

Electric Line Clearance Management Plan 2022-23

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. PREPARATION r.9(2)	7
2.1 Process	7
3. CONTACTS r.9(3)(a-d)	8
4. OBJECTIVES r.9(3)(e)	10
5. MANAGEMENT PLAN AREA r.9(3)(f)	11
6. LOCATION OF SIGNIFICANT TREES r.9(3)(g).....	12
(i) Native	12
(ii) Listed in planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance ...	12
(iii) Trees of cultural or environmental significance	12
7. IDENTIFYING SIGNIFICANT TREES r.9(3)(h)	15
8. MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES r.9(3)(i)	16
9. PROCEDURES r.9(3)(j)	21
10. ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISMS r.9(3)(k)	22
11. APPROVALS FOR ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISMS r.9(3)(l)	23
12. PERFORMANCE MEASURES r.9(3)(m)	25
13. AUDIT PROCESS r.9(3)(n)	26
13.1 Procedure to audit electric lines clearance requirements	26
13.2 Procedure to audit compliance and quality	26
13.3 Auditable Quality Standards of Work	27
13.3.1 Statutory Clearance of Vegetation	27
13.3.2 Local Outcomes and Requirements	28
13.3.3 Pruning Techniques	28
13.3.4 Site Condition.....	28
13.3.5 Quality Assurance Program.....	28
13.3.6 Auditing of Contractors	29
13.3.7 Record keeping.....	29
14. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE r.9(3)(o)	30
15. NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION r.9(3)(p)	32
16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE r.9(3)(q)	33
17. Obligations relating to Management Plan r10	34

18. CLEARANCE SPACE FOR ELECTRIC LINES s.1(3)	35
18.1 Creating and Maintaining the Required Clearance s.1(3) (1)	35
18.2 Exceptions to Minimum Clearance Space s.1(3) (2)	35
19. HAZARD TREES s.1(8)	36
19.1 Assessment by a Qualified Arborist s.1(8)(2)	36
19.2 Assessed with regard to local conditions s.1(8)(2)(a)	37
19.3 Assessed likelihood of contact s.1(8)(2)(b)	37
20. CUTTING OF TREES TO COMPLY WITH STANDARD s.1(9).....	38
21. CUTTING OR REMOVAL OF SPECIFIED TREES s.1(10)	39
22. HABITAT TREES s.1(11)	40
22.1 Timing of Works s.1(11) (1)	40
22.2 Translocation of Fauna s.1(11) (2).....	40
23. RESTRICTION ON TIMING s.1(12)	42
24. URGENT PRUNING s.1(13).....	43
25. URGENT REMOVAL s.1(14).....	44
26. ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF LOCAL COUNCILS s.1(20).....	45
27. Appendices.....	46
A.1: THE DECLARED AREA OF MYRTLEFORD.....	46
A.2: THE DECLARED AREA OF MYRTLEFORD including LBRA and HBRA	47
A.3: Image 1 – The Big tree.....	48
IMAGE 2	48
A.4: ELECTRICAL SAFETY (ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE) REGULATIONS 2020, S.R. No 50/2020.....	49
A.5: SCHEDULE 2 – APPLICABLE DISTANCE FOR MIDDLE TWO THIRDS OF A SPAN OF AN ELECTRIC LINE.	49
Schedule 2—Applicable distance for middle 2 thirds of electric line span	49
A.6: HIERARCHY OF CONTROL.....	60
A.7: DEFINITIONS	62
A.8: SAMPLE OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION	63

Authorisation Table

This document complies with:		Electricity Safety Act 1998
		Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (Vic)
Reference		ELCMP 2022-23
	Prepared by:	Jay Draper / Gareth Williams
r.10(1)	Preparation date:	3 June 2020
	Authorised by:	Mr. Charlie Bird - CEO
	Authorisation date:	23 June 2020
	Date requested by ESV:	20 September 2019
r.10(3)	Date submitted to ESV:	19 May 2020
	Further information request date:	29 May 2020
r.10(4)	Further information provided date:	3 June 2020
	Amendment request date:	29 May 2020
r.10(5)	Amendment date:	26 March 2021
	Date copy is on display:	5 April 2021
r.10(7)	Date published on website:	5 April 2021
	Prepared by:	Gareth Williams
r.10(8)	Preparation date:	20 April 2022
	Authorised by:	Charlie Bird - CEO
	Authorisation date:	18 May 2022

r.11(1)	Exemptions
Exemption 1	
Exemption 2	

r.11.(1)	Exemptions
Exemption 3	

1. INTRODUCTION

This management plan outlines the Alpine Shire Council’s compliance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (Vic). The regulations are designed to manage vegetation around electric lines to minimise the danger of electric lines causing fire, electrocution or disruption to power. Management of vegetation around electric lines is a major part of the overall electricity safety framework. While based on the premise that trees and electric lines do not mix, the framework acknowledges that managed carefully, trees and electric lines can coexist.

Councils are responsible under the Act for trees on their public land and street trees in urban (Declared) areas. This management plan details the management responsibilities, procedures and practices to be adopted and observed by the Alpine Shire Council in managing vegetation in the vicinity of electric lines within the Declared area of Myrtleford. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and with Regulation 9 – Management Plans, Section 3 of the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (Vic).

The regulations acknowledge the need to balance the three key policy goals of safety, reliability and fire prevention with amenity and protecting the environment. This management plan also considers the relationship between Council’s vision and goals and the strategic management of vegetation within the Shire. Council’s vision and goals highlight the importance of the tree canopy to the character of the shire. It is therefore essential that vegetation is managed sustainably, sensitively and with consideration.

Myrtleford is the second largest urban centre within the Shire. It is recognised as an important cultural centre and contains a unique collection of heritage buildings and significant streetscapes that contribute to the unique character of Myrtleford.

This document is specific to any vegetation which is in the vicinity of any powerlines that may encroach on the minimum clearance space of the powerlines, as prescribed in the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (Vic).

A copy of this management plan will be available for inspection by the public at Council's offices at 2 Churchill Avenue, Bright VIC 3741, during normal business hours and on Council's website.

2. PREPARATION r.9(2)

A responsible person must prepare a management plan relating to compliance with the Code of Practice for Electric Lines Clearance before June 30 each year. For the purposes of this document the "Responsible Person" is the Alpine Shire Council.

The document will be updated annually to ensure it always complies with the relevant Electricity Safety Act 1998 and Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations or its preceding documents.

A process has been developed to ensure that the Electric Line Clearance Management Plan (ELCMP) is reviewed, amended, and internally authorised annually before June 30. The review will consider the effectiveness of procedures in meeting the Plan's objectives, internal review and authorisation procedures and procedures to publish the updated Plan on Council's website when it takes effect.

The review will also ensure superseded versions are removed and ensure current versions of CFA mapping, regulations, codes, training and standards are included.

The Plan will be authorised by the Chief Executive Officer.

2.1 PROCESS

The Director Assets or delegated authority will review and amend the Plan annually. The amended document will be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer prior to June 30 each year.

The preparation of this document will include a review of all processes and procedures and their effectiveness in meeting the plan objectives.

The superseded document will be removed from circulation and replaced with the new approved document.

The Director Assets will submit a copy of the ELCMP within 14 days of a request.

3. CONTACTS r.9(3)(a-d)

As required by Regulation 9(3)

(a) The Name, address and telephone number of the Responsible Person is:

Name:	Alpine Shire Council
Address:	2 Churchill Avenue Bright, Victoria, 3741
Council Office Telephone No.:	(03) 5755 0555
Name of Chief Executive Officer:	Mr. Charlie Bird

(b) The name, position, address and telephone number of the person responsible for the preparation of the Management Plan is:

Name:	Will Jeremy
Position:	Director Assets
Business Address:	2 Churchill Avenue Bright, Victoria, 3741
Telephone No.:	0466 345 736
Email Address:	williamj@alpineshire.vic.gov.au

(c) The name, position, address, and telephone number of the person responsible for carrying out the Management Plan is:

Name:	Michael Buckley
Position:	Manager Asset Maintenance
Business Address:	2 Churchill Avenue Bright, Victoria, 3741
Telephone No.:	0437 261 601
Email Address:	michaelb@alpineshire.vic.gov.au

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

Emergency telephone No: (03) 5755 0568

(24 hours, 7 days a week)

4. OBJECTIVES r.9(3)(e)

The primary objectives of this management plan are:

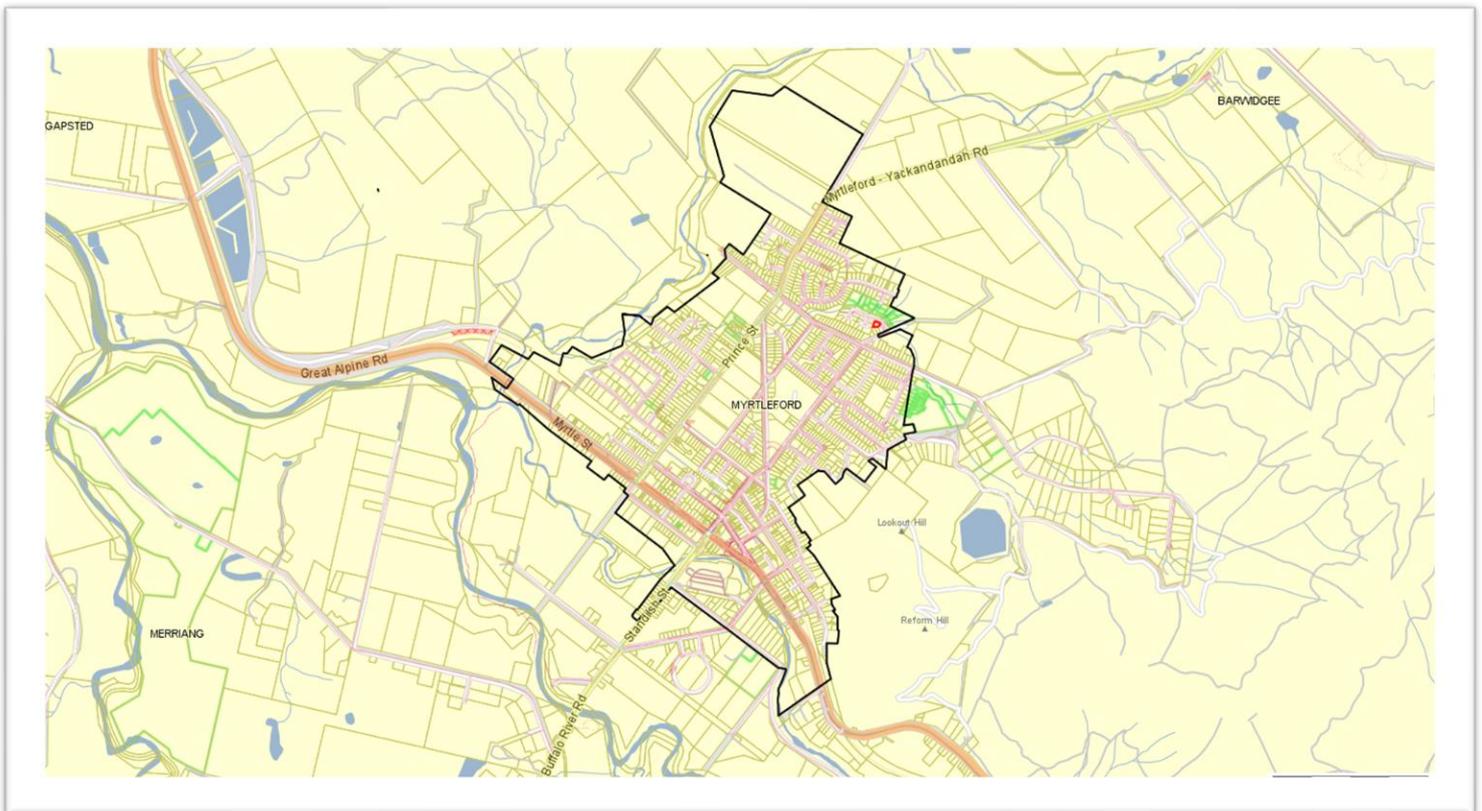
- To ensure that Alpine Shire Council complies with the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (Vic).
- To ensure public safety at all times in relation to fire risk, human injury and continuity of supply resulting from the contact between power lines and vegetation.
- To ensure provision of a safe working place for employees and contractors undertaking vegetation clearance pruning and any employee or contractors who conduct other vegetation maintenance works within the vicinity of powerlines.
- To ensure protection of areas of important local and significant vegetation throughout the Council's declared area. This protection includes, but is not limited to, sites containing botanically, historically or culturally important vegetation, or vegetation of outstanding aesthetic or ecological significance, and/or the habitat of rare or endangered species.
- To ensure community satisfaction with the manner in which the necessary works are carried out.
- To manage trees for aesthetic, cultural, ecological or environmental significance.
- To maintain continuity of power supply and electrical safety.

