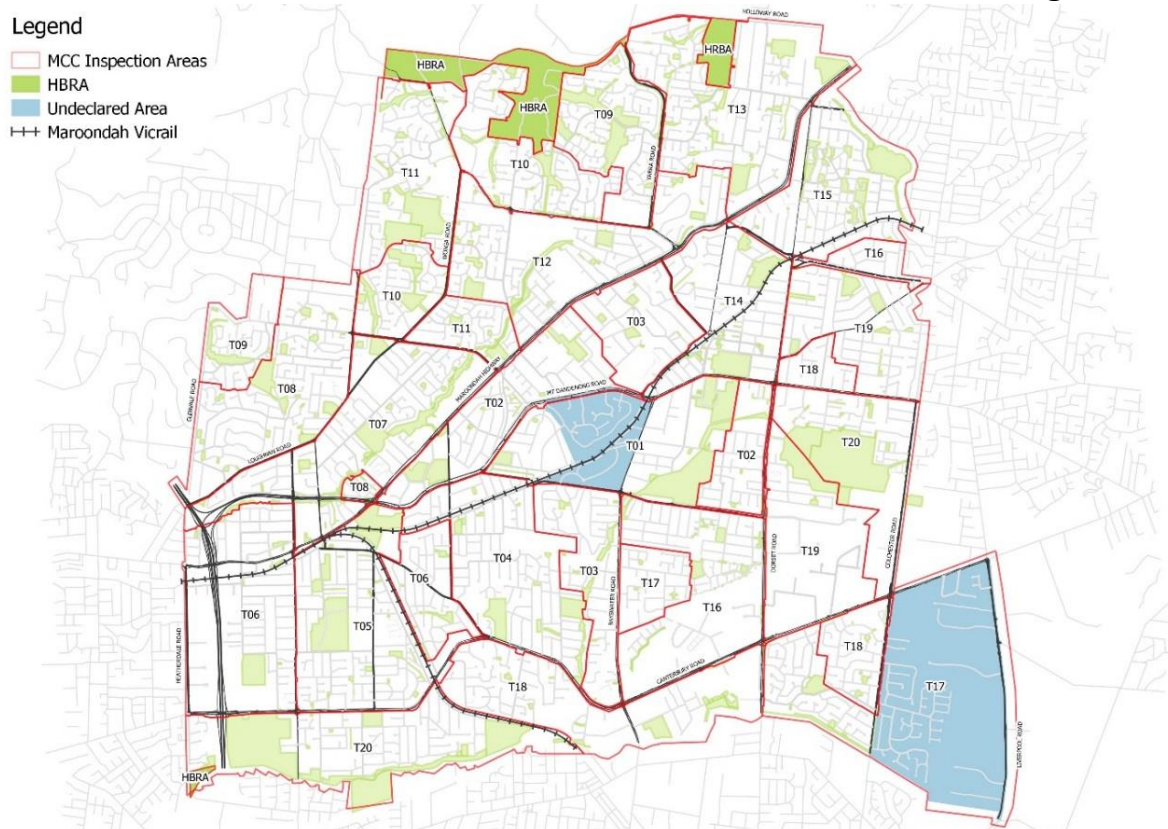
Compliance with these objectives is measured by an ongoing process of auditing and Contract performance monitoring as detailed in the relevant sections of this Plan.

(f & g) The land to which the management plan applies - maps:

The City of Maroondah – which encompasses the former City of Ringwood, wholly Declared Area under Government Gazette Number 101 dated 3rd December 1986, and the former City of Croydon Declared Area under Government Gazette Number 88 dated 22nd October 1986. Undeclared and Hazardous Bushfire Risk Areas, along with Council’s designated work zones, are defined in Figure 1.

Council has approximately 73,000 street trees within the Declared Area, of which 32,120 (44%) are affected or potentially affected by powerlines. A larger version is provided in Appendix 4.

Figure 1



Council representatives meet quarterly with CFA, DELWP, and Parks Victoria as part of the Municipal Fire Management and Planning Committee. Any amendments to the boundary or Hazardous Bushfire Risk Areas (HBRA) are discussed at these meetings.

(H) Each area that the responsible person knows contains a tree that the responsible person may need to cut or remove to ensure compliance with the code and that is –

(i) Indigenous to Victoria

Council’s Declared Area consists of mixed local native species, commercial native varieties and introduced species. For the purposes of this Plan, indigenous vegetation is taken to mean species locally indigenous to the Council area and does not include commercial and ornamental Australian native species, which are commonly planted as street trees.

Indigenous trees are distributed throughout the whole of the municipality.

These trees are recorded in the Council GIS system, which is accessible in the field using mobile technology. All Council tree assets are managed in accordance with the Maroondah Planning Scheme, Council’s Public Tree Management Policy and associated guidelines, management plans and levels of service.

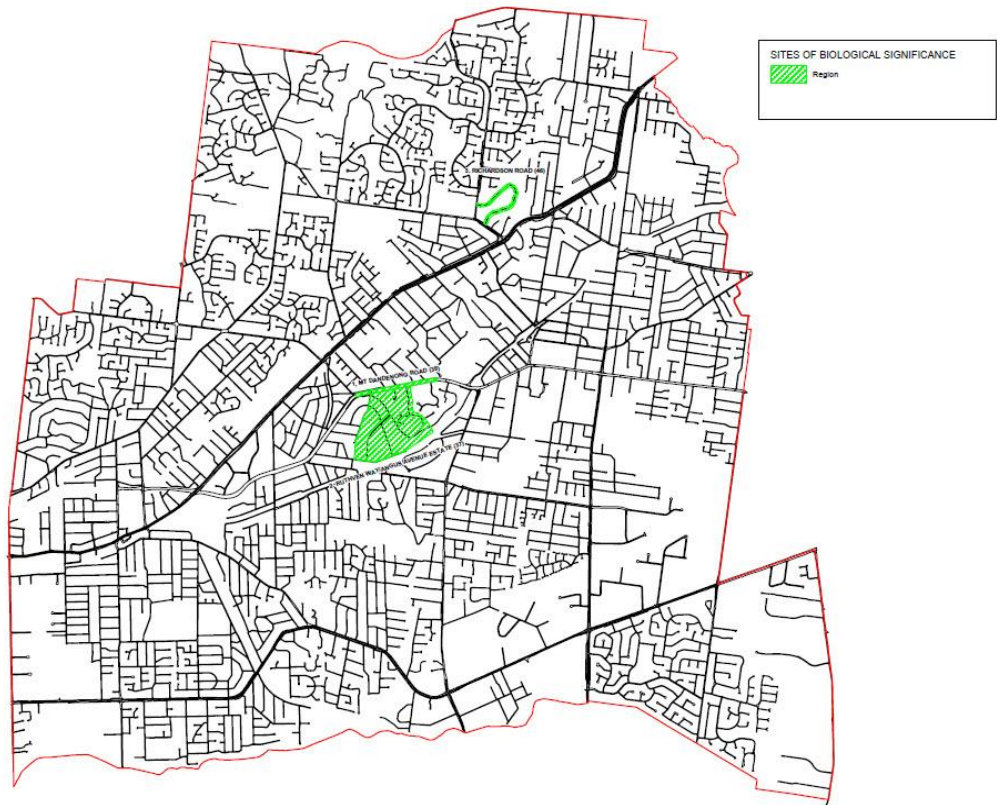
Trees requiring line clearance works to ensure compliance with the Code are inspected biennially during the Data Capture program. Trees that cannot be pruned to comply with the Code on the normal maintenance cycle are recorded and assessed yearly for the Annual Cut Program.

As there has been a long-term and ongoing powerline clearance program around existing indigenous trees, there are no known native trees that will be significantly adversely affected by future works.

