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Victoria Government Gazette

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State Electricity Commission Act 1958, Section 64(4)

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR TRIMMING OF TREES IN THE VICINITY OF S.E.C. ASSETS

1. Scope and Definitions

1.1 Scope

This code specifies the responsibilities and procedures necessary to establish and maintain the appropriate minimum separation between trees and overhead electrical conductors of various voltages.

The primary purpose of the code is to:

ensure public safety;

minimise the risk of fires caused by contact between trees and overhead lines;

reduce the number of interruptions to supply caused by trees;

protect the State Electricity Commission's assets from damage;

minimise the impact on the environment by ensuring tree clearing activities are related to particular tree growth and species.

The value of trees in the landscape as the most single significant ameliorating factor must be recognised and wherever possible trees should be retained; however, where treatment is required, the most modern techniques shall be used.

1.2 Definitions

For the purpose of interpretation of this code, the following definitions apply:

Authority:	The responsible person under section 60 of the *State Electricity Commission Act* 1958.
Commission	The State Electricity Commission of Victoria.
Clearing Space	Space surrounding the power line conductors which must be maintained clear of any foliage. The extent of this space is dependent on the maximum sag, the voltage of the conductors and the regrowth characteristics of the trees.
Inspection Space	Space additional to the clearing space, in which further clearing may be necessary due to the unsafe condition of trees or limbs or to ensure that they do not contact overhead lines under extreme storm conditions.
Urban Area	A built-up area as designated by street lighting, plus other areas agreed to by Authorities and the Commission, generally subdivided into small allotments and where street trees have been planted or where indigenous trees have been retained.
Declared Area	An area declared by the Governor in Council by Order in Council.
Responsible Person	A person responsible under section 60 of the *State Electricity Commission Act* 1958, for the keeping of the whole or any part of a tree clear of an electric line or private electric line.
Rural Area	The area outside urban areas as defined above.
Plantation	An area containing trees planted by an Authority.
Fire Hazardous Area	An area where, in the opinion of the Forests Commission, Victoria or of the Country Fire Authority the combination of the normal build-up of vegetation and general weather conditions could lead to the rapid spread of fire during the summer months.
Fire-Prone Area	An area which from past records and experience may be considered in the opinion of the Forests Commission, Victoria or the Country Fire Authority to have a high incidence of fires.

2. Principles

2.1 Adequate clearance between trees and power lines is essential for the safety of the community, including minimising the risk of fire caused by contact between trees and overhead lines and the maintenance of a safe and continuous electricity supply to the customers; the amount of clearing required being dependent on the voltage concerned, the maximum sag of the conductors and the regrowth characteristics of the trees.

2.2 It is the clear responsibility of each responsible person to ensure that adequate clearing for safety is carried out, but with special attention being paid to botanically important or historically significant stands of trees, or stands of special aesthetic significance. Every endeavour shall be made by the Authority to ascertain where such important or significant trees are located prior to consultation between the Authority and the Commission. The Authority may consult the District Forester, the National Herbarium and the National Trust for assistance in locating and determining such botanically important or historically significant, &c, trees.

3. General

3.1 All clearing operations shall be carried out in such a manner as to ensure safety of the persons performing the work and public and protection of Commission assets. This shall be the prime consideration of officers planning and supervising the work and of persons performing the work.

3.2 Wherever a responsible person has any doubts concerning the carrying out of tree cutting with complete electrical safety he shall refer the matter to the Commission. The Commission shall review the situation and make appropriate arrangements for the safety of the persons performing the work, such as:

3.2.1 by de-energising the conductors where this can be done until persons performing the work have established clearances which will permit safe completion of the work;

3.2.2 by suppressing the automatic reclosing facility on the circuit breakers supplying high voltage lines; or

3.2.3 by providing Commission employees to establish clearances to Commission lines which will ensure safe completion of the work by persons performing the work.

3.3 Separation of trees from overhead lines shall be as set out in the attached schedules which indicate minimum clearances.

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When tree cutting is being undertaken by an Authority, additional clearances to allow for regrowth shall be determined in consultation between officers of the Authority and the Commission, and shall be minimal in relation to the aesthetic appearance of the trees and, in any case, unless the aesthetic balance of the tree is affected, shall allow for not more than three years' regrowth. The minimum clearance standards as specified in the schedule shall be rigidly applied by a responsible person in any Fire Hazardous area.

3.4 No limb shall overhang the clearing space or any conductor in any fire hazardous area except that specific arrangements may be made in areas of special significance to permit overhanging limbs of specific tree species to remain where:

3.4.1 in the opinion of the Commission's Forestry Officer the tree species concerned are unlikely to shed limbs; and

3.4.2 arrangements have been made to reduce the fire hazard by such means as removal of ground level combustible materials and/or adoption of special construction configurations.