5. MANAGEMENT PLAN AREA r.9(3)(f)

The Management Plan applies to the area of land within the declared area of Myrtleford. The map in Figure 1 indicate where electric lines are generally present for the purposes of this Plan. Council does not hold specific plans for these electric lines.

If specific maps are required of the distribution system, the distribution company AusNet Services should be contacted.

Figure 1: The declared area of Myrtleford



The majority of land within the declared area of Myrtleford is designated as a Low Bushfire Risk Area (LBRA). A small section of the declared area is designated as a Hazardous Bushfire Risk Area (HBRA). Other urban areas of Myrtleford outside the declared area are designated as a HBRA.

LBRA / HBRA Boundaries

Refer to Appendix 2 for a detailed map of the LBRA and HBRA sections within the declared area of Myrtleford.

6. LOCATION OF SIGNIFICANT TREES r.9(3)(g)

This section identifies areas that contain trees that may need to be cut or removed to ensure compliance with the Code that are:

- (i) native; or
- (ii) listed in a planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance; or
- (iii) of cultural or environmental significance.

(i) Native

The street tree vegetation throughout the Declared Area of Myrtleford consists mainly of introduced species that have been planted purely for amenity reasons. Several existing avenue plantings that have visual dominance to the landscape are not listed individually as significant trees

There are two remnant trees (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) that are by definition listed in the Planning Scheme based on age, visual dominance to the landscape and of some historical value. Both specimens are within the declared area they are not within the immediate vicinity of overhead powerlines.

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

There are various areas within the Alpine Shire that are protected, under the Council's Planning Scheme, for their Botanical, Habitat, Ecology or Environmental value. These areas are detailed in Council's Planning Scheme under the *Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO)*, *Heritage Overlay (HO)* and *Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO)*, and their respective schedules.

There is no vegetation within the declared area that is listed to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance

(iii) Trees of cultural or environmental significance

A tree of cultural or environmental significance means a tree that is:

(a) Sites included in the Heritage Register within the meaning of the Heritage Act 1995

There are two trees of cultural significance located in Alpine Shire Council and within the declared area that is recorded on the National Trust Significant Tree Register.

Tree one is located on Yarra Place and is referred to as "The Big Tree". Refer to Appendix 3 – The Big Tree. Image 1

Tree two is located on the corner of Prince Street and Myrtle Street. Refer to Appendix 3 Image 2.

More information can be found at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/vic/heritage-register>.

There are several other trees listed on the Victorian Heritage Register within the Shire boundary but outside the declared area and or located on private land that are not covered by this ELCMP. For further information refer to <http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/vhd/heritagevic>.

Neither tree is within immediate vicinity of overhead powerlines.

(b) Sites included in the Victoria Aboriginal Register under section 144 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

There are no sites under Section 144 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 within the declared area of Myrtleford.

<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/heritage-tools/aboriginal-cultural-heritage-register-and-information-system>

(c) Sites of Flora or Habitat of Fauna listed as threatened in accordance with section 10 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*

There are no sites within the declared area of Myrtleford of flora or a habitat of fauna listed as threatened in accordance with section 10 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

(d) Flora listed in the Threatened Flora List with a conservation status in Victoria of endangered or vulnerable

There is no Flora listed as Threatened in the Declared Area of Myrtleford.

(e) A habitat of fauna which is:

(i) listed in the Threatened Invertebrate Fauna List with a conservation status in Victoria of vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered

There is no threatened Invertebrate Fauna within the declared area of Myrtleford.

(ii) listed in the Threatened Vertebrate Fauna List with a conservation status in Victoria of vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered

There is no Threatened Vertebrate listed with the declared area of Myrtleford.

ELC personnel are made aware of the locations of native species, trees of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance or trees of cultural or environmental significance on the specific data sets provided by AusNet Services.

As there has been an ongoing powerline clearance program around existing trees, there are no known trees from clause 9(3)(g) that will be significantly adversely affected by future powerline clearance works. Additional resources available to identify significant native trees are:

- a) 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) b. Reference to the National Trust Register and regular communication with the Local Historical Society and Council's Heritage Advisor. This resource is available online at <http://trusttrees.org.au/>
- c) 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) 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) 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-threatenedspecies/threatened-species-advisory-lists>

The Director Assets or delegate will review these resources annually when reviewing the ELCMP to determine if any relevant new records have been added.

There are currently no recorded habitat trees affected by line clearance activity within the Declared Area.

7. IDENTIFYING SIGNIFICANT TREES r.9(3)(h)

This section details the means that the responsible person is required to use to identify a tree specified in Section 5 as significant.

This management plan provides the means to identify a tree specified as significant in Section 6 and associated appendices. If additional information is required, the following methods may be used to ensure the identification and management of significant trees:

- Communication with Council's Planning Department.
- Reference to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register as established under section 144 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.
- Reference to section 10 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.
- Reference to maps as provided to contractors engaged in pruning of vegetation from overhead electric powerlines.

8. MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES r.9(3)(i)

This section details the management procedures that the responsible person is required to adopt to ensure compliance with the Code. It includes details of the methods to be adopted for:

- (i) managing trees and maintaining a minimum clearance space as required by the Code; and
- (ii) determining an additional distance that allows for cable sag and sway for the purposes of determining clearance space.

The risk of vegetation starting a small grass fire within the Declared Area of the Alpine Shire Council has been all but eliminated by the large, continuous subdivision of land since 1995. This subdivision has resulted in a wide barrier being formed around the declared areas by new dwellings.

Alpine Shire Council has several long-term management plans to minimise the danger of electric lines causing fire or electrocution.

This ELCMP has effect on approximately 480 trees located within the Declared area of Myrtleford as per Appendix 1.

(i) managing trees and maintaining a minimum clearance space as required by the Code:

- The minimum clearance space is defined in the current regulations and code of practice and is referred to by electric line clearance personnel to determine the required minimum clearance between vegetation and overhead powerlines. The minimum clearance space is described in Appendix 4 of the Alpine Shire Council Electric Line Clearance Management Plan.
- Council introduced the Tree Management Plan in 2021-22 to guide the management of trees within the urban areas of the shire.
- All remedial powerline pruning works are conducted in accordance with AS 4373-2007 Amenity Tree Pruning. This minimises epicormic regrowth, the speed of the regrowth, and assists with tree health and condition by minimising the chance of entry by pathogens.
- All contractors engaged to prune trees in the vicinity of overhead powerlines are appropriately trained and qualified.
- Under the Alpine Shire Council contractual agreement, it is the Contractor's duty to ensure that trees are pruned to maintain the Clearance Space free of vegetation for the period of the program.
- The following procedures associated with the pruning of vegetation that is in breach of the code will apply.
 - Alpine Shire Council's receives an audit undertaken by AusNet Services annually of all trees non complying or in breach of the code within the declared area prior to the forth coming bushfire season. Council typically receives this audit in or

around May. Audited information is provided on an Excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet provides the location of individual spans, the number of trees within the span, approximate property addresses for each tree and what clearances are required to be met.

- In response to that audit Council commences a process of undertaking a Request for Quote (RFQ) from suitably qualified contractors to undertake the line clearance pruning program within the specified time.
 - On completion of the RFQ process a contractor is engaged to undertake the pruning works of all trees within the declared area as shown in Appendix 1.
- The vegetation identified in the audit to be managed will be recorded electronically, identifying the tree's physical address, suburb, voltage, LIS number and if the auto re-close feature is required to conduct the pruning works.
 - The contractor will also assess the genus and species of the vegetation, ascertain the regrowth potential and assess the tree for any other potential hazards. The contractor will also undertake specific remedial pruning that minimises potential limb failures from previous poor pruning wounds.
 - Council in discussion with the contractor shall also identify a number of trees listed within the audit that may benefit by additional canopy shaping to minimise future regrowth that may interfere with conductors before the next pruning cycle.
 - Council's contractor will prune all trees identified to ensure that the tree's foliage will remain free of the prescribed Clearance Space until the next pruning cycle.
 - Trees that the Contractor considers cannot be successfully pruned as outlined above will be brought to the attention of the Alpine Shire Council's Open Spaces Coordinator. The Open Spaces Coordinator will then inspect the tree and if it is determined that the tree cannot be pruned to comply with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (Vic), Council will investigate and implement an alternative method to ensure compliance.
 - On receipt of the completion of the program (from the contractor engaged to undertake the clearance work) Council's nominated representative (Tree Crew Team Leader) will undertake a review of all works undertaken by the contractor.
 - The nominated representative will then notify Council's Open Space Coordinator of any sites that may be in breach of the code and that have not been attended to by the contractor.
 - Council's Open Space Coordinator will then provide that list of sites to the contractor to complete before processing any invoice statements from the contractor for the works undertaken.
 - On completion of any outstanding works, Council will notify AusNet Services that all works have been completed in accordance with the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (Vic).
 - On receipt of any reports of non-compliance from AusNet Services, residents or other sources will be investigated by Council's nominated responsible employee. Once the investigation has been completed, Council's contractor will be requested to undertake and carry out any pruning action to rectify the non-conformance.