(ii) Listed in planning scheme to be of ecological, historical, or aesthetic significance

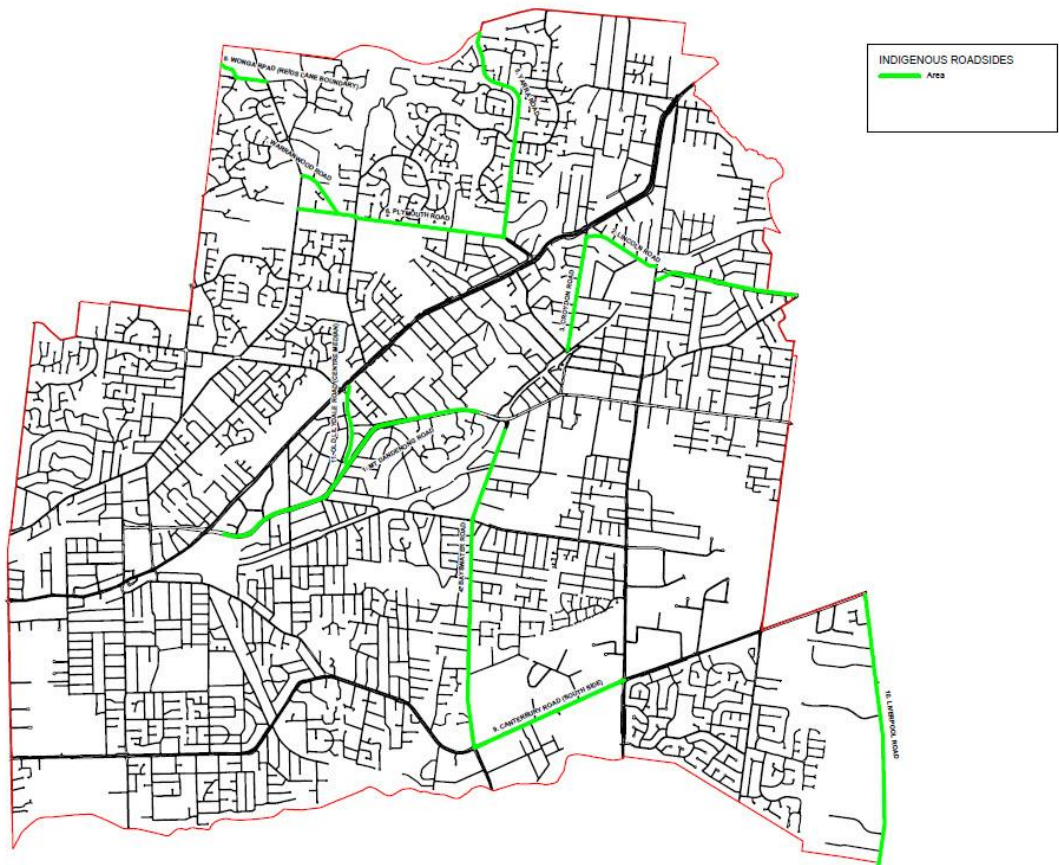
Any tree within a *Site of Biological Significance* as defined below,

Site	Location	Significant Species
1	Mt Dandenong Road, Croydon	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>
2	Ruthven Way / Vasey Concourse Environmental Living Zone	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i> , <i>E.radiata</i> , <i>E.macrhoryncha</i> , <i>E.goniocalyx</i>
3	Richardson Road, Croydon North	<i>E.ovata</i> , <i>E.obliqua</i> , <i>E.macrhoryncha</i> , <i>E.goniocalyx</i> , <i>E.radiata</i>



This information is available to field personnel on their data capture devices.

Any tree within an *Indigenous Roadside* as defined below;



This information is available to field personnel on their data capture devices.

And any tree within the Statutory Planning Scheme, Local Planning Policy Framework (LLPF) of Maroondah Council recorded on the Heritage Overlay or recorded as a Notable Tree of Maroondah (*Moss & Lorimer 1997*), including but not limited to the trees below, which are those that may be affected by line clearance works;

Site	Species
HE Parker Reserve, 154 Heathmont Road, Heathmont	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>
Naturestrip at corner of Mountain View Road and Dickasons Road, Heathmont	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>
1-29 Eastfield Road, Croydon – 120m along northern boundary from western point, then 30m directly south	<i>Eucalyptus globoidea</i>
70-76 Longview Road, Croydon South	<i>Angophora costata</i>
90-92 Longview Road, Croydon South	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>
41 Mt Dandenong Road, Ringwood East	<i>Eucalyptus tricarpa</i>
45 Oliver Street, Ringwood	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>
59 Power Street, Croydon North	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>
20m East of the eastern boundary of 125-127 Loughnan Road, Ringwood, north of Mullum Mullum Creek	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>
Reynolds Avenue Reserve, Reynolds Avenue, Ringwood – 29m east of the western end of by-pass acoustic wall, then 11m north of by-pass acoustic wall	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>
Scott Street Reserve, 45m west of the pedestrian bridge, Ringwood	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>
Suda Avenue Reserve, Suda Avenue, Ringwood, southern end of reserve, 15m north west of drainage underpass	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>
22 Victoria Street, Ringwood East	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>
310 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood	<i>Quercus robur</i>
33-37 Hewish Road, Croydon (tree in Windsor Road)	<i>Eucalyptus pseudoglobulus</i>

Trees of significance and indigenous roadside vegetation areas are inspected biennially during the Data Capture program. Trees that cannot comply with the code are recorded and assessed for the Annual Cut Program.

Any works carried out on significant trees will be restricted to no further than one metre of the required clearance space and carried out as per the instructions of a Council arborist.

The Council Arborist will review the Planning Scheme and the resources listed in 9(3)(h) annually when reviewing of the Plan to determine if further trees of ecological, historical, or aesthetic significance have been recorded.

(iii) Trees of cultural or environmental significance

There have been no culturally significant trees found within the municipality.

Should any such trees be found at a later date, pruning works will be restricted to within 1 metre of the required clearance space and carried out as per the instructions of a Council arborist.

By their nature, these types of vegetation do not change quickly in normal circumstances. The Council Arborist will review the Planning Scheme and the relevant resources listed in 9(3)(g)i annually when reviewing the Plan to determine if any culturally significant trees have been identified and added to these records. The amended Plan and any changes as a result of this briefing will be raised with Council's contractors at the monthly contract meetings.

(i) The means which the responsible person is required to use to identify a tree specified in paragraph 9(3)(h)

As there has been an ongoing powerline clearance program around existing trees, there are no known trees from clause 9(3)(h) that will be significantly adversely affected by future powerline clearance works.

Additional resources available to identify significant native trees are -

- a. Reference to the Heritage Register as per the meaning of the Heritage Act 1995. This resource is available online at <http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/>
- b. Reference to the National Trust Register and regular communication with the Local History Officer. This resource is available online at <http://trusttrees.org.au/>
- c. Reference to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register as established under section 144 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. This resource is available online at <http://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage.html>
- d. Reference to flora or habitat of fauna listed as threatened in accordance with section 10 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. This resource is available online at <http://maps.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/viewer/?viewer=NatureKit>
- e. Reference to the Threatened Flora, Invertebrate and Vertebrate Lists as published by the relevant State department. This resource is available online at <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/threatened-species-advisory-lists>

The Council Arborist will review these resources annually when reviewing of the Plan to determine if any relevant new records have been added.

There are currently no recorded habitat trees affected by line clearance activity within the City of Maroondah.

Flora populations are reviewed on an ongoing basis by Council's Planning and Operations departments. A list of notable trees in the municipality was collated by external consultants and internal staff with expertise in the identification of environmentally significant flora and fauna. If required, this Plan will be amended and any changes as a result of this review will be

raised with Council's contractors at the contract meetings. This document is kept at the Operations Office.

(j) The management procedures that the responsible person is required to adopt to ensure compliance with the code:

Identification of Work Required

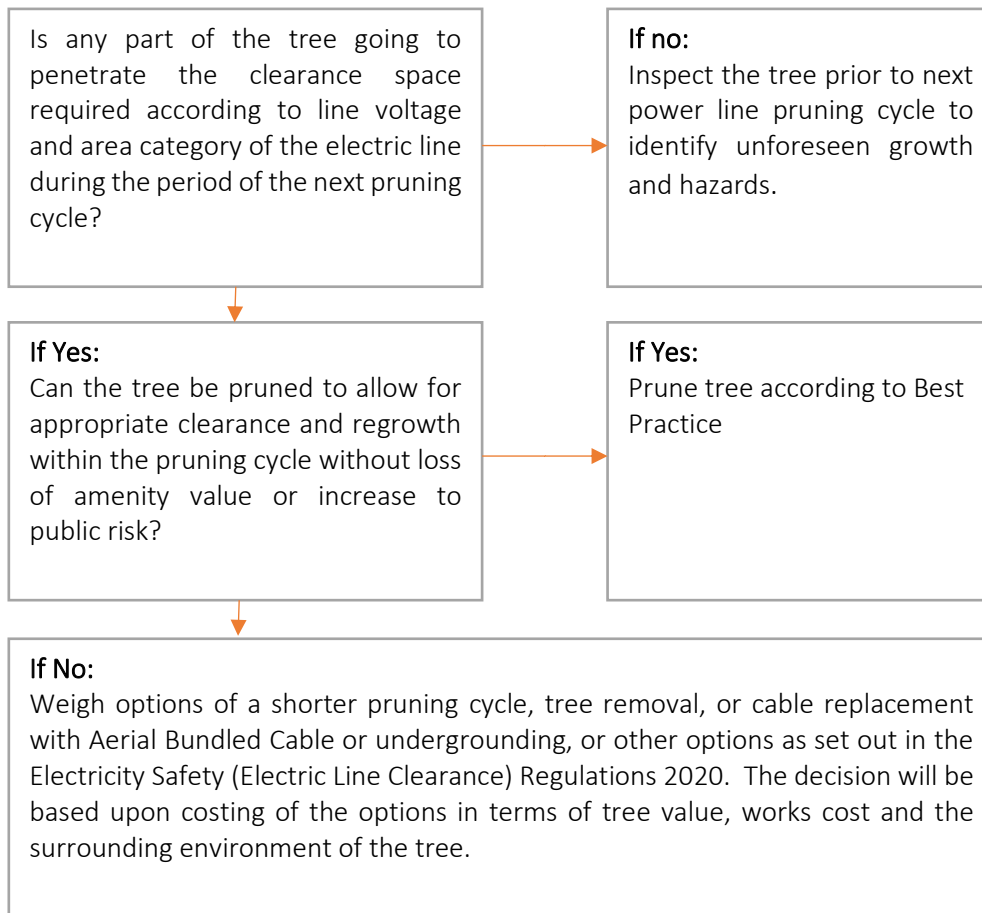
A 2-yearly inspection and pruning cycle is undertaken by qualified Council contractors to ensure compliance with the Code.