3.5 In the inspection space every limb or tree which is liable to break off and/or fall and if it did break or fall could contact a conductor, shall be removed.

3.6 In the event of uncertainty or dispute as to whether a tree or limb condition requires felling or removal by an Authority, the expertise of a Commission Forestry Officer in conjunction with the appropriate officer of the authority or Forester nominated by the Forests Commission, Victoria, or a person nominated by the Victorian Region of the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and recreation shall be obtaned.

3.7 The schedule allows for the normal whip by trees in high winds (50km/h); however, an additional allowance as determined in consultation between responsible persons and the Commission may have to be made for very slender trees.

3.8 The Authority shall give due consideration to the species height when carrying out the planting of replacement ornamental street trees to ensure that safe clearances can be maintained at all times with the Commission's overhead assets.

3.9 The Authority shall take the opportunity, when roadworks or other alterations are to be carried out, to consider the replacement of unsuitable ornamental trees with types which will ensure that safe clearance with Commission overhead assets is maintained.

3.10 The Commission may, by notice in writing, require a responsible person to undertake specified cutting within a specified period as set down under section 62 of the *State Electricity Commission (Clearance of Lines) Act* 1983.

4. Declared Urban Areas

4.1 To assist the Authority, the Commission shall carry out a survey prior to the end of May each year and compile a list of those areas in which trees are liable to cause interference in urban areas if not cut back. This list shall be forwarded to the Authority concerned.

4.2 The Commission shall also specify the clearances required and assist the Authority with any special considerations and precautions necessary to ensure safety of Authority employees.

4.3 The Authority shall be responsible for the disposal of tree cleaning debris in declared urban areas, including that produced by Commission employees when they have undertaken preliminary cutting to establish clearances as in 3.2.3.

4.4 Prior to undertaking the work, the Commission will give consideration in conjunction with the Authority to the possibility of relocating the line on aesthetic, environmental or economic grounds.

4.5 Where new pole lines are being established and clearing is necessary, the Commission shall advise the Authority well in advance of, and not less than one month prior to, any new project in which any clearing is involved, and where necessary, consult with an Authority representative to review the extent of clearing necessary for the new line. The cost of initial clearing and removal of debris shall be borne by the Commission.

5. All Other Areas

5.1 Emergency cutting in the clearing space will be carried out by the Commission without reference to the Authority. However, in general the Authority shall be notified of maintenance programs.

5.2 Clearing for New Lines

The Commission shall advise the Authority well in advance of, and not less than one month prior to, any new projects in which any clearing is involved and in consultation with an Authority representative review the extent of clearing necessary for the new line. The Commission will give consideration during the survey for a new line to the need to locate the proposed line such that aesthetic, environmental and economic factors are considered.

5.3 Discretion should be used when applying standards, e.g. a tree should be removed rather than split to obtain the minimum clearance, but only after discussion with the Authority. Trees shall be left as aesthetically pleasing as practicable; cutting is to be done using modern tree surgery techniques.

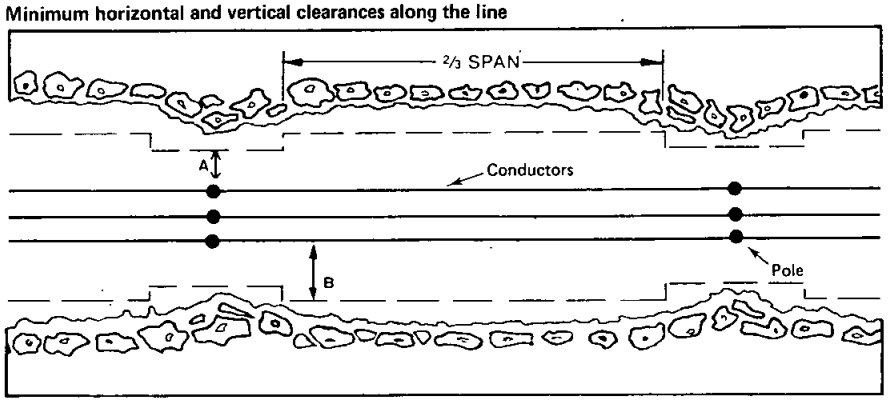
5.4 Where circumstances are appropriate, and following mutual agreement between the Authority and the Commission, trees may be cut to agreed heights above the ground.