- Council's nominated representative and assessor inspecting the vegetation will have a minimum qualification of Level 5 in arboriculture. This qualification will ensure the assessor has basic knowledge in tree physiology and biology of the tree species growing in the municipality.
- Utilising this knowledge, the assessor will monitor the amount of regrowth for each species pruned. The degree of tree pruning will be adjusted considering observed growth rates, depending on the significance of the tree, to ensure compliance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020.
- The formula used to calculate the amount of vegetation to be removed is:

Clearance (m) = regrowth (m/year) X cycle (1 year)

An example of this formula is:

Melaleuca linarifolia = regrowth 300mm per annum X 12 month = 300mm clear of the clearance space (area which must maintain clear of vegetation)

Quercus robur = regrowth 800mm per annum X 12 months = 800mm clear of the clearance space (area which must maintain clear of vegetation)

- All future vegetation to be planted in the vicinity of open-wire powerlines is specifically selected to be of a slower and lower growing species that will mature below the powerlines. Alternatively, selected tree species will be suitable for directional pruning and shaped to grow around the powerline to remain clear of the clearance zone for a minimum period of twelve (12) months. If a tree matures at a greater height than anticipated, the selected slower and lower growing species will not respond with rapid epicormic re-growth when pruned ensuring Council can maintain the twelve (12) month pruning cycle.
- Council has a strong focus on ensuring community inclusion with the selection of replacement streetscapes and the development of appropriate street tree replacement and renewal strategies for the shire is undertaken in consultation with residents. Accordingly, Council has not adopted a preferred tree planting list.
- Unmanageable, low value species or inappropriate species which are planted directly underneath the open-wire powerlines will be removed.
- Where possible, new developments will have underground powerlines installed in accordance with the Alpine Shire Council's planning scheme.
- An open dialogue will be established between AusNet Services' OPR Liaison Officer and Council to ensure both parties have a clear understanding of each organisation's priorities. This is to be achieved via an annual meeting with AusNet Services OPR Liaison Officer and the Alpine Shire Council's responsible staff member (Open Spaces Coordinator).
- Council will investigate engineering solutions that minimise or eliminate the impact of powerline pruning in discussion with AusNet Services. These solutions could be as simple as raising the height of the conductors to clear the significant vegetation. The Alpine Shire Council does not have one specific preference for any engineering solution.

(ii) Determining an additional distance that allows for cable sag and sway for the purposes of determining clearance space.

Incorporating r.9(4) and S.1(21).

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 20.

The number of spans affected is likely to be minimal as most spans are 45m or less.

AusNet Services have indicated that as part of the auditing process they will include any spans that may require additional allowance for sag and sway.

AusNet Services shall clearly identify what clearances shall be applied to those spans identified within the audit process. Council will, as part of the contractual agreement process provide the contractor adequate information to clearly identify and list all trees affected by the audit and that require additional clearance works. This information will be recorded against the tree asset in Council's Asset Management System. h

Unexpected conductor movement may occur under moderate wind, network faults or changes in conductor heating or cooling factors. Conductor movement of several metres may result in long span/s of electric lines.

Under the Alpine Shire Council contractual agreement, it is the Contractor's duty to ensure that trees are pruned to maintain the Clearance Space free of vegetation for the period of the program.

If required, The Alpine Shire Council will determine an additional distance for sag and sway in consultation with AusNet Services as the relevant Distribution Business in the declared area. There is no electric rail or tramway supply within the area.

The Distribution Company to be contacted for information is.

Distribution Business	AusNet Services
Name of contact:	Spencer Few
Position:	Environment, Health, Safety and OPR Liaison Officer – AusNet Services
Address:	8 Beaconsfield Avenue, Beaconsfield 3807
Office Telephone No.:	(03) 9238 6363
Email:	spencer.few@ausnetservices.com.au

Council will attend an annual meeting with AusNet Services in conjunction with the commencement of the powerline's clearance program.

9. PROCEDURES r.9(3)(j)

This section details 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.

Council introduced the Tree Management Plan in 2021-22 to guide the management of trees within the urban areas of the shire.

Council engages external contractors to undertake all pruning of trees within the declared area of Myrtleford in accordance with Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020.

Under the Alpine Shire Council contractual agreement, it is the Contractor's duty to prune all trees as far as practicable in accordance with AS4373. In this instance 'as far as practicable' means that which is, or was at a particular time, reasonably able to be done to ensure that the trees health, safety and amenity are not compromised.

All contractors engaged to prune trees in the vicinity of overhead powerlines are appropriately trained and qualified.

Trees that the Contractor considers cannot be successfully pruned as outlined above will be brought to the attention of the Alpine Shire Council's Coordinator Open Spaces.

The Open Spaces Coordinator or delegate will inspect the tree and if it is determined that the tree cannot be pruned in accordance with AS4373, Council will investigate and implement an alternative method to ensure compliance.

10. ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISMS

r.9(3)(k)

This section describes each alternative compliance mechanism which the responsible person has applied, or proposes to apply, for approval under clause 31 of the Code to use an alternative compliance mechanism in respect of a span or class of spans of electric lines.

If the tree cannot be successfully pruned in accordance with AS 4373 then the Open Spaces Coordinator will instruct the electrical service provider that the tree cannot be pruned in accordance with AS 4373 and works shall be undertaken on the tree/s to meet the minimum clearance standard.

11. APPROVALS FOR ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISMS r.9(3)(I)

This section details each approval for an alternative compliance mechanism that:

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

If the tree/s cannot be successfully pruned in accordance with AS 4373 then the Open Spaces Coordinator will instruct the electrical service provider that the tree cannot be pruned in accordance with AS 4373 and works shall not be undertaken on the tree/s to meet the minimum clearance standard.

The Open Spaces Coordinator will (prior to issuing that directive) inform in writing to the Manager Asset Maintenance that the tree/s cannot be successfully pruned in accordance with AS 4373 and that pruning will be undertaken to meet minimum clearance standards.

The Open Spaces Coordinator will upon receiving the approval from the Manager Asset Maintenance inform adjacent private residents within close proximity of the tree/s that appropriate pruning standards cannot be undertaken on these trees to meet minimum clearance standards.

The Open Spaces Coordinator will form a decision on the long-term strategy of removing and replacing individual tree/s to maintain streetscape amenity should pruning standards fail to be achieved over a 3-year period.

Where pruning to the Standards would result in;

- A safety risk to the workers performing vegetation clearance;
- A breach in the safe approach distances;
- Potential safety risk to the public; -
- Minimal mitigation of fire risk; or
- Unacceptable damage to the amenity and structural integrity of the tree;

Alternative methods to assist in complying with AS4373 may need to be considered. Both short- and long-term solutions are investigated when an alternative is required;

Short-term: - Request for assistance from AusNet Services, including,

- a suppression,
- shut-down or
- live- linesmen to complete clearance;

- Submitting an exemption application for specific locations;
- Increased inspection and pruning cycles;
- Tree removal and replacement with a more suitable alternative;
- Tree removal with no replacement.

Long-term:

Installation of Aerial Bundle Cabling (ABC);

Request for alternative cross-arm configurations;

Underground cabling.

Where alternative methods are to be implemented, including tree removal, notification will be provided to any affected persons no less than 14 business days prior to works except when emergency works are deemed necessary.

Tree workers shall only undertake activities for which they have been trained, assessed and deemed competent to enable them to perform safely. They should comply with the minimum qualifications as outlined in Section 14 r 9.3.(o) and hold appropriate certificates for both themselves and their equipment that legally entitles them to undertake the work.

Part of the training will include an awareness of the appropriate AS4373 Standards and applies to external contractors engaged in vegetation clearances. Additionally, it has been recognised that the development of a tree induction for all contractors working in the vicinity of trees should be completed to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities.

Identification of contractor qualifications is presently undertaken as part of the contractor engagement process, it is expected that a high level of understanding of AS4373 is part of the selection criteria.

Only equipment, tools and personal protective equipment (PPE) that has been deemed appropriate for vegetation clearance of power lines shall be used. Energy Safe Victoria's document, Electrical Safety Rules for Vegetation Management Work Near Overhead Power lines by Non-Electrical Workers has been used to provide guidance.

Council uses the 'Hierarchy of Control' (Appendix 5) to assist in selecting the appropriate plant and equipment for all purposes, including vegetation clearance of electric lines.

12. PERFORMANCE MEASURES r.9(3)(m)

This section describes the measures that must be used to assess the performance of the responsible person under the management plan.

Council's responsible person has defined Key Performance Indicators to assist in measuring the implementation of the Plan:

- Preparation of the Electric Line Clearance Management Plan prior to the June 30 of each year;
- Completion of the Proactive Pruning Program as per schedule;
- A minimum 95% compliance for electric line clearance;
- A minimum 90% compliance in annual HV audits for electric line clearance;
- A minimum 100% compliance in HBRA zone before the annual fire season declaration date;
- 100% of non-compliance rectified within 14 business days of notification;
- Less than 20 requests for electric line clearance received from the public or AusNet Services each month;
- Less than 10 requests for emergency clearances received from AusNet Services annually;
- < 20 complaints from property owners associated with the line clearance pruning program
- 100% of tree removals are undertaken in accordance with processes in Council's Tree Management Plan 2021-22;
- No fires identified as having started as a result of tree branches/foliage contacting wires; and
- No vegetation caused outages as reported by AusNet Services.

Key Performance Indicators are monitored via:

- Mapping the inspection and pruning program against the zone maintenance progress;
- Post works auditing;
- Customer feedback and levels of customer requests relating to powerlines; and
- Compliance and outage results from AusNet Services (when supplied).

Results are reported via:

- Internal team meetings; and
- Contract meetings.

Reporting of Key Performance Indicators is used to aid in:

- Issuing of reworks where required;
- Development of procedures and processes;
- Review and development of pruning programs and Contract Specification; and
- Selection of suitable tree species for planting near powerlines.

13. AUDIT PROCESS r.9(3)(n)

This section details the audit processes that must be used to determine the responsible person's compliance with the Code.

13.1 PROCEDURE TO AUDIT ELECTRIC LINES CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

Alpine Shire Council initiates a third-party contract that includes the annual pruning for electric lines clearance.

The annual pruning program usually occurs on receipt of Non complying information from AusNet Services in or around May each calendar year and specifies which trees within the declared area of Myrtleford require attention to address breaches of the minimum clearance zone in accordance with the Code.

On receipt of that information (Excel spreadsheet) Council commences a Request For Quote (RFQ) process to engage a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to undertake pruning work associated with breaches of the Code and as per the audit list provided by AusNet Services.

The tender process usually occurs through the June / July period with a contractor engaged to undertake the works by September/October each calendar year.

Once the contractor has completed the works Councils nominated officer (Tree Crew Team Leader) will commence an audit of the work undertaken, with any noncompliance works reissued back to the contractor to complete prior to informing AusNet Services that the program has been completed.

13.2 PROCEDURE TO AUDIT COMPLIANCE AND QUALITY

An audit is conducted by AusNet Services on receipt of Alpine Shire Council notifying AusNet Services that line clearance pruning has been completed and has met the requirements of the Electricity Safety Act 1998, Councils Line Clearance Pruning Program contract specifications, AS 4373-2007 Amenity Tree Pruning and the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2020 .