Typically, approximately 32,120 trees require pruning across the 2-year cycle to maintain compliance.

Inspection, assessment for clearance and pruning of all Council trees in the vicinity of powerlines in the HBRA will be completed as part of the Annual Cut by the end of November each year before the declaration of the Fire Danger Period.

In making these evaluations and before deciding on the most appropriate method, due consideration is given to the site's specifics, including:

- minimum clearances as prescribed in Schedule 1, Part 3, Division 1 and the charts in Schedule 2 of the Code;
- expected regrowth rate of the tree species;
- appropriateness of the species for the location;
- the significance of the site as a natural habitat of endangered species of both flora and fauna;
- the significance and public value of the site's aesthetics;
- the impact on the tree's amenity and utility value if subjected to pruning versus removal;
- opportunity to replace with a more suitable species based on the preferred species list
- the environmental impact of proposed works;
- the sites suitability to accept more appropriate species as replacements
- determining the most appropriate method of actioning the non-compliant vegetation;
- appropriate planning and scheduling;
- identification and quantification of equipment and accredited personnel required;
- funding;
- community and customer consultation.



Clearance Cycle Decision Process

All trees within the municipality are pruned, biennially as outlined below to ensure compliance with the Code:

1. The City is divided into twenty (20) maintenance zones (see Figure 1), which are inspected and pruned to line clearance specifications on a two-yearly cycle, including appropriate allowance for expected regrowth over the cycle. Additionally, the HBRA and sites for annual cut (see Appendix 3) will be cut annually by the end of November each year. The pruning cycle is detailed in Appendix 2.
2. On completion of all pruning works in each zone a 100% audit is undertaken via Council's tree Data Capture program to ensure compliance. Any non-compliant trees will be issued to the pruning contractor as non-conformance with a 14-day timeframe for rectification as per the terms of the pruning contract.
3. On completion of rectification works those works will be re-audited for compliance by the Council Arborist

4. During Data Capture, any trees that require annual inspection and/or pruning to comply with Electrical Line Clearance Regulations 2020 are identified and included in the Annual Cut program.
 1. Any trees that may be compromised by pruning or deemed hazardous as per *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* are reported directly to Council during the Data Capture or programmed pruning works and appropriate action assigned.
 2. Any works to be carried out on significant trees, trees that require excessive pruning or trees that require removal in order to comply with regulations are reported directly to Council during data capture or programmed works and appropriate action assigned.
 3. Trees reported to council as potential hazard trees by distribution businesses, residents, utility companies or emergency services are referred to the Council Arborist for inspection through Council's works management system and works are assigned to Council's tree contractors as required.

Where a non-compliance is caused by unanticipated regrowth, the species and growing conditions will be identified to determine if this is likely to occur again, or with other trees in the vicinity of powerlines. Appropriate inspection regimes will be implemented to address any identified issues.

The Assessor will also assess –

- the voltage and length of the span visually to determine the correct Applicable Distance for clearance for the middle 2/3 of each span. Longer span lengths will be verified using laser measurement or aerial photography.
- the species of the vegetation to ascertain the regrowth potential
- the tree for any other potential hazards.

In addition, any trees that are determined to be likely to breach the Code within the inspection cycle are also to be identified. This inspection also includes the identification of any hazards outside the clearance and regrowth spaces that may require assessment or correction. Non-compliant trees shall be recorded in the audit report.

[Assessment of Regrowth Space](#)

The Council Arborist will observe and record the rate of growth of species under the growing conditions, which prevail in the Municipality and apply these observations when determining the extent and frequency of pruning.

Council's Operations Department - Tree Planting Guidelines document has a list of more suitable species for planting under powerlines that is used to guide planting programs (see Appendix 5).

As part of the inspection of the Declared Area, the amount of clearance achieved during pruning is assessed to determine its suitability to the required clearance. Analysis of the

clearance achieved is assessed in conjunction with such factors as species and soil type and rainfall rates to provide additional information on the adequacy of clearing cycles and clearances.

The responsible person assessing the vegetation will have a minimum qualification of National Certificate III in Arboriculture including the “perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation” unit of competency or equivalent; and at least 3 years of field experience in assessing trees. This will ensure the assessor has basic knowledge in tree physiology and biology of the common species in the municipality.

Utilising this knowledge, the assessor will monitor the amount of regrowth for each species pruned. Tree pruning frequencies depending on the significance of the tree will be adjusted in light of these observed growth rates to achieve compliance with the Code.

The formula used to calculate the amount of vegetation to be removed is

$$\text{Clearance (m)} = \text{regrowth (m/year)} \times \text{cycle (1 or 2 years)}$$

Examples of this formula -

Melaleuca linariifolia

- regrowth 30cm per annum X 12 months = 30cm clear of the clearance space

Quercus robur

- regrowth 80cm per annum X 12 months = 80cm clear of the clearance space

Fraxinus Raywood

- regrowth 120cm per annum X 12 months = 120cm clear of the clearance space

The top 15 street tree species that require pruning for electric line clearance in this municipality are, in order of prevalence:

Lophostemon confertus

Callistemon viminalis

Callistemon salignus

Melaleuca styphelioides

Melaleuca linariifolia

Tristaniopsis laurina

Agonis flexuosa

Fraxinus spp.

Liquidambar styraciflua

Eucalyptus melliodora

Eucalyptus macrorhyncha

Typically,

- Species in red are capable of rapid regrowth rates
- Species in black have moderate regrowth rates

- Species in green have slow regrowth rates and/or are unlikely to grow into the clearance space

Pruning to maintain the clearance space

Clearance pruning is undertaken by suitably qualified, trained and authorised Council personnel or contractors.

All pruning works will be undertaken in accordance with industry best practice methods. Detailed assessment of the specific pruning requirements of each tree will be assessed during the initial inspection. Council's crew or contractor will prune each tree in accordance with the work instructions issued by Council. The regrowth space required beyond the minimum recommended clearance space detailed within the Code will be forecast in accordance with species type, local conditions and pruning frequency.

Contractors and other staff working on behalf of Council shall at all times comply with the safe approach distances contained in the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019. Council acknowledges its role of supervising staff and contractors to ensure that work is performed safely and consistently with the Regulations.

In the event that the safe approach distances cannot be maintained at any time work shall cease immediately and advice from the relevant power authority will be sought. This may involve shutdown or the use of live line workers with suppression of the auto reclose system.

Alternative methods that may be adopted to maintain the clearance space

Council's document, Operations Department - Tree Planting Guidelines, states –

2.2 Species selection of Street Trees beneath powerlines will be confined to smaller specimens or those able to withstand line clearance pruning whilst retaining aesthetic value. Future compliance with current Electrical Safety (Electrical Line Clearance) Regulations will be taken into consideration when selecting tree species for planting beneath power lines.

The Operations Department - Tree Planting Guidelines document also has a list of more suitable species for planting under powerlines that is used to guide planting programs.

Council's Data Capture Program identifies trees that cannot comply with the Code on a 2-year maintenance cycle and remain viable. These trees will form the basis of Maroondah's Annual Cut Program and will be assessed yearly by a suitably qualified arborist and pruned as required to ensure that they comply with the minimal acceptable clearance requirements defined by the Regulations. Inspection records will be stored in the street tree database and available for review.

In cases where minimum acceptable clearance cannot be accommodated, Council will seek an engineering solution to achieve compliance, which will be traceable and involve consultation with the relevant electricity distribution business.

Where a significant tree is to be severely affected, or an affected person objects to the pruning or clearing of vegetation near powerlines, Council Officers will consult with the affected person to determine alternatives, such as removal and replanting with suitable species or alternative pruning methods. Where an affected person requests the relocation or provision of alternate services such as aerial bundle conductor, Council will refer the matter to the distribution company for further consideration.

Council may undertake a cost benefit analysis on a case by case basis where vegetation significance or public need dictates an alternative course should be pursued.

The following alternative methods may be adopted for maintaining clearance if a person objects to the methods proposed by Council:

- Reactive pruning of reported non-compliance;
- Optimum location of powerlines;
- Underground power line construction in new subdivisions;
- Relocation of overhead lines to underground power lines in agreement with relevant service authorities;
- Use of aerial bundled cables to reduce clearance space requirements in some areas of important vegetation;
- Removal and replacement of inappropriate vegetation in line with Council's Tree Planting Policy; and
- Investigation and use of appropriate species in new plantings;
- Reduced pruning cycle
- Powerlines to be re-routed
- Undergrounding of powerlines
- Other engineering solutions

[\(ii\)\(a\) Must specify the method for determining an additional distance that allows for cable sag and sway.](#)

In the Declared Area uninsulated spans over 100m in length in LBRA and over 45m in HBRA will require additional allowance for sag and sway in accordance with *Part 3 of the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*. The number of spans affected is likely to be minimal. Where a span requiring additional allowance for sag and sway is identified, the assessor will refer the span to Council for assessment and, if required, the sag and sway allowances provided by the Distribution Business will be applied. This information will be recorded against the tree asset in the IPS Asset Management System.

