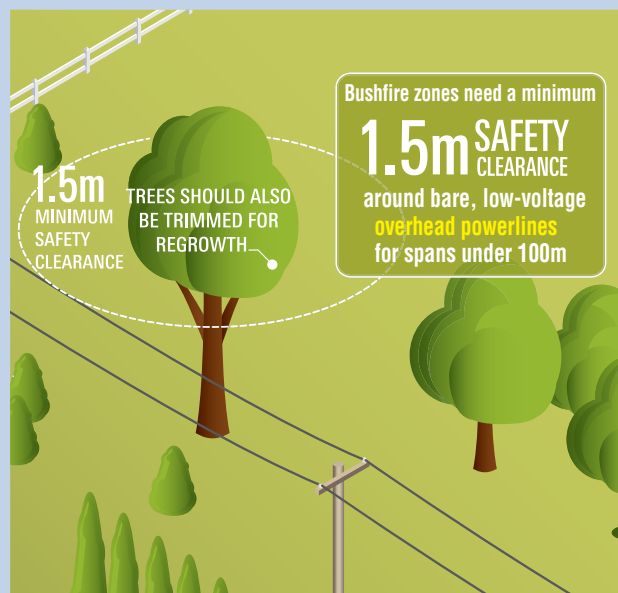


## Bushfire prevention checklist

In bushfire-prone areas, Ausgrid expects property owners to:

- ✓ Keep trees and vegetation on private property well clear of overhead powerlines - these should be regularly trimmed by authorised contractors to provide a safe clearance.
- ✓ Arrange for an authorised electrical contractor to carry out periodic safety checks of the electrical wiring in your premises.
- ✓ Arrange an annual inspection before the start of each bushfire season to check for defects on your private poles and powerlines.
- ✓ Arrange a regular and detailed inspection of any private poles and powerlines, including a below-ground inspection to assess the base of the pole.
- ✓ Arrange for the prompt repair of any identified defects using a licensed electrical contractor.
- ✓ Use only qualified people to undertake inspections, repairs, installations or trimming near powerlines.



## For more information

To learn more about your responsibilities for maintaining your private poles and powerlines:

- go to [www.ausgrid.com.au/privatepoles](http://www.ausgrid.com.au/privatepoles)
- talk to Ausgrid on **13 13 65**
- email us at [privatemains@ausgrid.com.au](mailto:privatemains@ausgrid.com.au)

Check if your property is classified as bushfire prone with your local council or at [rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://rfs.nsw.gov.au). The NSW Rural Fire Service can also advise on bushfire prevention on 1800 679 737.

Consult your local council for your rights, obligations and specific requirements in regards to tree trimming and Development Control Plans for trees and bushlands on your property.

A list of Accredited Service Providers can be found by searching 'contestable works' at [energy.nsw.gov.au](http://energy.nsw.gov.au) or call Service NSW on 13 77 88.

To find an authorised electrical contractor to inspect or repair your powerlines, you can also search in the Yellow Pages or at [yellowpages.com.au](http://yellowpages.com.au)

To check the currency of licences, contact the Office of Fair Trading on 13 32 20.

## CONTACT WITH LIVE WIRES CAN KILL

Never approach live powerlines or climb a pole.

Do not attempt to carry out any electrical repairs yourself or cut vegetation near a powerline.

Report any immediate safety hazards on the electricity network or private poles and powerlines on **13 13 88**.

GPO Box 4009  
Sydney NSW 2001  
ABN 78 508 211 731  
[ausgrid.com.au](http://ausgrid.com.au)

 Interpreter service  
**13 14 50**

PPAP\_DL/0919



# Private trees, poles and powerlines

## Bushfire safety guide for property owners



# Bushfire safety and your responsibilities

This guide for customers and property owners provides an overview of your responsibilities for keeping private poles and overhead powerlines safe and free from bushfire hazards.

## Keep your property safe

Bushfires pose a serious risk to life, property and the environment in rural and urban areas throughout New South Wales. Overhead powerlines that aren't inspected and properly maintained can become a serious bushfire or safety hazard. Ausgrid carries out regular inspections of our electricity network to help reduce the risk of bushfires.