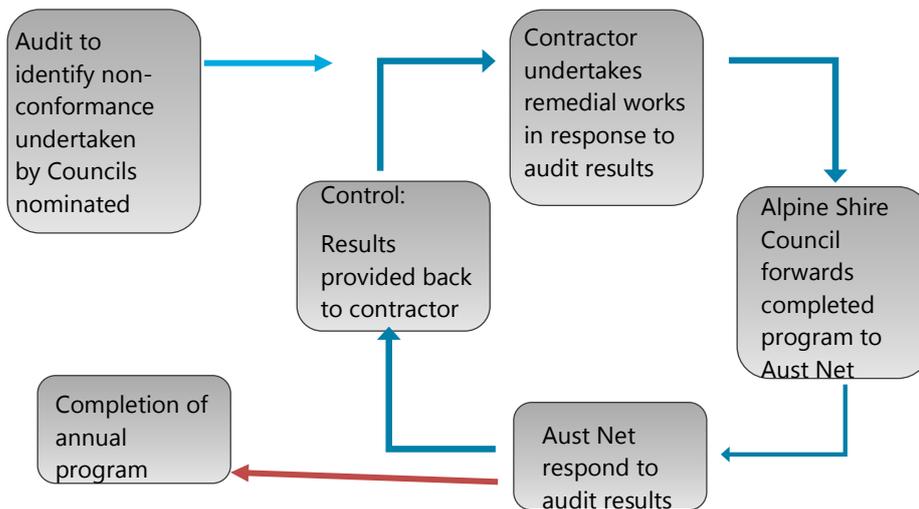
An audit of all works undertaken by contractors acting on Council's behalf shall be undertaken by Councils nominated officer (Tree Crew Team Leader) at least once during the pruning program.

This audit shall include but not limited to the following areas related to compliance to the code

- Only approved and qualified contractors are on the work site and can show appropriate tickets if requested;

- Work site management systems and processes clearly articulated whilst pruning works are occurring; and
- Appropriate Safe Work Method Statements (SWM's) can be provided when requested

A process has been established to investigate, address and prevent deviations from, or breaches in the standards of Services provided by the Contractor acting on Councils behalf.



Details of all corrective actions shall be recorded on a corrective action report, the minimum requirements of which shall include:

- the date of the Non-Conformance;
- a brief description of the Non-Conformance; (Refer to AusNet Services data set)
- the immediate action taken by the Contractor to rectify the Non-Conformance;
- the corrective action to be undertaken by the Contractor to prevent recurrence of the Non-Conformance; and
- the date by which the Contractor will complete the corrective action.

13.3 AUDITABLE QUALITY STANDARDS OF WORK

The contractor will be audited against the following quality standards of work.

13.3.1 Statutory Clearance of Vegetation

100 % compliance

All trees pruned must comply with the requirements as stipulated in Council contract specifications and the Electricity Safety (Electrical Line Clearance) Regulations 2020.

Council's objective is to achieve a minimum twelve (12) month cycle. If the extent of pruning to achieve this will result in the aesthetics of the tree being

dramatically altered, or the tree permanently damaged, the contractor must notify Council's responsible officer prior to any pruning works occurring upon the tree. Council's Tree Crew Team Leader will conduct a site inspection and make the final decision regarding pruning requirements or determine if tree removal is required.

Failure to follow this instruction will result in a non-conformance being issued.

13.3.2 Local Outcomes and Requirements

100 % compliance

No branches that have been pruned are to be left in the tree's canopy.

All trees listed for works as part of AusNet Services audit must be pruned. Any tree claimed but not actually pruned will result in a non-conformance being issued to the contractor.

Failure to follow this instruction will result in a non-conformance being issued.

13.3.3 Pruning Techniques

85% compliance - A minimum of 85% compliance with AS 4373-2007 Amenity Tree Pruning and best modern arboriculture practices on each tree pruned.

Failure to follow this instruction will result in a non-conformance being issued.

13.3.4 Site Condition

95 % compliance - The Contractor shall leave each work site in a clean and tidy condition and also in a condition which is safe for pedestrians and road users.

Failure to follow this instruction will result in a Corrective Action being issued.

If 5% of the total works is exceeded with Corrective Actions, they will be upgraded to Non-Conformances.

13.3.5 Quality Assurance Program

The Electrical Line Clearance Pruning contract will be monitored under the contractual terms and conditions and discussed and documented at the contractor's review meeting held at least three times during the pruning program.

All non-conformances and service above expectation will be documented and both parties will keep copies. Council will ensure the records are appropriately filed on Council's document management system.

13.3.6 Auditing of Contractors

Records of the qualifications and training of all contractors undertaking pruning of vegetation in proximity to overhead electrical conductors form part of the Electrical Line Clearance Pruning Program contract and are maintained in Council's document management system.

Council's Open Spaces Coordinator or delegate is responsible for undertaking random audits of contractors engaged to undertake vegetation clearance of electrical conductors. The audit assesses a number of criteria including the pruning works to confirm compliance with AS 4373 and the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020.

In the event of a non-compliance with the Code, Council will ensure compliance is achieved as soon as possible.

13.3.7 Record keeping

All records will be kept by the Open Spaces Coordinator. The contractor will keep all records in accordance with the terms and conditions clearly set out in the contractual agreement.

Further, the Open Spaces Coordinator will ensure all records are maintained in Council's document management system.

14. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE r.9(3)(0)

This section details the qualifications and experience that the responsible person must require of the persons who are to carry out the cutting or removal of trees.

When staff and contractors are undertaking electric line clearance works for the Alpine Shire Council they are working as qualified persons as per section 614-617 of the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2020 and the associated requirements for personnel when undertaking ELC program works.

The Alpine Shire Council will ensure that all staff and contractors working as qualified persons will conform to:

- Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2020,
- Australian Standard AS4373-2007 – Pruning of Amenity Trees,
- The “Blue Book”, and
- Any organisational procedures, safe work method statements and Job Safety Assessments to ensure the work can be completed safely.

The Alpine Shire Council will ensure that all staff and contractors:

- are trained both initially and when refresher courses are required by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO)
- performing tree pruning and removal works around electric lines are suitably qualified and trained personnel who hold the following qualifications:
- Arborist / Grounds Person
 - Certificate II - ESI in Powerline Vegetation Control (must include modules – UETTDRC25A Use elevated platform to cut vegetation above ground level near live electrical apparatus AND UETTDRC33A Apply pruning techniques to vegetation control near live electrical apparatus), and
 - Minimum Certificate III Horticulture / Arboriculture.
- Arboriculture Inspector
 - Minimum Certificate IV Horticulture / Arboriculture, including the nationally accredited ‘Assess’ and ‘Identify’ modules, and
 - 3 years industry experience.

The Certificate III Horticulture/Arboriculture and Certificate II ESI cover many aspects of required training such as Chainsaw use, OH&S principles, First Aid, pruning techniques and High-Risk licences. Additional staff may be required to hold training in:

- Traffic management,
- Chipper operation/induction,
- Chemical application (A.C.U.P or similar), or

- Tree Climbing

All contractors are required to provide evidence of appropriate qualifications and training as part of the Request for Quote contractual process and sited by the authorised officer prior to the commencement of work and report on updates to training via monthly and annual reports. All records are stored in Council's document management system.

To ensure staff are aware of site and employee requirements new staff and contractors are subject to both internal and external induction processes and specific task related site safety assessments.

Any staff or contractor found on site without appropriate qualifications, training or experience to be excluded from the site immediately

As part of the preparation for the Plan, Council will consult with all relevant bodies and standards to ensure all organisational procedures are current.

15. NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION r.9(3)(p)

This section details the notification and consultation of tree cutting or removal to affected persons. This section includes Schedules 15, 16, 17 & 18 and the form of notice required in accordance with Division 3 of Part 2 of the Code.

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

Responsible person must provide notification before cutting or removing certain trees

Clause 15 is not applicable as the Alpine Shire Council does not undertake works on trees:

- within private property
- on land that is managed by a Council that is not the responsible person, or
- that affect an owner or occupiers use of private property

Responsible person must provide notification before cutting or removing certain trees

Council will provide notification to persons affected by electrical line clearance works at least 14 days, and no more than 60 days, before the intended pruning or removal is to occur.

If pruning does not commence within these timeframes, then affected residents will be re-notified. Notification methods will include:

- A written notice in the Public Notices section of a weekly local newspaper. This provides a broad overview on planned pruning throughout the municipality and directs residents to Council's Customer Service for further information, (Appendix 7 – Sample of Public Notification); and
- The Public Notices section of Council's website.

Responsible person must consult with occupier or owner of private property before cutting or removing certain trees

Clause 17 is not applicable as the Alpine Shire Council does not undertake works on trees within private property.

Notification and record keeping requirements for urgent cutting or removal

Clause 18 is not applicable as Alpine Shire Council does not undertake works on trees within private property or land belonging to adjacent Councils.

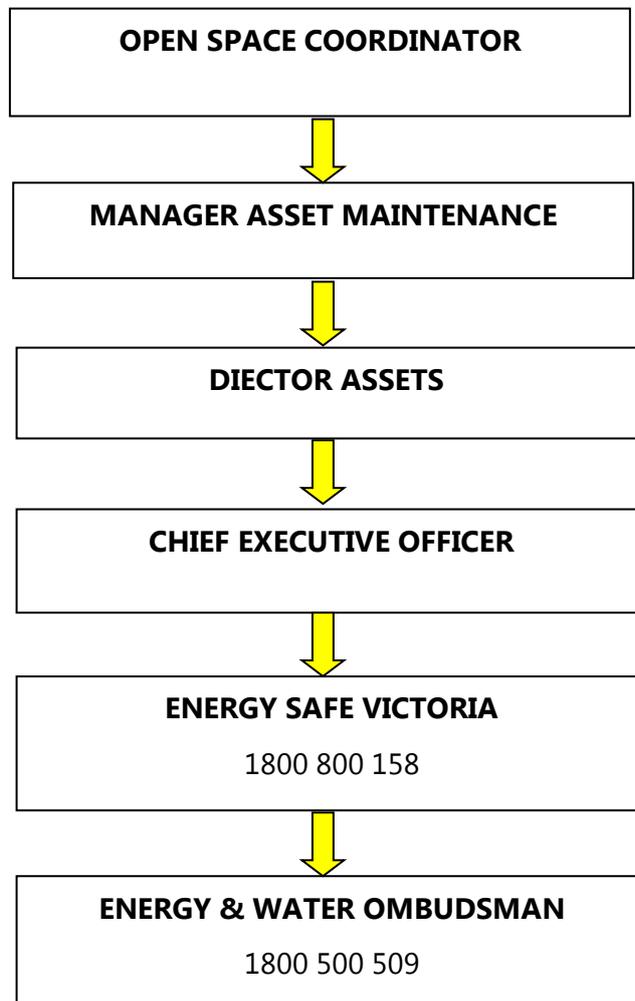
16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE r.9(3)(q)

Alpine Shire Council has an established process for managing disputes related to electric lines clearance.

All enquiries received by Council are recorded on Council’s Customer Request Management systems (CRM). Each enquiry has a unique identification number that is monitored electronically until the enquiry is resolved. If initially a customer is not satisfied, a clear, hierarchal process is followed.

There will be times when the Alpine Shire Council cannot appease the person lodging an enquiry. When internal processes have been exhausted, Council will direct the person to the responsible person at Energy Safe Victoria, or in some cases to the State Energy and Water Ombudsman. (Refer to Figure 2).