Council will liaise with the Distribution Business to identify any spans where sag and sway allowances not already specified in the Code will be required and make a map and list of these spans available to all relevant personnel and contractors. Council aims to complete this by the 2024 review of the Plan. Where the distribution business does not provide the required assistance, Council will liaise with ESV to resolve the issue. The relevant Distribution Businesses are listed at the front of this Plan.

(κ) The procedures to be adopted if it is not practicable to comply with the requirements of AS4373 while cutting a tree in accordance with the code

Conformance with AS4373 *Pruning of amenity trees* (AS4373) requires observation of several factors when undertaking pruning. The current version is AS4373-2007.

These factors include

- Formative pruning of young trees
 - This is a critical requirement for trees under powerlines to develop canopy shapes that can be managed for compliance when the tree matures.
- The amount and distribution of canopy removed
 - This is dictated by the compliance requirements
 - The amount of canopy removed shall be the least amount required to achieve and maintain compliance, or to manage the tree in line with Clause 9(3)(i)(i) of this plan and the canopy will be shaped to create a weight and canopy distribution as close to normal as possible.
- The size of the limb to which the pruning cut is made
- The angle of the final pruning cut

Council acknowledges that conformance with AS4373, especially in relation to the final pruning cut, cannot always be achieved when undertaking powerline pruning safely. Council requires that pruning conforms to AS4373 whenever safe to do so while also ensuring:

- safe approach distances are maintained
- a safe work environment when working at heights
- minimum clearance is achieved
- an affordable level of productivity.

Where pruning consistent with AS4373 cannot be achieved, this will be recorded in the pruning records and brought to Council's attention at the monthly contract meeting.

In order to achieve pruning of acceptable quality, all pruning personnel, either Council employees or contractors, must have the following as a minimum –

- Formal training as outlined in 9(O) that incorporates modern tree pruning practices including awareness of AS4373 and natural target pruning principles.
- Project induction including awareness training in the Code of Practice and this Management Plan.

As part of Council's normal contract management processes, pruning quality will be assessed by the Council Arborist, and poor performance will be identified based on the standards in 9(3)(o). Normal contract management processes will be used to address poor performance, including contract meetings, increased compliance audits, remedial training and, where necessary, application of contract non-conformance penalties.

(L) A description of each alternative compliance mechanism in respect of which the responsible person has applied, or proposes to apply, for approval under clause 31 of the code.

Council does not intend to apply for any alternative compliance mechanisms at the time of preparation of this Plan.

(m) The details of each approval for an alternative compliance mechanism that

- (i) the responsible person holds; and
- (ii) is in effect;

Council does not intend to apply for any alternative compliance mechanisms at the time of preparation of this Plan.

(N) A description of the measurements that must be used to assess the performance of the responsible person under the management plan:

The following criteria will be used to assess Council’s performance under this Plan:

Criteria	Measurement method	KPIs
Annual update of this Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 31st of March each year.
Overall compliance with the Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trees found in breach of the Code during the program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve a year on year reduction in identified breaches
Completion of the inspection and pruning program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment records • Audit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% on-time completion of program
Minimisation of fire risk and maintain continuity of supply through compliance with the Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of annual inspection of Exceptions (if necessary) recorded in works management system • Number of business cases developed for alternative approaches to normal pruning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% on-time completion of reporting
Safety of public and workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reportable incidents
Quality of Work (Pruning Techniques)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit of staff qualifications and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reportable incidents
Documentation & Notification of Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Requests System internal reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% completion of Contract benchmarks • 100% Compliance with 9(3)(n) of this Plan

Number of complaints received regarding the pruning work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Requests System internal reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% compliance with notification requirements
Number of substantiated notifications of breaches of the Code from DB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports received and actioned • Recorded in works management system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No year-on-year increase in requests received
Number of substantiated requests for pruning from residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Requests System internal reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No year-on-year increase in requests received

Records of the above will be kept at the Council Office for a minimum of 5 years. Council's supervisory personnel responsible for implementing the relevant sections of the Plan are advised of the performance standards under the Plan at the annual briefing in the February operations meeting where these performance standards are assessed. Details of the assessment are distributed to individual teams for analysis and review.

[\(o\) Details of the audit processes that must be used to determine the responsible person's compliance with the code:](#)

On completion of all pruning works in each zone a 100% audit is undertaken via Council's tree Data Capture program to ensure compliance. Any non-compliant trees will be issued to the pruning contractor as non-conformance with a 14-day timeframe for rectification as per the terms of the pruning contract.

Additionally, Council's Arborist conducts random audits of auditing data and pruning works as each pruning area is completed based on the standards in this section to ensure that all requirements outlined in this Plan are being met and any non-conformity with the Code is identified and promptly resolved.

Audits are recorded and stored electronically on the Council network.

A minimum of quarterly OHS audits of personnel undertaking work under this Plan to ensure compliance with OHS legislation and the OHS requirements set out in the Maroondah City Council's contract No. 20880 *Provision of Programmed Tree Management Services*;

Non-compliances identified in the audit will be rectified within 14 working days and written confirmation of the action taken to rectify the non-compliance provided to Council within the 14 working day timeframe.

The audit results are discussed at the monthly Council/contractor meetings and saved electronically on Council's network servers.

Non-compliance due to delays in accessing shutdowns or live-line resources is discussed at the monthly contract meeting. Council's contractor is responsible for processing of shutdown/live-line applications and keeping an updated list of outstanding HV works; this list is included in the monthly progress report and discussed at the monthly Council/contractor meetings. Where

assistance is required by others such as the Distribution Business, then a consultation process shall be used to assist in attending to the non-compliance as soon as possible.

All contractors or personnel undertaking line clearance pruning will be audited on the following criteria -

Statutory Clearance of Vegetation

100 % compliance

All trees pruned must comply with the clearance requirements as stipulated in the tender document and the current Code of Practice unless a specific management option has been approved for that tree, such as applying Clause 5 or 6 of the Code of Practice.

Council's objective is to achieve a 2-year cycle. If this clearance results in the aesthetics of the tree being dramatically altered, or the tree permanently damaged, the Council's Council Arborist must be notified. Council Arborist will then conduct a site inspection and make the final decision as to the correct clearance for the tree, or if removal is the only option.

Record keeping

All records relating to this plan will be stored in Council's corporate document management system for a minimum of 5 Years.

(p) [The qualifications and experience that the responsible person must require of the persons who are to carry out the inspection, pruning or removal of trees:](#)

The Council shall ensure that all trees are pruned according to industry best practice as a minimum standard. They shall further ensure that all contractors and employees are appropriately qualified and trained and holding appropriate certificates for both themselves and their equipment that legally entitles them to undertake the work. A record of the sighting of these documents shall be kept by the Council and shall be updated annually.

The qualifications required by Council are identified below and must include the satisfactory completion of an ESV approved training course UET20312 Certificate II in ESI – Powerline Vegetation Control.

All personnel undertaking powerline clearance, either contractors engaged by Council or Council personnel, are required to be a Qualified Person as defined in r614 of the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019 and meet these minimum qualification and training conditions and must participate in a pre-commencement of works induction.

Council's Contractors and personnel must also follow the minimum distances specified in the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019 (specifically outlined in regulation 614) when undertaking tree clearing works and comply with the Vegetation Management Rules for Non-Electrical Workers, Safe Approach Distances and all other requirements detailed in the Blue

Book. Notification of affected parties will also be undertaken as per the requirements of the code.

Contractors or employees engaged to undertake tree clearance works are to have completed the following training delivered, and Annual Refresher Training as required, by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO); specific to their function:

- Tree inspections must be carried out by a suitably qualified arborist that holds a qualification of National Certificate III in Arboriculture including the “perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation” unit of competency or equivalent; and at least 3 years of field experience in assessing trees.
- All personnel employed to prune trees away from overhead electric lines must hold a minimum UET 20321 Cert II ESI Powerline Vegetation Control qualification with completion of the elective units pertinent to the work function they are undertaking, as per the table below:

Work function	Cert II ESI Powerline Vegetation Control Elective Training units	OLD training codes which are essentially equivalent to new codes and likely common on personnel training certificates
EWP Operator and EWP	UETDRVC007 - Control vegetation using pruning techniques	UETTDRVC33 - Apply pruning techniques to vegetation control near live electrical apparatus
Safety Observer	UETTDRVC004 – Control vegetation in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus from an elevated work platform	UETTDRVC25A – Use elevated platform to cut vegetation above ground level near live electrical apparatus
	Worksafe High Risk Work Licence - WP	Worksafe High Risk Work Licence - WP
Tree Climber and Tree Climber Safety Observer	UETDRVC006 - Control vegetation in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus from within the tree UETDRVC007 - Control vegetation using pruning techniques UETDRVC010 - Perform rescue from within a tree in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus	UETTDRVC21 - Use climbing techniques to cut vegetation above ground near live electrical apparatus UETTDRVC33 - Apply pruning techniques to vegetation control near live electrical apparatus UETTDRVC34 - Undertake release and rescue from a tree near live electrical apparatus AHCARB204 - Undertake standard climbing techniques AHCARB322 – Access Trees for Inspection

- A First Aid Level 2 certificate
- Chipper competency
- Industry White Card
- Chainsaw Level 1 training including FWPCOT2254, FWPCOT2256, AHCMOM213
- At least two personnel on site will have undergone training in a VicRoads approved Traffic Management Course and carry the current qualifications required for Traffic Control and Traffic Management Plan implementation and will ensure that traffic management requirements are met in all situations.
- Manual Handling Training
- Noise Conservation
- Sun Smart training
- IPS Asset Management System.

