

Under the above Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 there are minimum distances trees must be kept away from power lines. As a tree owner you are responsible for keeping trees clear of power lines. We want to make it simple to help you manage your trees.



Voltage	Growth Limit Zone	Cut Back Zone	Notice Zone
400 v	0.5m	1.5m	2.5m
11kV (High Voltage) *	1.6m	2.6m	3.6m
33kV (Extra High Voltage)*	2.5m	3.5m	4.5m

*Clear to the sky requirements

What is a Controlled Access Zone?

The Controlled Access Zone is a 4-metre perimeter around all of our power lines. Trimming trees within this perimeter must only be performed by a contractor we have authorised to operate on our network (Network Approved Contractor) it is too dangerous for you to yourself.

What if the trees are closer than 4 metres?

Ultimately keeping trees at least 4 metres away from our power lines is the goal. This means you can trim them yourself. If trees are within 4 metres, get in touch with one of our approved contractors. If trees start getting too close to power lines, it is our responsibility to let you know.

- **Notice Zone:** If the trees are within this zone, we will send you a "cut or trim notice". Trees must be cut so they do not encroach on the Notice Zone.
- **Cut Back Zone:** If trees are within this Zone and encroaching on the Growth Limit Zone, we will send you a "cut or trim notice". Trees must be cut so they do not encroach on the Notice Zone.
- **Growth Limit Zone:** This is the minimum distance trees should remain away from power lines under all conditions. If you believe trees have encroached this zone, please immediately get in touch with us.

Failure to promptly trim or remove trees if you have been given a cut or time notice is an offence and you may be liable for a considerable fine. Please refer to the Electricity (Hazard from Trees) Regulation 2003 for further details.

What about hedges and shelterbelts?

Hedges and shelterbelts are an essential part of some properties in South Canterbury. However, it is important that these hedges remain well clear of the 4-metre Controlled Access Zone.



Consider routine maintenance cycles with your preferred contractor

In most cases vegetation within the vicinity of power line will require ongoing maintenance, especially hedges and shelterbelts. It can be a real cost saver to have a maintenance schedule locked in with your preferred contractor. If trees are not maintained and encroach the Controlled Access Zone, they can then only be trimmed by a Network Approved Contractor. Furthermore, if trees encroach the Growth Limit Zone, then special insulated tools and equipment or power outages would be necessary. These options start to become costly and disruptive.

What about trees on public land?

Trees on public land are usually the responsibility of the local council. We work closely with local councils regarding trees and power lines. If you believe trees are encroaching the Growth Limit Zone or have any queries regarding trees on public land, please call your local council in the first instance.

What if I own the service lines?

Service lines are the power lines connected directly to your property from a nearby Alpine Energy pole. Service lines are generally owned by the customer, not us. These privately owned lines are excluded from the Regulations. It is the tree owner's responsibility to keep trees clear of their service line to ensure a reliable power supply and minimise the risk of outages. Should you need to carry out tree trimming work near a service line and require the service line to be de-energised, we offer a complimentary safety disconnection service. We will disconnect your service line on a date and time requested by you, once you have completed the intended work, we will return to re-connect you. To request a safety disconnection please contact us.

Plant wisely

Please contact us about safe planting distances and power line friendly trees and shrubs or download a copy from our website www.alpineenergy.co.nz

Summary of Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003

Regulation 15: No interest notice

As stated in the Electricity (Hazard from Trees) Regulations 2003 the purpose of a No Interest Notice is to notify Alpine Energy Limited (AEL) that the tree owner has no interest in the tree(s) detailed and does not wish to maintain the tree(s) in the future. If a No Interest Notice is accepted **AEL will meet all reasonable costs** of trimming or felling the tree(s), in most cases the tree(s) will be removed at ground level. Debris from this task will be left on site unless alternative arrangements are made between the tree owner and AEL prior to the removal/trimming work being undertaken.

Regulation 9: First trim notice obligations

This notice is a formal agreement between the tree owner and AEL regarding the trimming of tree(s) on your property that have encroached on the Growth Limit Zone and/or Notice Zone and must be cut.

Under Regulation 9 AEL will meet all **reasonable** costs of trimming, if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- According to our records, the tree(s) have not been subject to a previous First Trim at AEL's cost; or
- The trees have not been the subject of a previous agreement; or
- The tree(s) have not been planted for commercial purpose, for example, forestry.

Regulation 14: AEL's obligation to remove imminent danger to persons or properties from tree(s) damaging conductors/assets

AEL will, without delay, undertake any work in relation to a tree(s) if we become aware that there is immediate danger to persons or properties due to tree(s) coming into contact with a power line (conductor). AEL will trim the tree(s) to an extent necessary to remove any immediate danger. A tree owner may be liable for all reasonable costs for this work if they have failed to comply with a Trim Notice.

Regulation 19: Application for dispensation

A tree owner who receives a Trim Notice in respect of a tree(s) may apply to AEL for a dispensation. If a dispensation is granted the tree owner is not required to cut or trim the tree(s) so that it does not encroach the Notice Zone but must ensure that the tree(s) to which the dispensation relates does not encroach into the Growth Limit Zone beyond the dispensation zone.

An application for a dispensation must be made no later than five working days after the date on which the tree owner received a Trim Notice. An application for a dispensation must be in writing and can be delivered, posted, faxed or emailed to the AEL

Regulation 22: Application to arbitrator

If a tree owner is refuses or disputes the terms of a dispensation, they may apply to an arbitrator no later than five working days after receiving the notice under Regulation 20 (1). An application to an arbitrator must be in writing and can be delivered, posted, faxed or emailed to the arbitrator

Regulation 26: Offences committed by tree owners

A tree owner could be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and, if the offence is a continuing one, a further fine not exceeding \$500 for every day or part of a day during which the offence has continued if:

- A tree owner who is given a Trim Notice in relation to a tree(s) that requires the tree owner to cut or trim the tree(s) fails, without reasonable excuse, to cause the tree(s) to be cut or trimmed in accordance with Regulation 10; or
- In contravention of Regulation 10(3), fails, without reasonable excuse, to advise AEL of the time and location of the cutting or trimming of the tree.

With the exception of:

- If the tree owner has applied for a dispensation and AEL has not made a decision in respect of the application; or
- A dispute in respect of the tree(s) to which the offence relates has been referred to an arbitrator and the arbitrator has not decided in respect of that dispute.

Regulation 28: Liability of tree owners

A tree owner may be liable for the costs of remedying any damage caused to a conductor or asset if one or more of the following apply:

- The tree owner fails to comply with the requirements of the Electricity (Hazard from Trees) Regulations 2003; and
- An AEL conductor is damaged which arose (directly or indirectly) from a failure of the tree owner to comply with the requirements of the Electricity (Hazard from Trees) Regulations 2003.

It is your ongoing responsibility for keeping your vegetation clear of lines

After the First Trim, you, as the tree owner, are responsible for keeping your tree(s) away from the power lines at your own cost. The Zone table and diagram on the previous page show the Growth Limit Zone and the area you will need to keep the tree(s) outside of in the future. If you fail to do so you will be issued a Trim Notice.

If you have any concerns about our service or wish to lodge a complaint, please call us on 03 687 4300 to access our free complaints process. If we are unable to resolve your complaint, you can contact Utilities Disputes on 0800 22 33 40 or go to www.udl.co.nz. Utilities Disputes is a free and independent service for resolving complaints about utilities providers