Figure 2 Dispute Resolution Process Flow Chart



17. Obligations relating to Management Plan r10

(7) A responsible person must ensure that a copy of the management plan is:

(a) published on the responsible person's Internet site

A copy of the Alpine Shire Council Electric Line Clearance Management Plan will be published on Council's website

<https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/residents/trees-and-open-spaces>

The Open Spaces Coordinator will ensure the Plan will be updated on the website each year as per the following process:

- Draft of the new plan completed by June 30;
- Draft sent to Manager Asset Services for review;
- Amendments made as required;
- Send amended plan to Director Assets for approval prior ; and
- After plan is approved, liaise with Communications Officer to remove superseded Plan and publish new Plan to website and Council Offices by 30 June.

(b) Available for inspection at the responsible person's principal office in the State during normal business hours

A copy of the Alpine Shire Council Electric Line Clearance Management Plan will be available for viewing by the public at the Council Offices at 2 Churchill Avenue, Bright, between the hours of 8.30am – 5pm.

To ensure that the most up to date copy is available, the following controls are put in place.

- After approval to publish the plan is given, all existing hard copies are destroyed; and
- A hard copy of the new plan is then created and lodged with Customer Service.

18. CLEARANCE SPACE FOR ELECTRIC LINES s.1(3)

18.1 CREATING AND MAINTAINING THE REQUIRED CLEARANCE

S.1(3) (1)

The Alpine Shire Council has described the process that is used to maintain clearance space around electric lines within the declared area in section 8 r.9(3)(i).

18.2 EXCEPTIONS TO MINIMUM CLEARANCE SPACE S.1(3) (2)

The Alpine Shire Council does not intend to manage exceptions to the minimum clearance space.

19. HAZARD TREES s.1(8)

This section describes how the responsible person addresses hazard trees.

The Alpine Shire Council will cut or remove trees, or parts of trees that have been assessed as likely to fall onto or otherwise come into contact with an electric line given foreseeable local conditions.

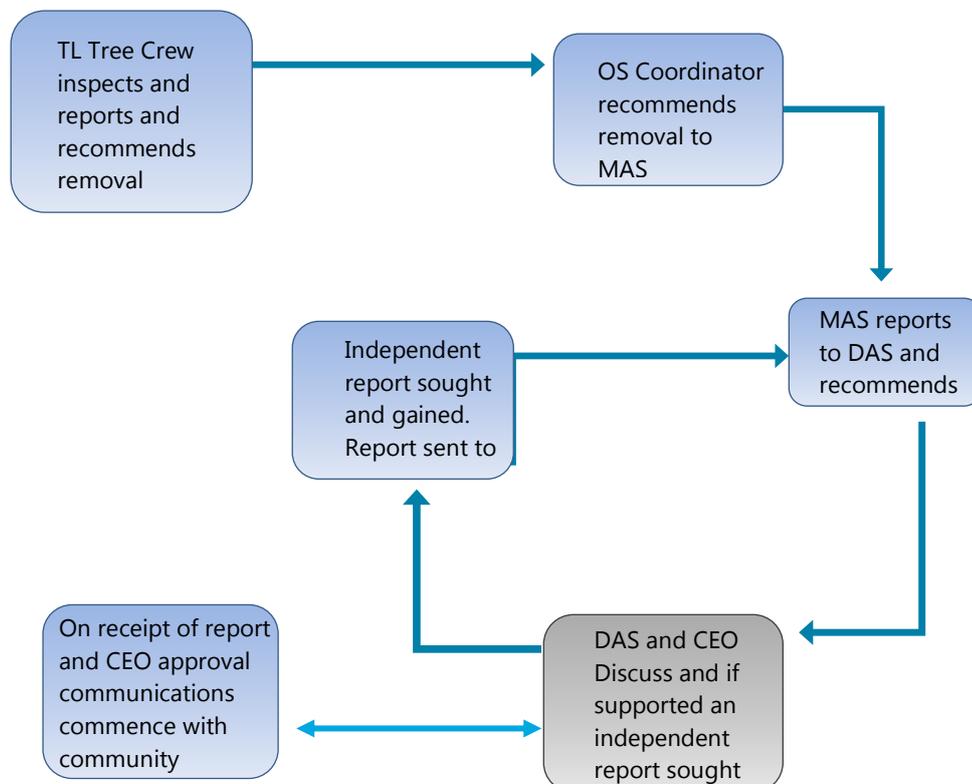
19.1 ASSESSMENT BY A QUALIFIED ARBORIST S.1(8)(2)

All assessments will be undertaken by a suitably qualified AHC10 Level 5 arborist with a minimum three (3) years of field experience assessing trees.

The identification and removal of structurally unsound or inappropriate trees threatening electric lines will be determined by the Alpine Shire Council’s Open Spaces Coordinator or a qualified Arborist engaged by the Council to undertake electric lines audits.

On receipt of a report from the Team Leader Tree Crew the Open Space Coordinator will present to the Manager Asset Maintenance a recommendation in support of the removal of a tree that may be considered a hazardous tree.

The approvals process is as follows



19.2 ASSESSED WITH REGARD TO LOCAL CONDITIONS

S.1(8)(2)(A)

When assessing the vegetation, the assessor will consider local conditions including weather, bushfire areas, significant vegetation, protected flora and fauna and habitat as detailed in this plan.

19.3 ASSESSED LIKELIHOOD OF CONTACT S.1(8)(2)(B)

When assessing the vegetation, the assessor will refer to the tables defined in the section known as the 'Schedule to the Code' tables of the Electricity Safety Regulations 2020 (Vic). The assessor must calculate and take into account the distance between each power pole, as well as the sag and sway of the electrical conductors.

The assessor will assess all trees on both sides of each street and behind termination poles and where necessary, action all trees to overcome any identified tree problems or structural issues which are classified as a hazard tree within the inspection cycle.

The assessor will also ensure that any cables, stays and other structures attached to the powerlines are included in the assessment and that vegetation interfering with these assets is actioned accordingly.

Trees in proximity to electrical lines that have been assessed as being dead or dangerous will be programmed for removal regardless of their status.

Trees, or parts of trees deemed likely to fall onto or otherwise come into contact with an electric line given foreseeable local conditions are programmed for removal or pruning as required.

20. CUTTING OF TREES TO COMPLY WITH STANDARD s.1(9)

The manner of cutting trees to comply with standard AS 4373 is detailed in section 9.
r.9(3)(j).

21. CUTTING OR REMOVAL OF SPECIFIED TREES

s.1(10)

It is the Alpine Shire Council's vision to minimise any tree pruning works within the vicinity of overhead powerlines. The strategies used to achieve this may include:

- undergrounding of electric lines;
- alternative siting of electric lines (relocation);
- installation of Aerial Bundled Conductors (ABC);
- appropriate tree species selection; and
- improved tree pruning techniques.

The Alpine Shire Council respects the preservation of native trees and trees of ecological, historical, aesthetic, cultural or environmental significance. Where a tree that is identified as significant is identified as requiring pruning or removal, the tree will be assessed by a suitably qualified arborist.

If a Council employee or contractor identifies a tree as likely to fall onto or otherwise come into contact with an electric line or has regrowth that will enter the clearance space before the next scheduled visit the tree may be pruned or removed provided that:

- The tree has been assessed by a suitably qualified arborist who must consider:
 - the likelihood of contact with electric line;
 - tree health, defects, size of failure, target potential;
 - Whether the tree qualifies for an exception to the minimum clearance space as per Clause 4, 5 and 6 of the Code;
 - local environmental and safety factors, as per current Job Safety Analysis requirements;
 - history and significance of the tree; and
 - the presence of habitat or fauna.
- the tree has been assessed and approved for removal through the Alpine Shire Council's Tree Management Plan 2021-22;
- the assessment is recorded on the tree data base;
- affected persons are notified as per Council's adopted practice.

As the asset owner of the trees covered under this plan, the Alpine Shire Council reserves the right to prune further than one (1) metre from the minimum clearance space or remove hazard trees where they cannot be made safe or be retained as useful assets.

22. HABITAT TREES s.1(11)

This section describes the management of habitat trees with regard to cutting or removal for electric lines clearance.

22.1 TIMING OF WORKS S.1(11) (1)

The Alpine Shire Council respects the preservation of Habitat trees. Where a tree that is habitat to fauna that is listed as threatened in accordance with section 10 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, or listed in the Threatened Invertebrate Fauna List with a conservation status in Victoria of vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered requires pruning or removal, works will be undertaken outside the breeding season for that species where practicable.

If a tree that is identified as a habitat tree is deemed to be a High or Medium Risk, Council will look for a long-term solution to ensure retention of the tree. This could include an engineering solution to minimise future pruning to the tree.

22.2 TRANSLOCATION OF FAUNA S.1(11) (2)

If it is not practicable to undertake cutting or removal outside of the breeding season, translocation of fauna will be investigated. Although it is not Council's preferred option, in some instances fauna may be required to be relocated. This option will be used following investigation of all other options.

If required, a qualified and experienced ecologist/wildlife specialist will be engaged to ensure safe relocation.

As per regulation 9(3)(iii) of the Plan, Council is not currently aware of any threatened fauna which may be affected by the implementation of this plan. Should threatened fauna be identified, the following process shall be followed:

- Location of threatened fauna and associated habitat mapped, and tree maintenance and inspection teams notified;
- Tree assessment conducted by a suitably qualified arborist and results recorded in tree data base. The assessment:
 - considers tree health, structure and potential risk;
 - considers the history, location and foreseeable local conditions; and
 - aims to identify if the fauna using the tree is a threatened species.
- Once identified, the breeding season for the fauna using the tree will be determined. Resources such as Threatened plants and animals or State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams (SWIFFT) website may be used in the first instance;
- Specialist advice may be sought to identify fauna, determine breeding season if required or to relocate fauna;
- Assessment results and information regarding management of the fauna will be referred to the Open Spaces Coordinator for approval prior to commencing works;
- Where practicable, works will be undertaken outside the breeding season; or

- Relocation of the fauna can be considered to make safe an unsafe situation or if it is not practical, undertake works outside of the breeding season.

As part of the preparation for the Plan, Council will consult with all relevant bodies and standards to ensure all organisational procedures are current.

Updated information and maps will be provided to contractors as required.

23. RESTRICTION ON TIMING s.1(12)

Where Alpine Shire Council is required or has agreed to give notice under clauses 15(2) and 16(2) prior to tree work, Council will not commence cutting or removal:

- Prior to 14 days from notification; and
- After 60 days from notification.

24. URGENT PRUNING s.1(13)

Alpine Shire Council will conduct urgent cutting if required as a result of encroachment or growth that was not anticipated, a tree falling or becoming damaged, if the Arborist's inspection confirms the imminent likelihood of contact with an electric line or during the fire danger period.

Alpine Shire Council will engage a suitably qualified contractor for urgent pruning of trees under powerlines. No more than one (1) metre minimum clearance space around electric wires will be provided as part of any urgent tree pruning works.

Where urgent pruning is required, Council will not provide notice until after work is completed.

Council will record the details of the work conducted and maintain these records for a minimum period of five (5) years. Records will include:

- When and where the cutting was undertaken;
- Why the work was required; and
- The date of the last inspection.

Council will maintain a copy of all records on Council's document record system. Records can be accessed at Council's offices, 2 Churchill Avenue, Bright VIC 3741 if sought.

If the risk to complete the pruning work is outside the capabilities of Council's approved contractor, Council will contact either a private contractor with Live Linesman or AusNet Services to complete the pruning.