Ausgrid periodically checks for potential bushfire hazards on private poles and overhead powerlines in bushfire-prone areas. If bushfire hazards are identified, property owners may receive a notice to rectify the hazards to make it safe.

By working together, we can reduce the risk of bushfires.

## Do you have a private powerline?

There are many different arrangements for supplying electricity to homes and businesses across Ausgrid's distribution area.

Ausgrid is responsible for the electricity network in the street, including substations, poles and powerlines. Ausgrid is also responsible for the service wire that connects your property to the network. This connection point is usually on a building or a private power pole.

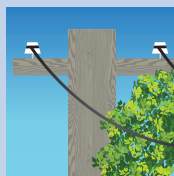
Property owners are responsible for the electrical assets on their property beyond this connection point. This includes all private power poles, powerlines and pole-top fittings, which are part of your customer installation.

These are also referred to as aerial consumers' mains or private mains. They usually start at the first pole on your property and include powerlines between different buildings and structures on the same property.

It is your responsibility to ensure that these poles and powerlines are properly inspected and maintained and do not pose a bushfire or safety risk. This includes maintaining vegetation safety clearance from electrical assets in your premises.

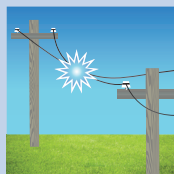
## Check for hazards

Private poles and overhead powerlines should be regularly inspected and properly maintained by authorised contractors. If you notice any of these common defects, you will need to organise repairs or tree trimming as soon as possible.



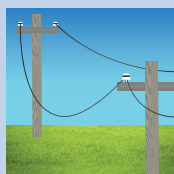
### Trees near powerlines

Vegetation growing inside the minimum safety clearance is more likely to come into contact with live powerlines and interrupt supply or start a bushfire.



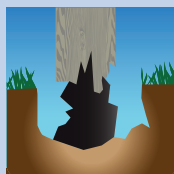
### Clashing powerlines

Powerlines that clash in high winds can spark and produce molten fragments, which may cause bushfires.



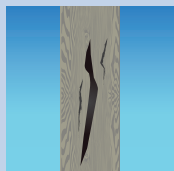
### Slack wires

Powerlines or wires hanging too low can clash and lead to bushfires. Low wires may also breach the minimum height safety requirements.



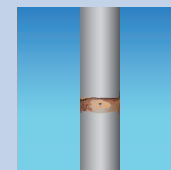
### Rotting poles

All poles should be inspected above and below ground for deterioration. Rotting or rusting below ground can cause poles to lean or fall down.



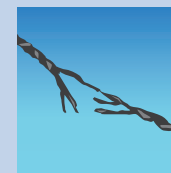
### Split poles

Split or damaged poles can fail and break in storm conditions or over time.



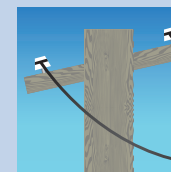
### Rusting poles

Metal poles should be checked for rust above and below ground. Any unsafe poles must be replaced by a licensed electrical contractor.



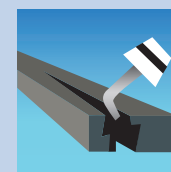
### Damaged wires

If insulation is missing, deteriorated or damaged (particularly common on PVC insulated wires), the exposed wire may be live and contact could be fatal. These wires must be replaced.



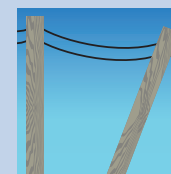
### Damaged crossarms

Over time, crossarms may deteriorate, split or become loose, leaving powerlines at risk of sagging, clashing or falling down.



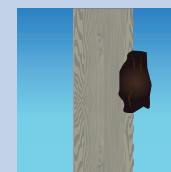
### Damaged fittings

Pole fittings and attachments that are loose, frayed or deteriorating are a serious safety and bushfire risk.



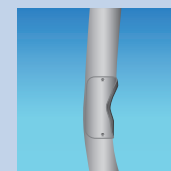
### Leaning poles

Poles which lean excessively can cause wires to clash and powerlines to fail.



### Termite damage

Termite damage can severely degrade the structural integrity of a pole. All termite-infested poles need to be treated by a registered pest controller.



### Damaged poles

Damaged poles can fail and break in storm conditions or over time. A qualified contractor should check whether the pole should be replaced.