ALL RURAL AND URBAN FIRE HAZARD AREAS
SCHEDULE OF MINIMUM CLEARANCES

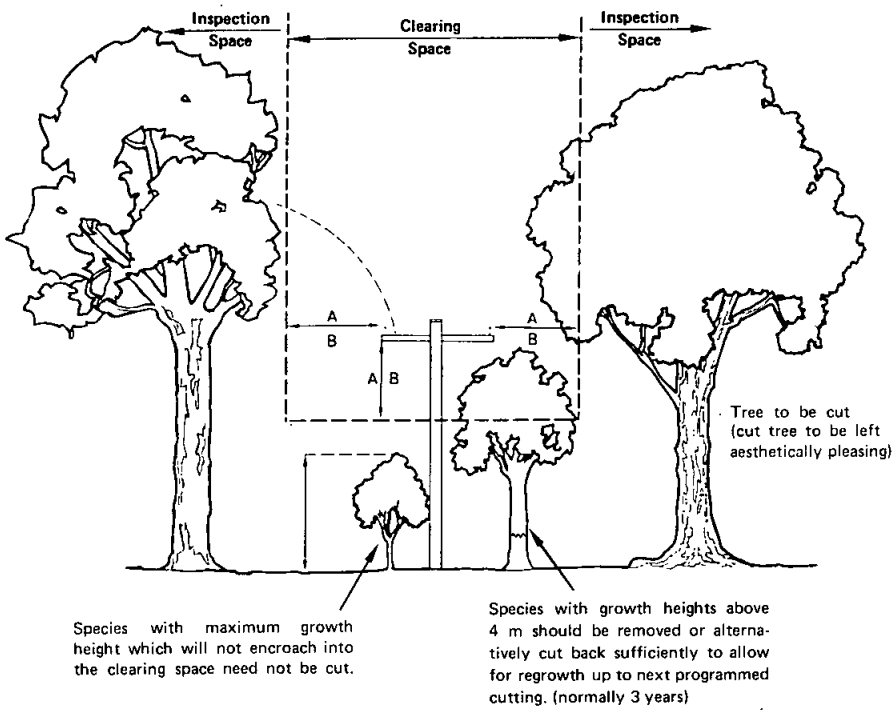
VOLTAGE	A CLEARANCE AT POLE	B CLEARANCE TO STILL CONDUCTOR ALONG 2/3 OF SPAN		
		SPAN		
		Up to 40 m	40 m – 70 m	Over 70 m
Insulated L.V. Service Cable	600 mm	600 mm	1.0 m	– – – –
Low Voltage	1.5 m	1.5 m	2.0 m	Max^{m} Sag at 40°C + 0.5 m
11kV, 22kV	1.5 m	1.5 m	2.0 m	Max^{m}Sag at 40°C + 0.5 m
66kV	2.25 m	2.25 m	3.0 m	Max^{m} Sag at 40°C + 1.0 m (Min^{m} 3.0 m)

NOTE: Clearances are minimum, allowance must be made for anticipated regrowth between inspection/trimming cycles (normally 3 years).

Minimum horizontal and vertical clearances along the line



Minimum horizontal and vertical clearances at the pole (A) and in span (B)