25. URGENT REMOVAL s.1(14)

Alpine Shire Council will conduct urgent removal if required as a result of encroachment or growth that was not anticipated, a tree falling or becoming damaged, if the Arborist's inspection confirms the imminent likelihood of contact with an electric line or during the fire danger period.

Alpine Shire Council will engage a suitably qualified contractor for urgent removal of trees under powerlines. No more than one (1) metre minimum clearance space around electric wires will be provided as part of any urgent tree removal works.

Where urgent removal is required, Council may consider notifying residents directly adjacent the tree that urgent work has to be undertaken on the tree which may mean removal. The Open Spaces Coordinator will make every attempt to contact the Manager Asset Maintenance that an urgent tree removal is to occur stating address, whether residents have been informed and who will be undertaking the urgent removal. Photo images of the tree/s in question shall form part of the notification process.

Council will record the details of the work conducted and maintain these records for a minimum period of five (5) years. Records will include:

- When and where the removal was undertaken;
- Why the work was required; and
- The date of the last inspection.

Council will maintain a copy of all records on Council's document record system. Records can be accessed at Council's offices, 2 Churchill Avenue, Bright VIC 3741

If the risk to complete the work is outside the capabilities of Council's approved contractor, Council will contact either a private contractor with Live Linesman or AusNet Services to complete the works.

26. ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF LOCAL COUNCILS s.1(20)

Where Council has any concerns about the safety of cutting or removal of a tree for which it has responsibility for, the Responsible Person will consult with AusNet Services as the distribution company responsible for distributing power within the Shire.

Consultation may include developing an appropriate action plan to mitigate the hazard and/or bring the tree into compliance with the Code. Council will engender cooperation with AusNet Services to achieve appropriate outcomes with regard to vegetation management and electricity supply.

Alpine Shire Council will report any issues relating to the powerlines that are observed by a Council employee or contractor who has an understanding of the regulation requirements. The responsible person will notify AusNet Services.

Name:	Spencer Few
Business Address:	8 Locked Bag 14090 Melbourne 8001
Business Hours Telephone No.	13 22 06
24 Hours	13 24 12
Website	www.AusNet_Services.com.au/contact-us/general-enquiry

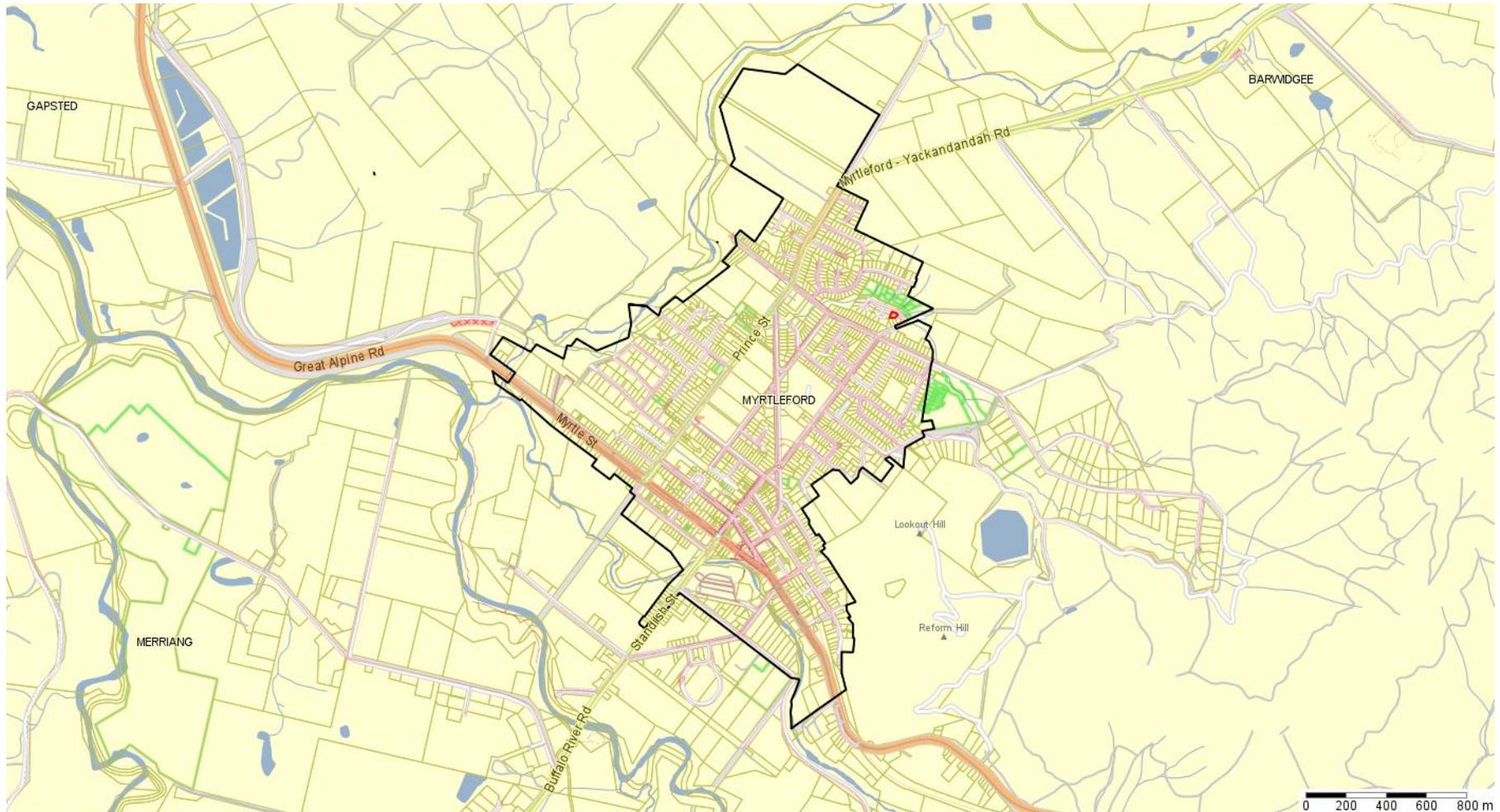
Approved by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 May 2022

 Type text here

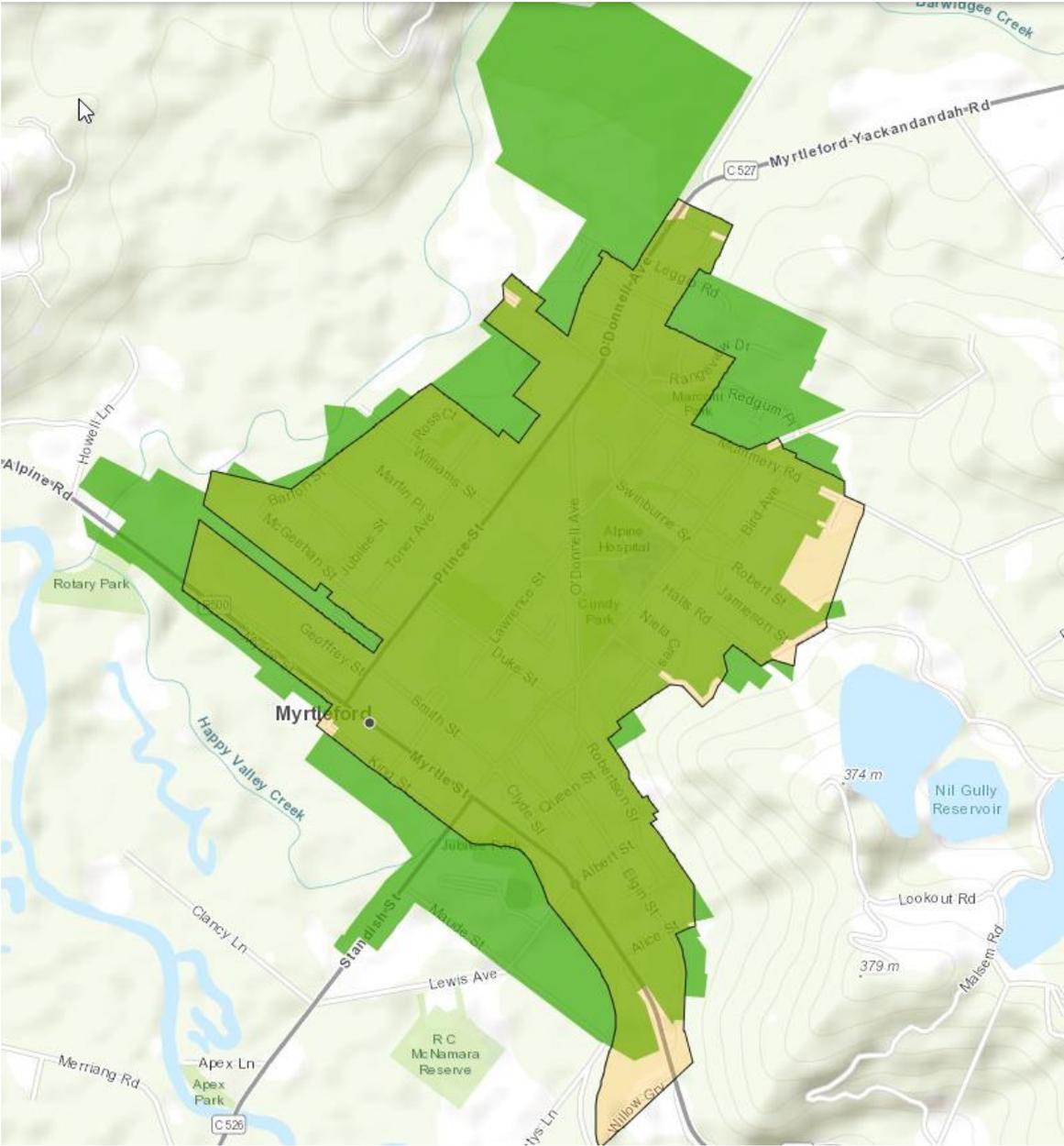
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

