



Private Electric Lines

Understanding our
shared responsibilities



CitiPower and Powercor: your electricity distributors

Who we are and what we do

CitiPower and Powercor are the most efficient and reliable urban and rural electricity distribution networks in Victoria. We are two of Victoria's five privately owned electricity distributors, owning and managing the 'poles and wires' that deliver electricity to millions of homes and businesses in Victoria.

As a responsible electricity distributor, CitiPower and Powercor invests millions of dollars in an ongoing program of bushfire risk management initiatives that help reduce bushfire risk across Central and Western Victoria to help create a safer environment for local communities.

Our key areas of focus are managing any vegetation around powerlines, extensive asset inspection and maintenance programs and also helping customers manage any privately-owned electric lines. Private electric lines that aren't inspected and properly maintained can result in a serious bushfire or safety hazard.

This brochure outlines your responsibilities as a landowner with a Private Electric Line (PEL) and our responsibilities as your electricity distributor.

Private Electric Lines

A Shared Responsibility

Bushfires impact the things we care about – our communities, our homes, our businesses, liveability and our environment.

While it is not possible to completely eradicate bushfires, by working together to reduce the factors that contribute to bushfire risk, we can limit the instances of bushfire starts.

Our responsibilities as your distributor

We will inspect your PEL up to the first switchboard at least once every three years in hazardous bushfire risk areas (HBRA) and at least once every five years in low bushfire risk areas (LBRA) to ensure it meets the standards required under the Electricity Safety Act 1998 (the Act). If we discover a dangerous situation during inspection, we may have to disconnect your electricity supply without any prior notice.

If your line does not meet the standards required, we are obliged to inform you of any defects identified and issue a Defect Notice in writing.

In addition, we have the right to disconnect defective PELs from the supply mains for safety reasons on Total Fire Ban days and other conditions deemed highly dangerous. A disconnection and reconnection fee may be charged.

Your responsibilities as a property owner

It is your responsibility to ensure that all electrical assets on your property, including private power poles, power lines and pole-top fittings are properly maintained and do not pose a bushfire or safety risk.

If you receive a Defect Notice, you will need to engage a Registered Electrical Contractor (REC) to repair any non-vegetation related defects. The REC must issue a Certificate of Electrical Safety (CES), as a guarantee that the repairs meet the safety standards specified in the Act. You will need to repair any defects identified within the deadline specified in the Defect Notice.

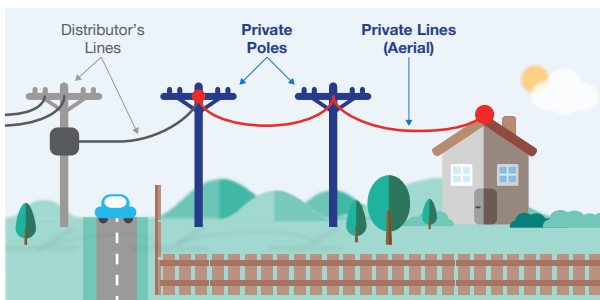
Vegetation related defects can be rectified by a tree services professional and you must notify us in writing when all identified defects have been rectified.



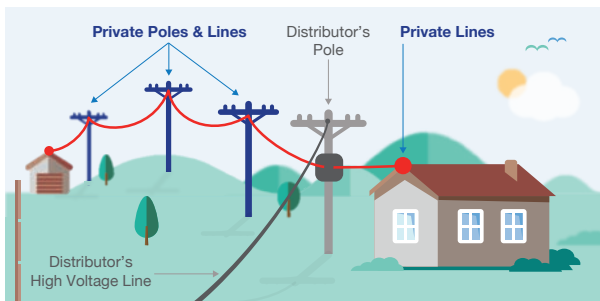
Where your line begins

We have included common examples to help you identify your private electric lines. This list is by no means exhaustive but if you are at all unsure, please call us at 13 22 06.

The poles marked blue and wires marked red are your responsibility.



This example shows our pole on a public roadway carrying supply onto your property by private poles and electric lines. The lines, poles and hardware on the poles are your responsibility.



This example shows our pole on your property carrying supply onto your property by private poles and electric lines. The distribution pole is our responsibility while the private poles and electric lines are your responsibility.

Check for hazards

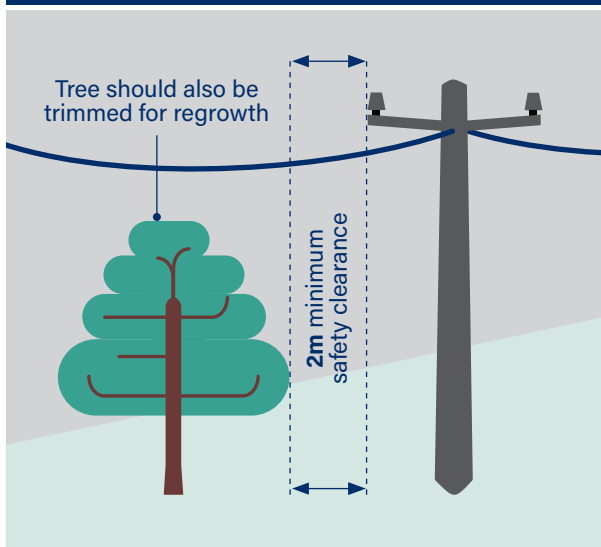
There are several types of common defects that could pose a bushfire or safety risk including damaged fittings and wires. However, vegetation defects are the most common type of defect we identify during inspections.

Trees and other vegetation growing inside the minimum safety clearance can come into contact with live power lines and cause blackouts or start a bushfire. Vegetation should be trimmed away to ensure it will not make contact with the power line.

Bushfire zones need a minimum

2m Safety clearance

around bare, low-voltage overhead powerlines for spans under 100m



We will advise if vegetation works are required on your private line and recommend that you engage a professional tree clearing contractor to clear the line.

Table of clearances

Minimum Building Clearances

Type of Conductor	Areas Normally Accessible by Persons	Areas Not Normally Accessible by Persons	Horizontal Clearances from Wall	Clothes Lines, TV Aerials, Stay Wires etc.	Above Swimming Pools
Bare Live Conductor	3.0m	3.0m	2.0m	2.0m	Not permitted
Insulated Live Conductor	3.0m	2.0m	1.0m	2.0m	3.0m
Neutral Screen Conductor	2.0m	0.5m	1.0m	2.0m	3.0m

Contact with overhead lines can kill. It is important that overhead electric lines are high enough to prevent accidental contact.

Minimum Ground Clearances

Type of Conductor	Over Areas Used by Vehicles	Over Areas not Used by Vehicles	Over Areas where Sailing Craft or Irrigation Pipes are used
Bare Live Conductor	5.5m	5.0m	Not permitted
Insulated Live Conductor	4.6m	3.0m	5.5m
Neutral Screen Conductor	4.6m	3.0m	4.5m