Where personnel require licences or operating certificates to use machinery or equipment, they must ensure that the licence or certificate is current and relevant to the machinery or equipment being used.

As part of its normal monthly contract reporting, Council will ensure that the Contractor has appropriately trained and inducted its employees are into these requirements.

Personnel found to not have the appropriate training and licencing will be required to stop work and leave the work site immediately and will not be able to return until all required training and licencing is complete and verified by Council.

All personnel undertaking pruning will be made aware of the pruning quality requirements in 9(3)(J) during worksite induction.

Staff training records are kept at the Maroondah Operations Centre, Lincoln Road, Croydon.

[\(q\) Notification and consultation procedures](#)

Council understands the importance of providing notification of programmed tree pruning works to affected persons.

Maroondah City Council will notify all persons likely to be affected by pruning/removal works associated with line clearance at least fourteen (14) days and no later than sixty (60) days prior to commencement of works. This notification will be via publication on Councils website.

Should any trees of cultural or environmental significance be found at a later date and require pruning works all effected persons will be notified within the timeframes specified above and details of the impact of the required works and minimisation strategy will be included with the notification.

Council will make available the tree pruning programme to all residents on the Council website.

Council will place advertisements on its website prior the trees being pruned in each area.

The typical form of notification is as follows -

ELECTRICAL LINE CLEARANCE PROGRAM

Maroondah Council is commencing its street tree pruning schedule to meet legislative requirements regarding proximity to overhead power lines.

There will be no disruption to power, however heavy equipment may be on site. Works will commence no sooner than 14 days from this notice and are expected to be completed by late XXX.

For further information, please phone Maroondah City Council on 1300 88 22 33.

By maintaining the annual and cutting program and allowing for growth for individual species no urgent pruning or clearing should be required. In the case of urgent cutting or removal being required, Council will ensure that the process identified under “Emergency Cutting and Pruning” is followed, in accordance with the requirements of the Code.

If works are not completed within the notification timeframe, re-notification will be undertaken in accordance with this process.

(R) Dispute resolution procedures.

The following dispute resolution procedure is in place for internal and external disputes that may arise during the period of this plan;

a. Internal Dispute Resolution

Maroondah City Council has a publicised dispute resolution process available at the following web address -

<http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Customer-service/Issues-and-requests/Service-complaints-and-escalating-an-issue>

Level 1

The Council Arborist will manage your request. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, you can request for further consideration or referral to Level 2.

Level 2

The Customer Service Team Leader will raise the request with the service area concerned on your behalf. You will then receive notice of the outcome. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, your request can be progressed to Level 3.

Level 3

Requests are progressed to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and final decision.

b. External Dispute Resolution

If Council has been unsuccessful in resolving the dispute the person will be referred to the Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria (EWOV) and escalation to Energy Safe Victoria if required.

(s) exemptions granted under regulation 11.

No exemptions have been applied for or granted

PART 2 – CLEARANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

DIVISION 1 – ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

(4) Exception to minimum clearance space for structural branches around insulated low voltage electric lines

In the case of a span distance of 40.0m or less, where it is identified that a structural branch >130mm diameter at the point of entry into the clearance space but more than 150mm from an insulated low voltage line in a Low Bushfire Risk Area, and removal of the branch will significantly alter the shape of the tree or compromise its structure, Council will undertake an individual risk assessment of the tree to determine whether an exception to the normal clearance requirements is appropriate.

In the case of a span distance greater than 40.0m the branch must be more than 300mm from the line.

All assessments for trees to which this exception may be or is applied will be undertaken by a suitably qualified arborist, and with all relevant training as detailed in Part 1 9(3)(O).

Where the assessment determines that there is no foreseeable risk of the limb impacting on the powerlines, the tree will be added to a register of trees to which this exception is being applied. The register will be held in Council's Asset Management System. All trees on the register will be re-assessed annually.

All assessment records will be held as per Council's data retention policies, but for a period of no less than 5 years.

(5) Exception to minimum clearance space for small branches around insulated low voltage electric lines

Where it is identified that foliage and branches less than 10mm in diameter have grown within the clearance space of an insulated low voltage line in a Low Bushfire Risk Area, the pruning records for the tree will be reviewed to ensure the tree has been pruned to comply with the minimum clearance space in the previous 12 months.

If it has, the tree will be noted as requiring pruning during the next cycle of the annual clearance program. If it has not, Council requires all vegetation that does not qualify for an exception to be pruned to maintain clearance spaces for a period of one year. Any breaches of this clearance are responded to reactively and are entered into Council's record management systems and actioned within 28 business days of receiving notification of the breach.

(6) Exemption to minimum clearance space for small branches growing under uninsulated low voltage electric lines in low bushfire risk areas

A particular branch is not required to be pruned to be clear of the minimum clearance space

for an electric line span provided ALL the following conditions are met:

1. The electric line is an uninsulated cable, low voltage and located in Low Bushfire Risk Area.
2. The branch is less than 10mm wide at the point at which it enters the minimum clearance space and is no more than 500mm inside the minimum clearance space.
3. The point at which the branch originates is below the height of the electric line.
4. If the branch comes within the minimum clearance space around the middle two-thirds of the span and one conductor spreader is fitted in the case of a span 45.0m or less in length, or two conductor spreaders are fitted in the case of a span greater than 45.0m in length.
5. The tree which the branch forms part of has been inspected within the past 14 months by a suitably qualified arborist, the risks posed by the branch have been assessed and measures have been implemented to effectively mitigate any risks identified.

(7) Exception to minimum clearance space for structural branches around uninsulated low voltage electric lines in low bushfire risk areas

Where it is identified that a structural branch originating below the height of the electric line >130mm diameter at the point of entry into, and less than 500mm within the clearance space of an uninsulated low voltage line in a Low Bushfire Risk Area, and removal of the branch will significantly alter the shape of the tree or compromise its structure, Council will undertake an individual risk assessment of the tree to determine whether an Exception to the normal clearance requirements is appropriate under the Code, and ensure the span has the appropriate number of spreaders correctly installed as detailed under Part 2 (6) of the Code, i.e. if the length of the span does not exceed 45 metres – one cable spreader or, if the length of the span exceeds 45 metres – 2 cable spreaders (*note – a spreader is not required to be fitted to the span if the branch comes within the minimum clearance space around the first or last sixth of the span*)

All assessments for trees to which this exception may be or is applied will be undertaken by a suitably qualified arborist, and with all relevant training as detailed in Part 1 9(3) of this Plan.

Where the assessment determines there is no foreseeable risk of the limb impacting on the powerlines, the tree will be added to a register of trees to which this exception is being applied. The register will be held in Council's Asset Management System. All trees on the register will be re-assessed annually.

All assessment records will be held as per Council's data retention policies, but for a period of no less than 5 years.

(8) Owner or operator of transmission line must manage trees around minimum clearance space

Not applicable to Council as this only applies to transmission lines

(9) Responsible person may cut or remove hazard tree

Council will undertake emergency cutting and pruning activities of Hazard Trees.

For the purpose of this Plan, a hazard tree is a tree that

- has or is likely to fail and will contact an electric line if this occurs
- regrowth into clearance space before next scheduled visit
- vegetation in HBRA found in clearance after declaration

Any tree identified by line clearance inspectors, distribution businesses, residents, utility companies or emergency services that is likely to be a Hazard Tree will be assessed by a suitably qualified arborist. The assessment will consider foreseeable local conditions and the significance of the tree. Based on the Arborist's assessment and recommendations, the hazard tree will be actioned in compliance with the Code.

During the inspection of the Declared Area, the Assessor will also inspect areas adjacent to the clearance space or regrowth space for trees that could become a hazard to the lines under adverse weather conditions.

In situations where the arborist's assessment confirms the likelihood of contact with the electric line having regard to foreseeable local conditions including weather and ground instability, Council will remove or cut the hazard tree as per the Code. In the event of a hazard tree being identified as a culturally significant, environmentally significant or a habitat tree, Council will where possible minimise the impact on the tree or any fauna present, while making the unsafe situation safe.