27. Appendices

A.1: THE DECLARED AREA OF MYRTLEFORD



A.2: THE DECLARED AREA OF MYRTLEFORD INCLUDING LBRA AND HBRA



Legend

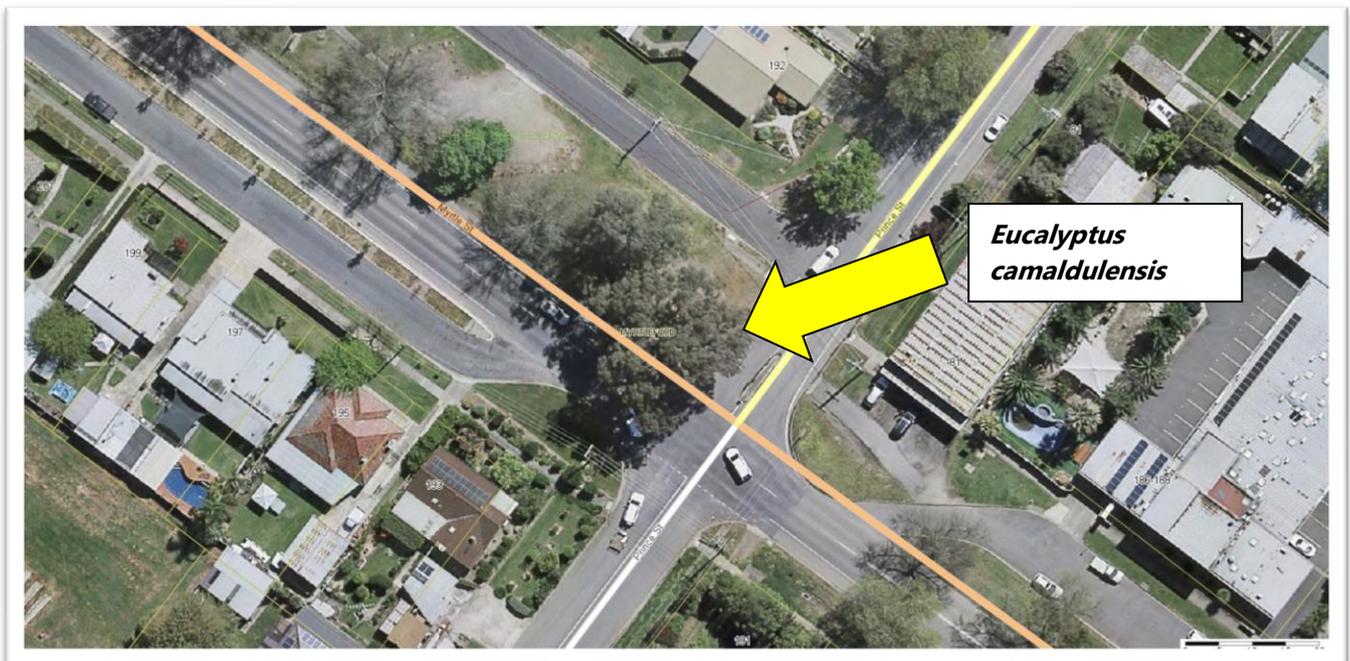
	LBRA within Council declared area
	HBRA with Council declared area

In consultation with the CFA Commander of District 2, Council's Fire Prevention Officer will provide annual confirmation of the HBRA/LBRA boundaries.

A.3: IMAGE 1 – THE BIG TREE



IMAGE 2



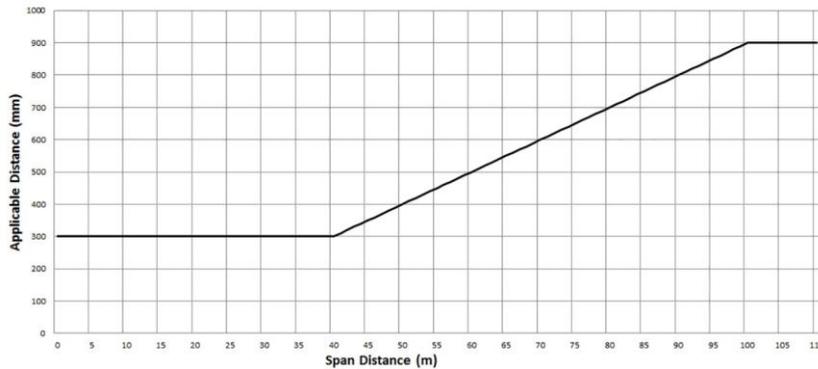
A.4: ELECTRICAL SAFETY (ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE) REGULATIONS 2020, S.R. NO 50/2020

A.5: SCHEDULE 2 – APPLICABLE DISTANCE FOR MIDDLE TWO THIRDS OF A SPAN OF AN ELECTRIC LINE.

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

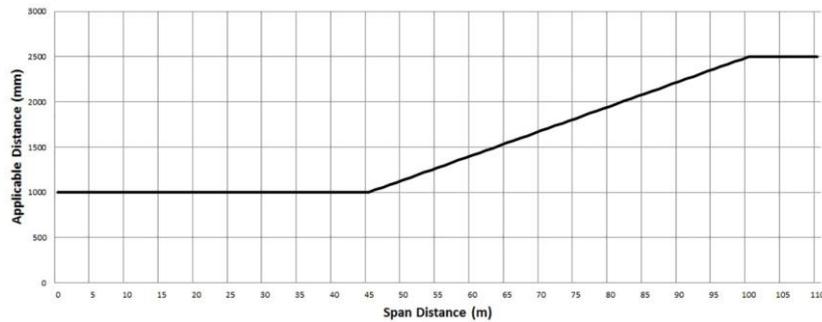
AD = Applicable Distance

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

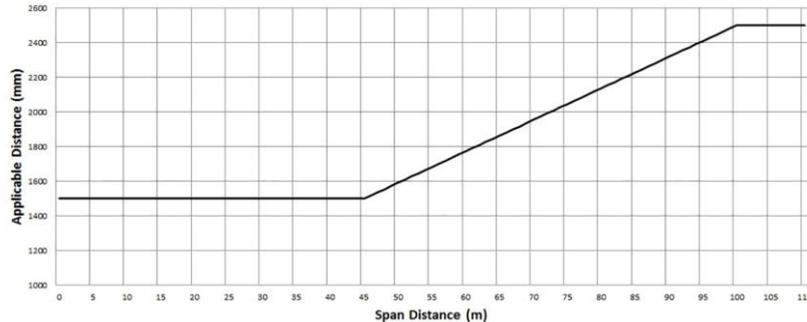
AD = Applicable Distance

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

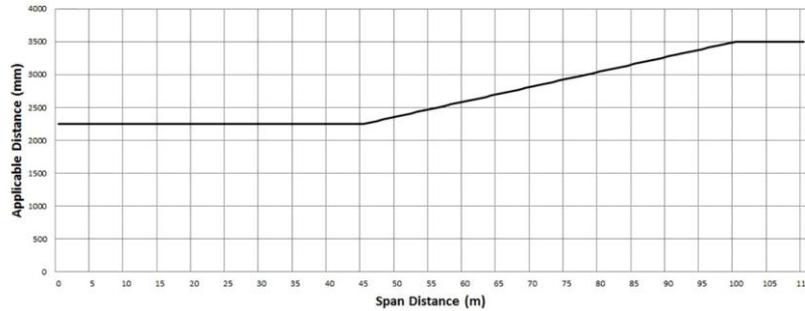
AD = Applicable Distance

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

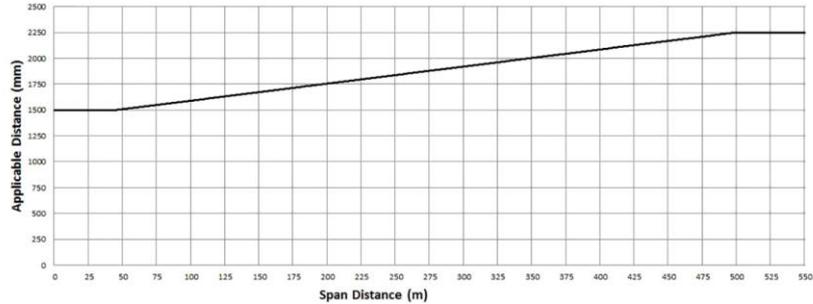
AD = Applicable Distance

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

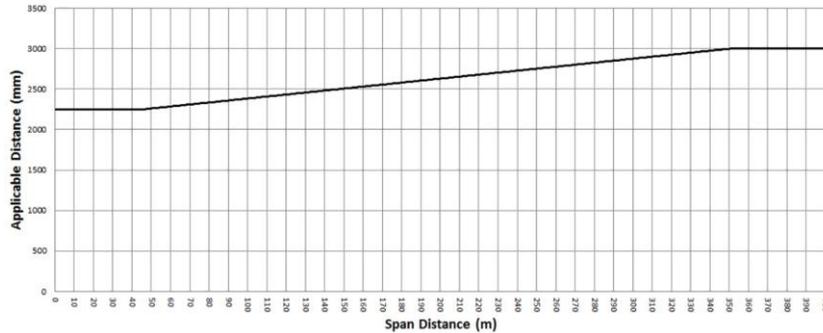
AD = Applicable Distance

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

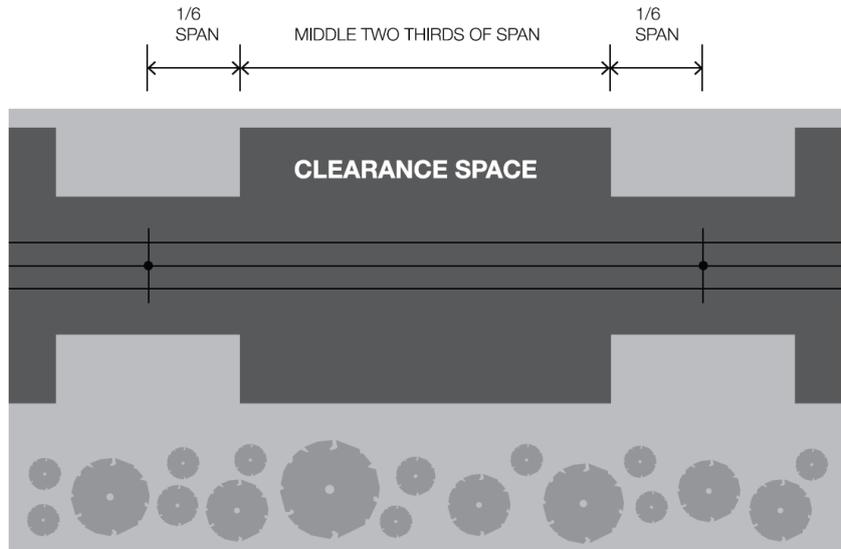
AD = Applicable Distance

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

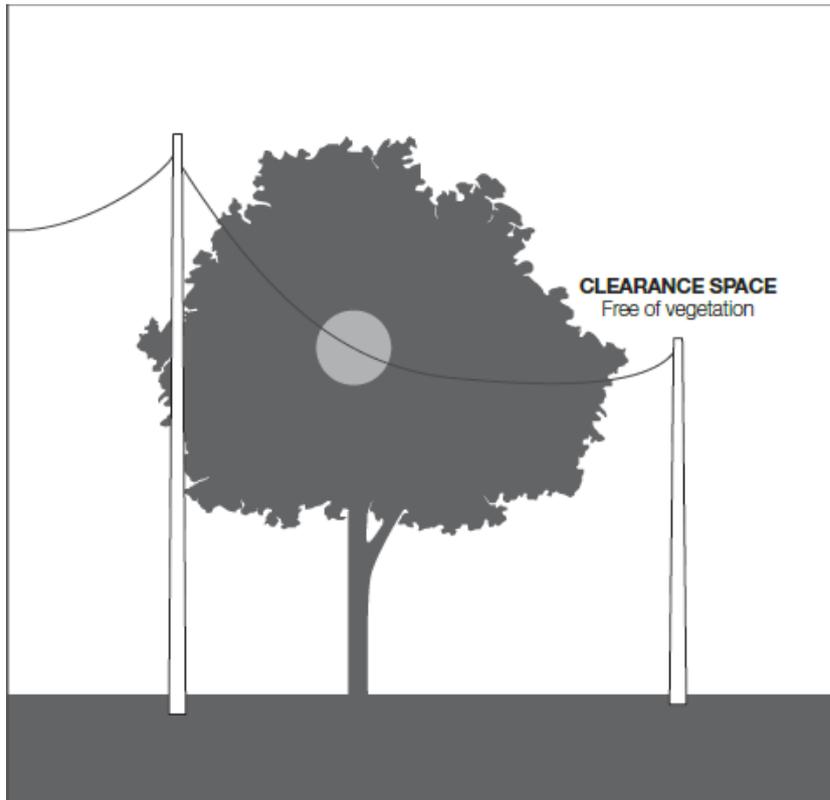
Clauses 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29,
Graphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6



NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2—INSULATED ELECTRIC LINES IN ALL AREAS

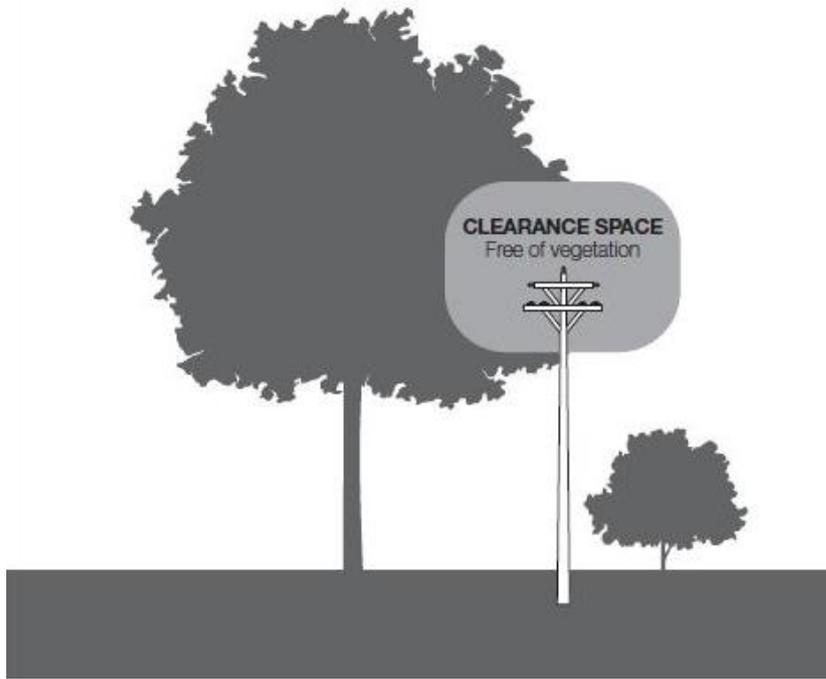
Clause 24, Graph 1



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

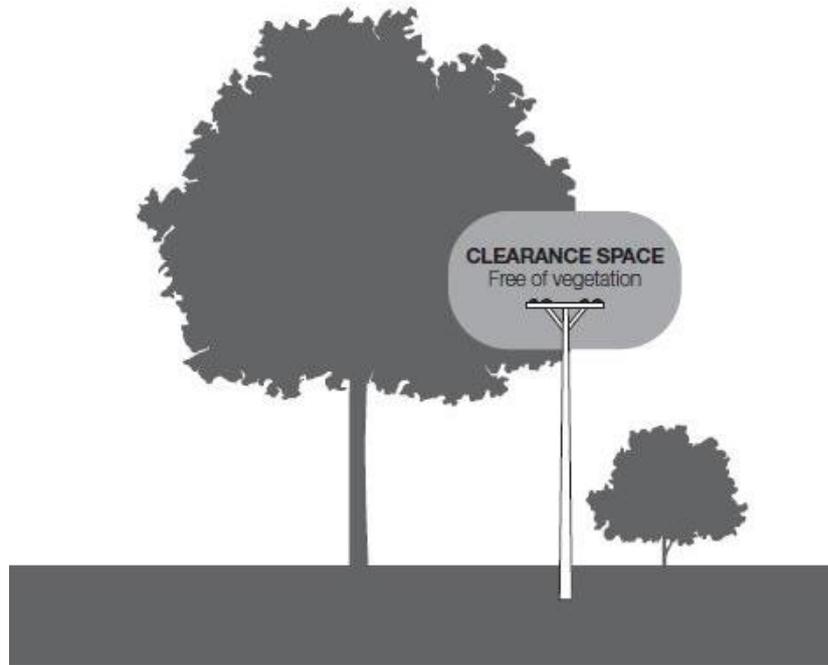
Clauses 24 and 26, Graphs 1 and 3



NOT TO SCALE

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

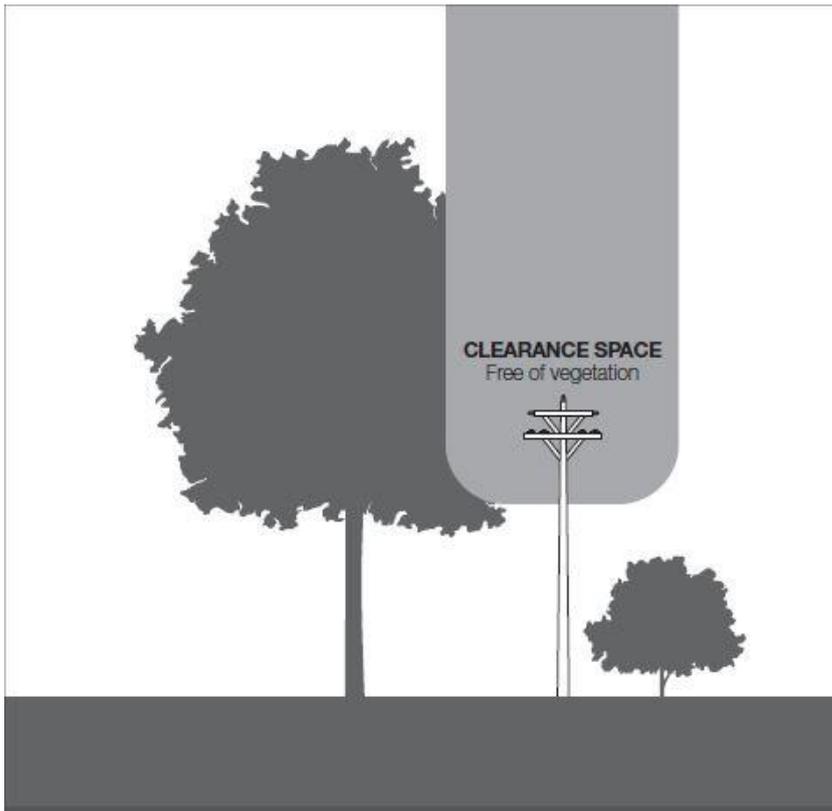
Clause 25, Graph 2



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



A.6: HIERARCHY OF CONTROL

Use the risk matrix to assess the inherent and residual risk level of the tasks in the risk assessment							
	LIKELIHOOD					RISK LEVEL	Required Action
IMPACT	Certain	Likely	Possible	Unlikely	Rare		
Catastrophic	E	E	H	H	M	E = Extreme	Act immediately: Do not start work - the task, process or activity must not proceed. Steps must be taken to lower the risk level to as low as reasonably practicable using the hierarchy of controls.
Major	E	H	H	M	M		
Moderate	H	H	M	M	L	H = High	Act today: The task, process or activity can only proceed if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk level has been reduced to as low as reasonably practicable using the hierarchy of controls. • The risk controls include those identified in legislation, Australian Standards, Codes of Practice etc. • A Safe Working Procedure or Instruction has been prepared. • The manager has reviewed and approved the risk controls. The manager must review and document the effectiveness of the implemented risk controls to further reduce the risk level.
Minor	H	M	M	L	L		
Insignificant	M	M	L	L	L		
LIKELIHOOD	<i>What is the probability that something will happen?</i>						
Certain	Expected to happen in most circumstances						
Likely	Will happen at some stage						
Possible	May happen at some stage						
Unlikely	Not expected to happen						
Rare	Only happen in exceptional circumstances						
IMPACT	<i>How severely could someone be affected?</i>						
Catastrophic	Death						
Major	Injury resulting in permanent disability						
Moderate	Injury requiring hospital treatment						
Minor	Injury requiring medical treatment						
						M = Medium	OK to start work: The task, process or activity can proceed if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk level has been reduced to as low as reasonably practicable using the hierarchy of controls. • A Safe Working Procedure or Instruction has been prepared. • The supervisor has reviewed and approved the risk controls.

Insignificant	Minor or no injury, first aid treatment	L = Low	OK to start work: Managed by documented procedures.
Hierarchy of controls			
Elimination	Eliminate or remove the risk in its entirety		
Substitution	Substitute a safer process or material for the hazardous process/material identified		
Isolation	Separate the hazard or hazardous work practice from employee's other work areas		
Modification	Design and/or add physical safety features to plant or equipment		
Administration	Establish or amend systems (policies, procedures etc) used in conjunction with other controls or as an interim control		
Personal protective equipment			

A.7: DEFINITIONS

hazardous bushfire risk area means—

- (a) an area that a fire control authority has assigned a fire hazard rating of "high" under section 80 of the Act; or
- (b) an area that—
 - (i) is not an urban area; and
 - (ii) has not been assigned a fire hazard rating of "low" under section 80 of the Act;

low bushfire risk area means—

- (a) an area that a fire control authority has assigned a fire hazard rating of "low" under section 80 of the Act;
- (b) an urban area;

powerline - means an electric line with a nominal voltage of 66 000 volts or less but does not include a transmission line;

sag (in relation to a cable) - means the vertical displacement of the cable below the point at which the cable is attached to the supporting structure and includes any additional displacement caused by hot weather or high load current;

span distance - means the distance between the points at which a span of an electric line is attached to the two adjacent supporting structures;

span of an electric line means the section of the electric line between two adjacent supporting structures;

sway (in relation to a cable) - means the horizontal displacement of the conductor caused by wind;

suitably qualified arborist - means an arborist who has—

- (a) the qualification of National Certificate Level IV in Horticulture and Arboriculture, including the "Assess Trees" module, or an equivalent qualification; and
- (b) at least 3 years of field experience in assessing trees;

A.8: SAMPLE OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION



For Immediate release

INSERT DATE

MEDIA RELEASE

Street tree pruning around powerlines to start soon

Tree pruning will commence in approximately two weeks to provide clearance around powerlines in Myrtleford, as part of Alpine Shire Council's ongoing street tree maintenance program. Tree pruning will continue for up to two months.

"The works will be undertaken by qualified contractors to achieve clearance around electrical lines to meet electric safety regulations," said Michael Buckley, Manager Asset Maintenance, Alpine Shire Council.

The regulations set out the minimum clearances required between powerlines and trees to reduce the risk of fire, blackouts and power surges.

"We'll be aiming to retain the shape and character of the trees and general streetscape as much as possible. Council will not prune trees on private property," said Mr Buckley.

Council has responsibility for maintaining vegetation that may interfere with powerlines on road reserves in the Declared Area of Myrtleford.

The local energy distributor AusNet Services is responsible for maintaining the trees on road reserves outside the boundary, including areas such as Merriang, Merriang South. AusNet Services also has the authority to prune trees on private property in order to maintain clearance lines.

The Country Fire Authority offers an online vegetation clearing tool to determine if you need a permit to clear trees, branches and other vegetation from around your home. If you would like more information visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

For more information about the pruning program, contact Council on 03 5755 0581

Ends...

Media enquiries:

Ebony Buckley
Communications Officer
Alpine Shire Council
Tel: 03 5755 0581
Email: ebonyb@alpineshire.vic.gov.au