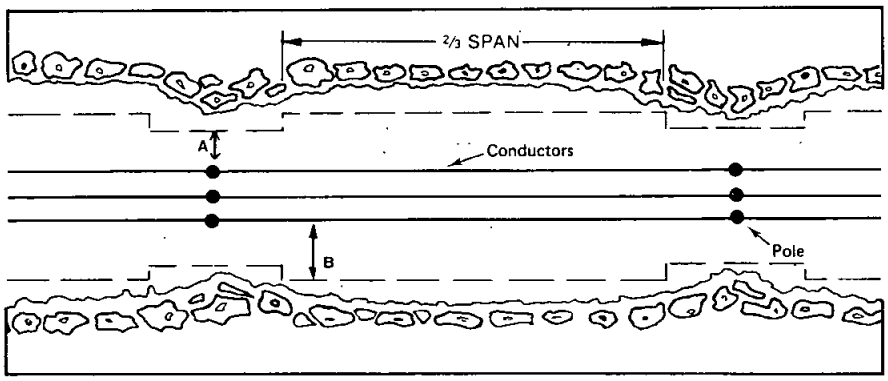


URBAN AREAS — NON FIRE HAZARD
SCHEDULE OF MINIMUM CLEARANCES

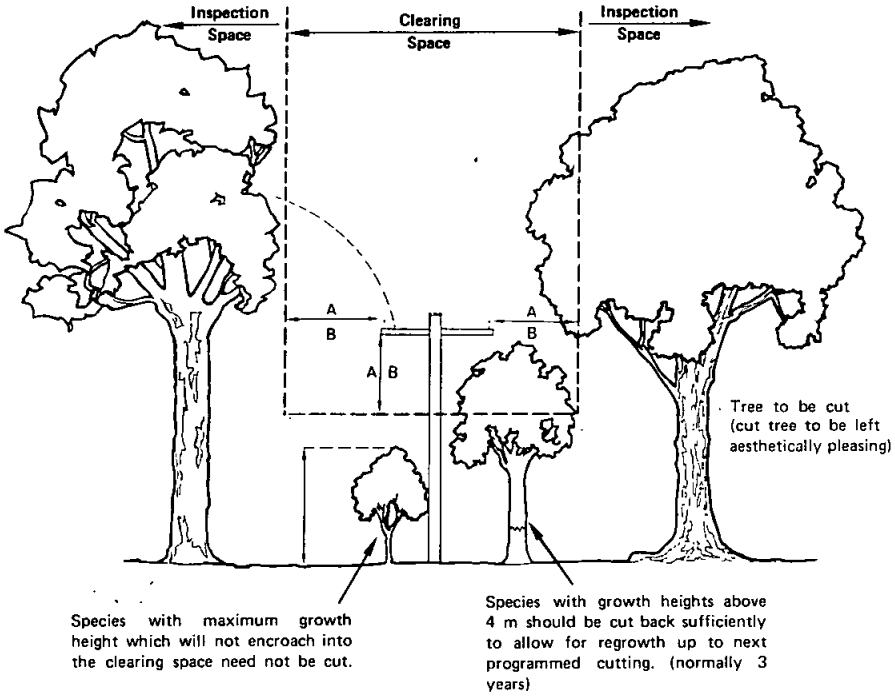
A		B		
VOLTAGE	CLEARANCE AT POLE	CLEARANCE TO STILL CONDUCTOR ALONG 2/3 OF SPAN		
		SPAN		
		Up to 40 m	40 m — 70 m	Over 70 m
Insulated L.V. Service Cable	300 mm	300 mm	600 mm	— — — —
Low Voltage	1.0 m	1.0 m	1.5 m	Max^{m} Sag at 40°C + 0.5 m
11kV, 22kV	1.5 m	1.5 m	2.0 m	Max^{m} Sag at 40°C + 0.5 m
66kV	2.25 m	2.25 m	3.0 m	Max^{m} Sag at 40°C + 1.0 m (Min^{m} 3.0 m)

NOTE: Clearances are minimum, allowance must be made for anticipated regrowth between inspection/trimming cycles (normally 3 years).

Minimum horizontal and vertical clearances along the line



Minimum horizontal and vertical clearances at the pole (A) and in span (B)



Dated 16 January 1984

R.A. MACKENZIE
Acting Minister for Minerals and Energy

NOTE: The above notice is published in lieu of the notices that were published in Government Gazette No. 4 on 18 January 1984, pages 105—107 inclusive, and Government Gazette No. 6 on 25 January 1984, pages 133—135 inclusive.

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Land Act 1958

UNALIENATED CROWN LANDS MADE AVAILABLE FOR SETTLEMENT UNDER IMPROVEMENT PURCHASE LEASES

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria, and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, &c., &c., &c.

I, the Governor of the State of Victoria, in the Commonwealth of Australia, by and with the advice of the Executive Council of the said State, pursuant to the provisions of section 153 of the *Land Act* 1958, doth hereby proclaim the unalienated Crown lands hereinafter described to be available for settlement under improvement purchase leases at the purchase prices respectively mentioned, viz.:

Allotment No.	*Parish*	*Area (more or less)*	*Purchase Price*	
		ha	$	
35, 39, 40, 41 and 42	Kia	1 788	71 528·00	(L5–2041)
11B and 12A	Mournpoul	515	19 920·00	(L5–2052
32	Nulkwyne	828	34 320·00	(L5–2223)
25A and part 25	Wymlet			
52, 53, 54, 55 and 56	Wymlet	3 779	170 055·00	(011376/138)
44	Paignie			
48, 49, 50 and 51	Wymlet	2 419	108 895·00	(L5–2045)
22, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 31A	Wymlet	2 973	133 785·00	(L5–2219)
3, 6, 8A and part 5	Wymlet	1 058	31 740·00	(L5–2220)
20 and 29	Nulkwyne	1 124	66 235·00	(L5–431)

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the State of Victoria aforesaid, at Melbourne, this twenty-fifth day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and eighty-four, and in the thirty-second year of the reign of Her Majesty Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Australia.

(SEAL)

BRIAN MURRAY
By His Excellency's Command

R. A. MACKENZIE
Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

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