If a tree is found to pose an immediate risk, it will be actioned within 24-hours. Where a tree is considered a potential hazard but poses no immediate risk it will be assigned required works through Councils works management system and where required, remedial action will occur within three weeks.

All council trees considered to be of increased risk potential are placed on an *Ongoing Inspections List* which is completed yearly. Any works required, including those relating to electric line clearance and asset protection are issued as required after inspection.

After undertaking the work, Council's Council Arborist will be required to notify;

- (i) All affected persons and
- (ii) The occupier of the land on which the tree was cut or removed and
- (iii) If a tree was removed – the owner of the land on which the tree was removed

Records of all urgent works and completion of the notification requirement will be recorded in the Council's Asset Management System;

- (i) Where and when the cutting or removal was undertaken
- (ii) Why the cutting or removal was required
- (iii) The last inspection of the section of the electric line where the cutting or removal was required
- (iv) All records will be filed at the Council office and kept for a minimum of 5 years.

Council will notify (using form in Appendix 2), the affected person/s after the works have been carried out and in line with their training and induction will not remove or cut the trees further than 1 metre from the minimum clearance space around the electric line given the urgent cutting or removal is required;

(i) As a result of the identification of a Hazard Tree, or,

(ii) During the fire danger period declared under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958.

The Electricity Safety Act 1998 (Victoria) Section 86B provides that a municipal council must specify, within its Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP):

- a. procedures and criteria for the identification of trees that are likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line (**hazard trees**); and
- b. procedures for the notification of responsible persons of trees that are hazard trees in relation to electric lines for which they are responsible.

Maroondah City Council's Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP) refers to this Electric Line Clearance Management Plan in relation to Hazard trees.

PART 2 – CLEARANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

DIVISION 2 – MANNER OF CUTTING AND REMOVING TREES

(10) Cutting of tree to comply with Standard

Please see section 9(3)I of this Plan.

(11) Cutting or removal of SPECIFIED TREES MUST BE MINIMISED:

- Indigenous tree
- trees listed in a planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance
- trees of cultural or environmental significance

Trees of significance and indigenous roadside vegetation areas are inspected biennially during the Data Capture program and works are assigned proactively for completion. Trees that cannot comply with the code are recorded and assessed for the Annual Cut Program.

Species information for all trees requiring line clearance works are recorded on Council's asset management system. Areas of environmental significance are recorded under the Maroondah Planning Scheme –

- Significant Landscape Overlays (SLO3, SLO4),
- Vegetation Protection Overlay and supporting documentation
- Sites of biological significance (whereby Victorian Native and indigenous vegetation are protected)
- Heritage Overlay (trees of environmental or cultural significance or land recorded and protected)

Where clearance can be achieved and maintained, pruning of native trees of significance will be restricted to no further than one metre from the required clearance space and carried out as per the instructions of a suitably qualified Council arborist.

Any works to be carried out on significant trees that require excessive pruning or trees that require removal in order to comply with the Code are reported to a suitably qualified Council arborist to determine an appropriate course of action to preserve the tree if cost-effective and safe to do so. This may include managing the tree in line with Clauses 4, 5 or 6 of the Code, an

increased inspection or pruning cycle, or investigation of an engineering alternative in consultation with the Distribution Business.

Removal of specified trees will only be undertaken when it is deemed by a suitably qualified arborist that removal is the only viable option i.e. cutting the tree in accordance with the minimum clearance requirements would make the tree unhealthy or unviable.

All pruning will take place in accordance with industry best practice. Council will restrict cutting or removal of native trees or of cultural or environmental significance to the minimum extent necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Code, the schedule to the Code or to make an unsafe situation safe.

(12) Cutting or removing habitat for threatened fauna.

If Council intends to cut or, on the advice of a suitably qualified arborist, remove a tree that has been identified as habitat for fauna listed as -

- a) threatened in accordance with section 10 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 or
- b) listed in the Threatened Invertebrate Fauna List with a conservation status in Victoria of "vulnerable", "endangered" or "critically endangered" or
- c) listed in the Threatened Vertebrate Fauna List with a conservation status in Victoria of "vulnerable", "endangered" or "critically endangered."

Works will not be undertaken when eggs or young are present in any nest or hollow indicating that it is breeding season for that species. Additionally, an assessment will be undertaken to determine if the impact on the tree and its habitat value can be minimised or avoided. This may include managing the tree in line with Clauses 4, 5 or 6 of the Code, an increased inspection or pruning cycle, or investigation of an engineering alternative in consultation with the Distribution Business.

All new habitat trees within the vicinity of powerlines will be placed on the Habitat Tree Register and checked yearly for stability.

In exceptional circumstances, fauna may be required to be relocated. This is not Council's preferred option and will be used only as a last resort, for example, if the tree is assessed to be a hazard tree. Where animal relocation is required, it will be carried out by a suitably qualified person.

PART 2 – CLEARANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

DIVISION 3 – NOTIFICATION, CONSULTATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

(17) Responsible person must provide notification before cutting or removing certain trees - 9(4)q

Notifications regarding the activities to which this plan relates will be published on Council website. Complaints and disputes will be addressed in accordance with Council's service standards and complaint handling policy and the procedure detailed in (r) above.

PART 2 – CLEARANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

DIVISION 4 – ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

(20) Duty relating to the safety of cutting or removal of trees close to an electric line

Where Council is unsure of the safety of pruning or removing a tree, they will consult with the relevant Distribution Business, or if the tree affects a railway supply line, the relevant Railway Operator, to develop an appropriate action plan to mitigate the hazard or bring the tree into compliance with the Code.

The contact details of the relevant organisations are provided on page 4 of this Plan.

PART 3 – MINIMUM CLEARANCE SPACES

DIVISION 2 - ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISMS

(31) Application for approval of alternative compliance mechanism

Council is not and does not currently intend to use any alternative compliance mechanisms.

If Council should apply to Energy Safe Victoria for approval to use an alternative compliance mechanism in respect of a span of an electric line or a class of spans, the application will include details of:

- (i) the alternative compliance mechanism; and
- (ii) a written confirmation from the Distribution Business or alternative qualified provider that includes
 - a. the procedures to be adopted for commissioning, installing, operating, maintaining, and decommissioning the alternative compliance mechanism; and
 - b. the published technical standards that will be complied with when commissioning, installing, operating, maintaining, and decommissioning the alternative compliance mechanism; and
- (iii) the location of the span; or describe the class; and
- (iv) the minimum clearance space that the applicant proposes is to be applied in relation to the span, or class of spans, in respect of which the application is made; and
- (v) a copy of the formal safety assessment prepared by the Distribution Business or an alternative qualified provider under clause 32.
- (vi) a copy of the written agreement of the owner or the operator of the span; or the owner or the operator of each span that belongs to that class.

(32) Formal safety assessment of alternative compliance mechanism

Council is not and does not currently intend to use any alternative compliance mechanisms.

As Council Officers are not qualified to provide a formal safety assessment, this will be prepared by the Distribution Business or an alternative qualified provider and will comply with the requirements as defined in Schedule1, part 3, Division 2, and Clause 1 of the Code.

NOTICE OF URGENT TREE CUTTING OR REMOVAL	
Dear Resident,	
The tree adjacent to your property has required urgent pruning or removal to maintain electricity safety. The works have been undertaken in accordance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020.	
Address	
Works reference #	
Date of works	
Reason for works	<input type="checkbox"/> Greater than expected regrowth <input type="checkbox"/> Tree has fallen or been damaged <input type="checkbox"/> An arborist has assessed the tree as an imminent risk of contacting the powerlines
If you have any queries about the works undertaken, please contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 .	
Date	Council Representative

Appendix 2 –Works Schedules

HRBA - [N.B Inspection, assessment for clearance and pruning of all Council trees in the vicinity of powerlines in the HBRA will be completed as part of the Annual Cut by the end of November each year before the declaration of the Fire Danger Period.]





Zone	MONTH TO BE COMPLETED
T01	July
T02	August
T03	September
T04	October
HBRA + sites for annual cut	November
T05	December
T06	February
T07	March
T08	April
T09	May
T10	June
T11	July
T12	August
T13	September
T14	October
HBRA + sites for annual cut	November
T15	December
T16	February
T17	March
T18	April
T19	May
T20	June

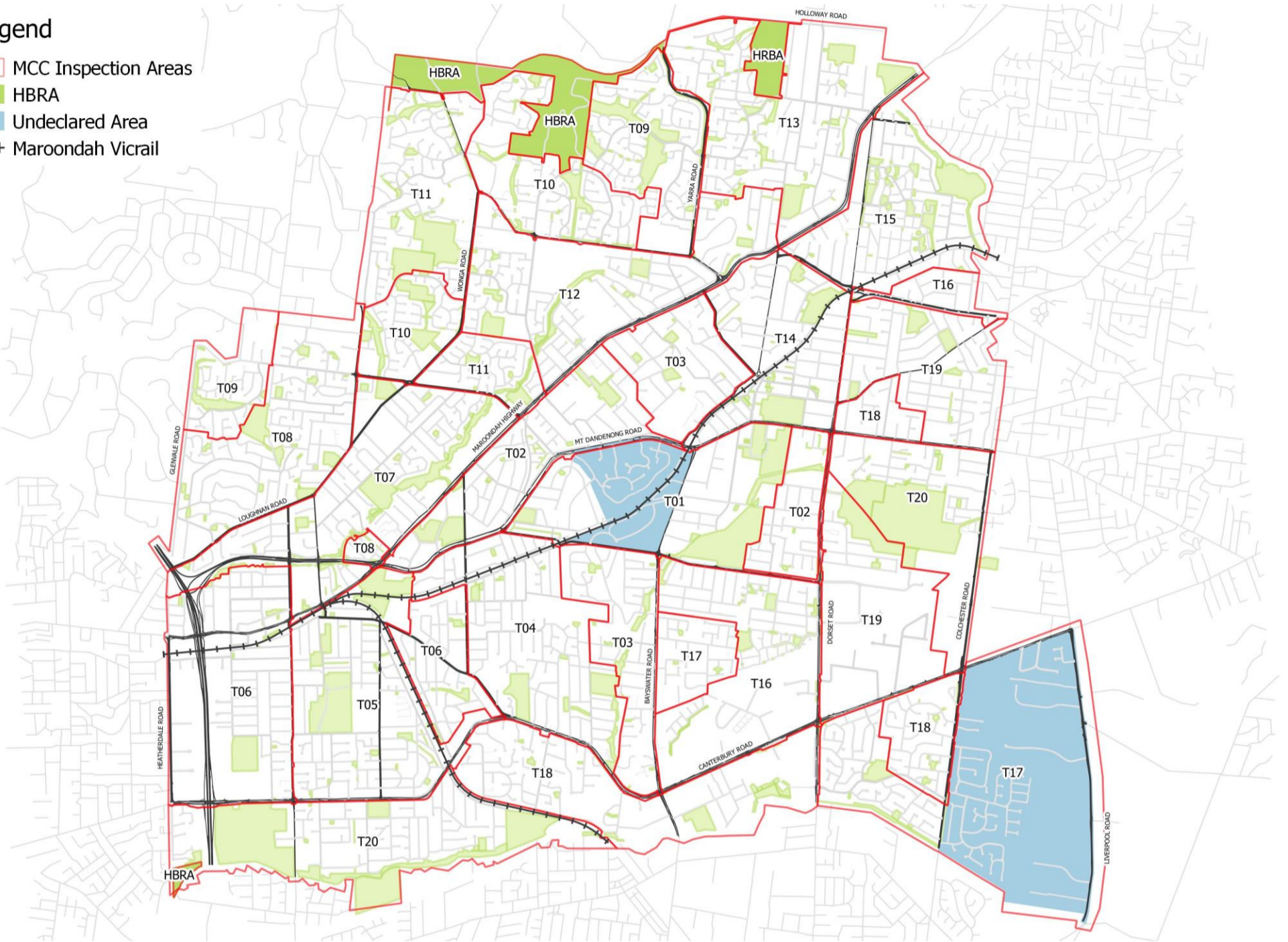
Appendix 3 – Sites for Annual Cut

Street	Suburb	Section	Species
Laird Street	Croydon		<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>
Lee-Anne Crescent	Croydon North		<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>
Patrick Avenue	Croydon North		<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>
Diane Crescent	Croydon	No. 57	<i>Angophora costata</i>
Dianne crescent	Croydon	No. 63	<i>Angophora costata</i>
Jesmond Road	Croydon		<i>Mixed species</i>
Frederick Street	Croydon		<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>
Olympus Drive	Croydon South		<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>
Julie Road	Croydon		<i>Melaleuca sp.</i>
Pascoe Avenue	Croydon	Jarvis to Forrest	<i>Mixed species</i>
Louisa Street	Croydon		<i>Lophostemon confertus</i> and <i>Liquidambar sp.</i>
Diane Street	Croydon		<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>
Kitchener Road (Memorial planting)	Croydon		<i>Lophostemon confertus</i> and <i>Platanus</i>
Marlborough Road	Heathmont		<i>Mixed species</i>
Hume Street	Ringwood East		<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>
Lockhart Road	Ringwood North		<i>Quercus palustris</i>

Appendix 4 – Map

Legend

-  MCC Inspection Areas
-  HBRA
-  Undeclared Area
-  Maroondah Vicrail



Appendix 5 – Electrical Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, Schedule 2 – Applicable distance for middle two thirds of a span of an electric line.

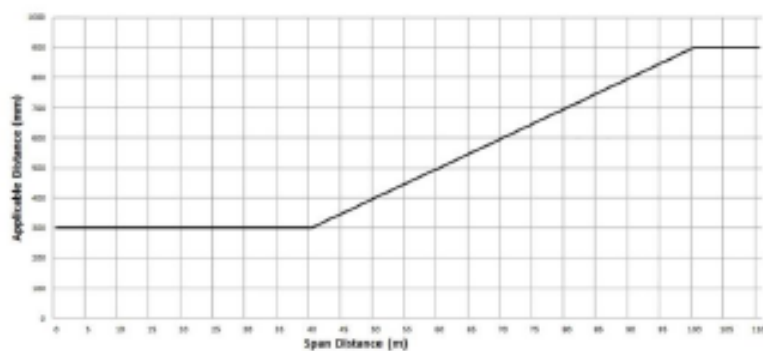
Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020
S.R. No. 50/2020

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

Schedule 2—Applicable distance for middle 2 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 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 24 applies is calculated as follows:

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

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

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 900$ mm

Where:

SD = Span Distance

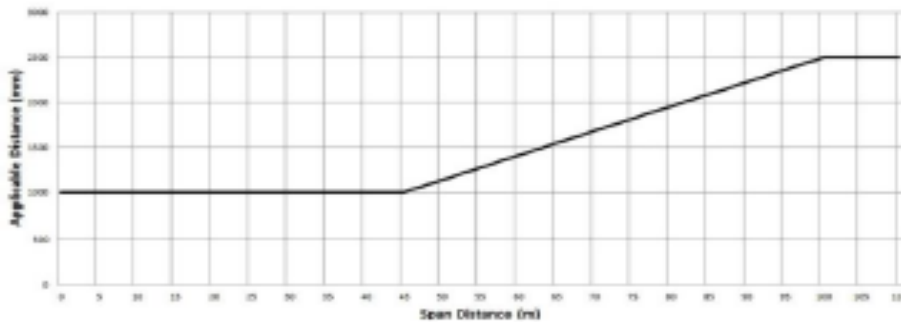
AD = Applicable Distance

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 LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA**

Clauses 3 and 25



Graph 2 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 25 applies is calculated as follows:

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

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

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 2500$ mm

Where:

SD = Span Distance

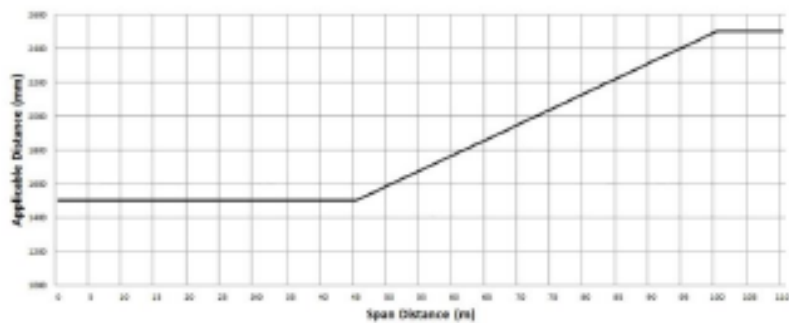
AD = Applicable Distance

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
LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA**

Clauses 3 and 26



Graph 3 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 26 applies is calculated as follows:

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

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

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 2500$ mm

Where:

SD = Span Distance

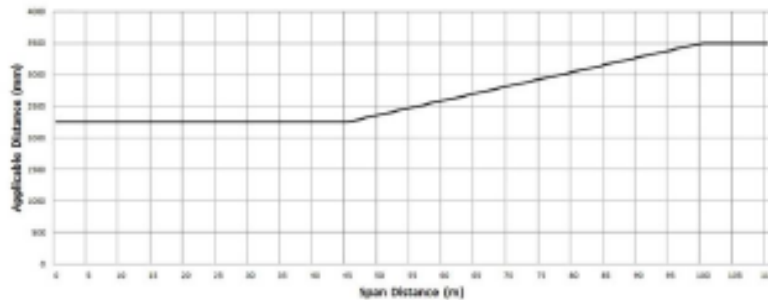
AD = Applicable Distance

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
LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA**

Clauses 3 and 27



Graph 4 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 27 applies is calculated as follows:

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

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

For $100 < SD$, $AD = 3500$ mm

Where:

SD = Span Distance

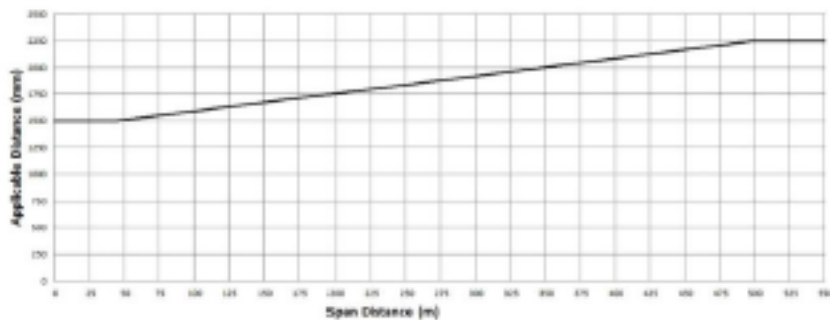
AD = Applicable Distance

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 HAZARDOUS BUSHFIRE RISK AREA

Clauses 3 and 28



Graph 5 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 28 applies is calculated as follows:

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

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

For $500 < SD$, $AD = 2250$ mm

Where:

SD = Span Distance

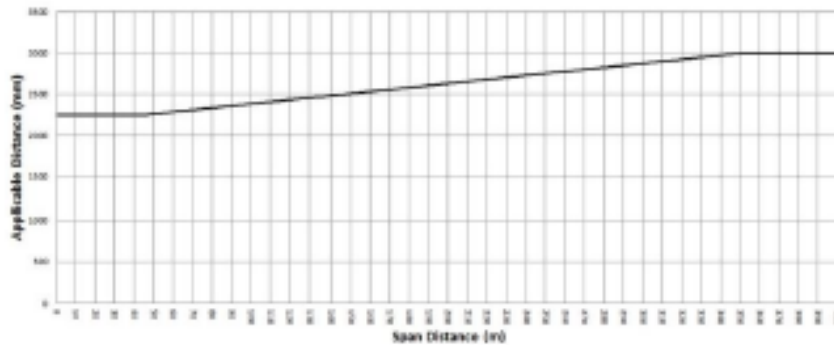
AD = Applicable Distance

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
HAZARDOUS BUSHFIRE RISK AREA**

Clauses 3 and 29



Graph 6 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 29 applies is calculated as follows:

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

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

For $350 < SD$, $AD = 3000$ mm

Where:

SD = Span Distance

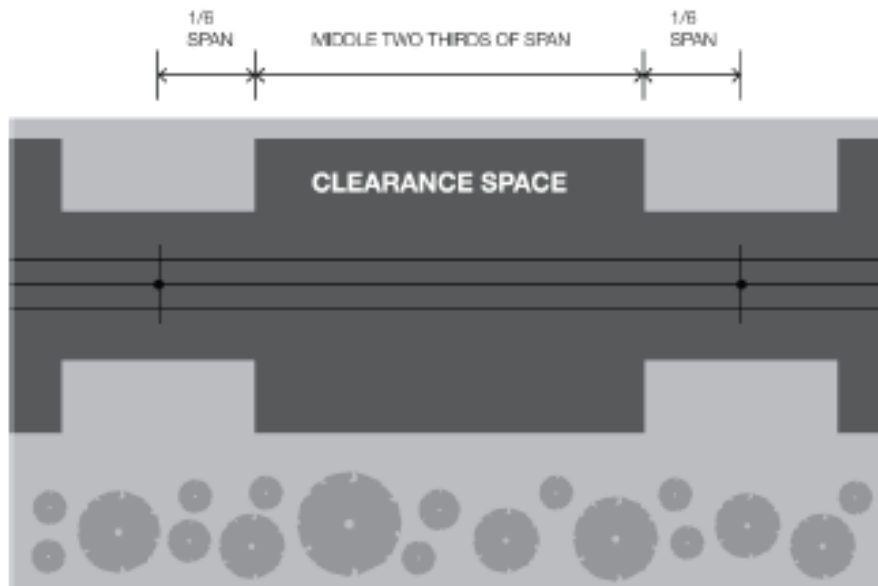
AD = Applicable Distance

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

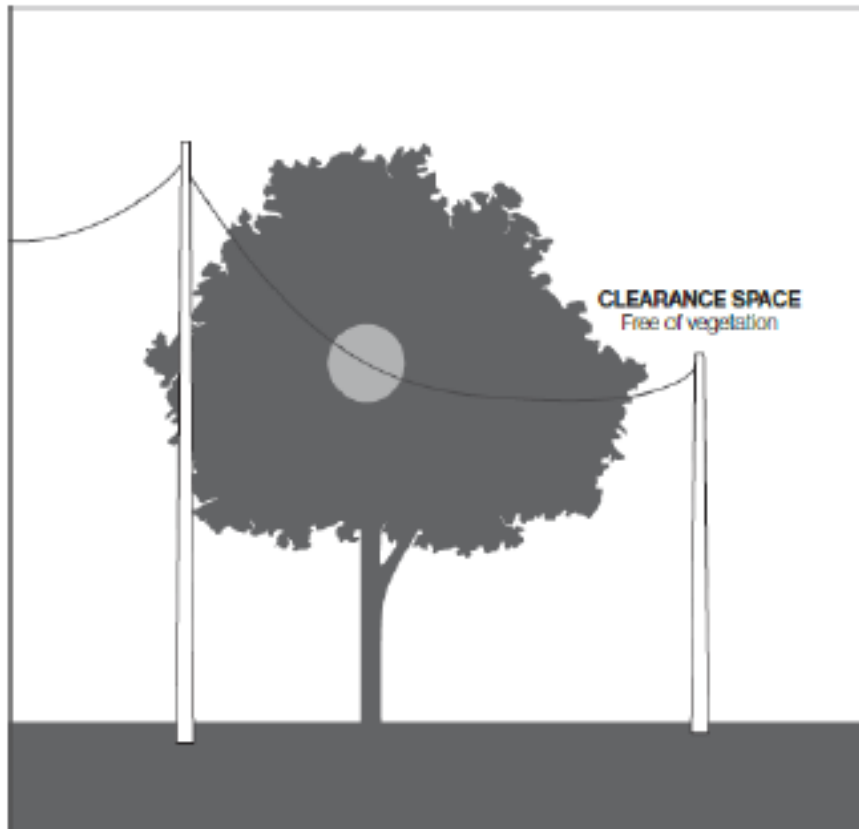
Clauses 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29,
Graphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6



NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2—INSULATED ELECTRIC LINES IN ALL AREAS

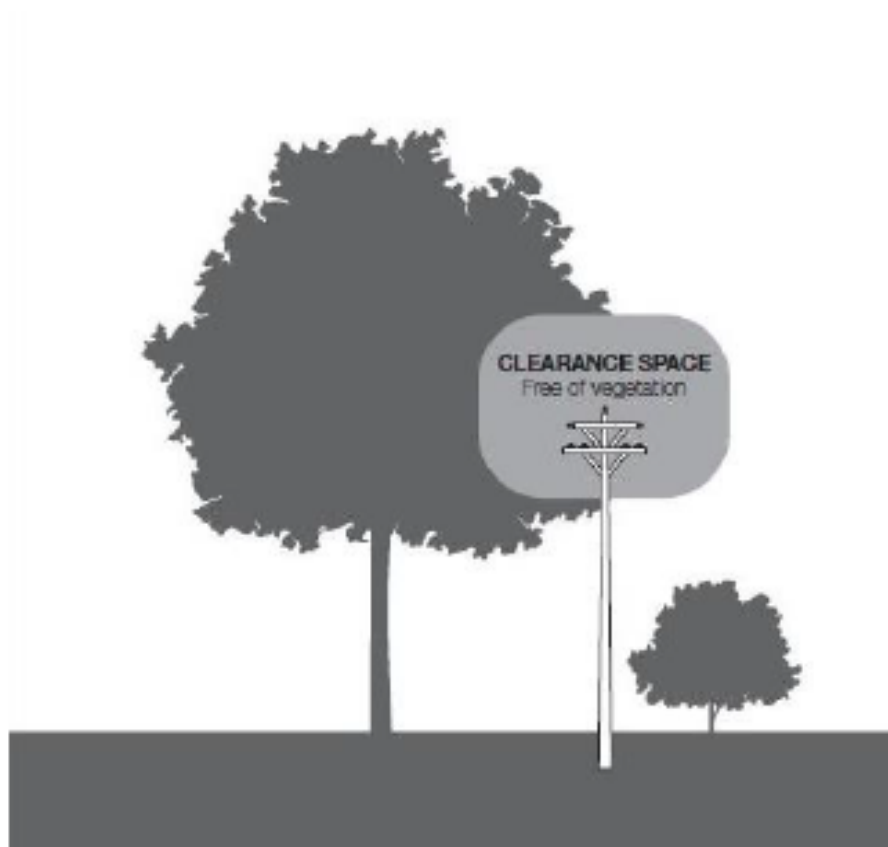
Clause 24, Graph 1



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

Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020
S.R. No. 50/2020

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

**FIGURE 4—UNINSULATED LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRIC
LINE IN A LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA**

Clause 25, Graph 2



NOT TO SCALE

Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020
S.R. No. 50/2020

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

**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

