

Fact Sheet

Bushfire safety patrols



Bushfire patrols

Ausgrid's contractors are undertaking bushfire patrols of private poles and overhead powerlines to check for potential bushfire hazards. These private poles and powerlines, also known as private and shared mains, are being inspected as a priority between May and August 2017.

Private poles and overhead powerlines that aren't inspected and properly maintained can become a serious bushfire risk.

How we will complete the patrols

We may need to enter properties to carry out bushfire patrols of private poles and overhead powerlines to identify any bushfire hazards.

We may patrol some sub-mains beyond the main switchboard or metering unit that are in a continuous overhead line from Ausgrid's service mains and are visually obvious to the inspector.

Notifying you about bushfire patrols

The *Electricity Supply Act 1995* authorises Ausgrid to enter private property to carry out inspections after providing a written notice.

We will write to you before completing an inspection and ask that you tell us about any special access conditions that we need to observe.

If you have locked gates, livestock or dogs, or other conditions that restrict access to your property, please let us know and we will work with you to complete our bushfire patrols.

Our inspectors

Ausgrid contractors will complete the bushfire patrols. They will carry photo identification cards and will show you their identification if you are at your property at the time of the inspection.

Defects

If we identify any bushfire hazards around your private poles or overhead powerlines we will leave you a defect notice outlining what work is required and the time in which it must be done. It will be your responsibility to arrange and pay for any work required.

You will need to arrange for a licensed electrician to repair any damaged electrical assets, such as broken electrical equipment or wires, or poles which are rotting, corroded or leaning excessively.

If branches, trees or shrubs need to be cleared you will need to engage a tree trimming contractor who is qualified to work around the electricity network to safely remove the vegetation.

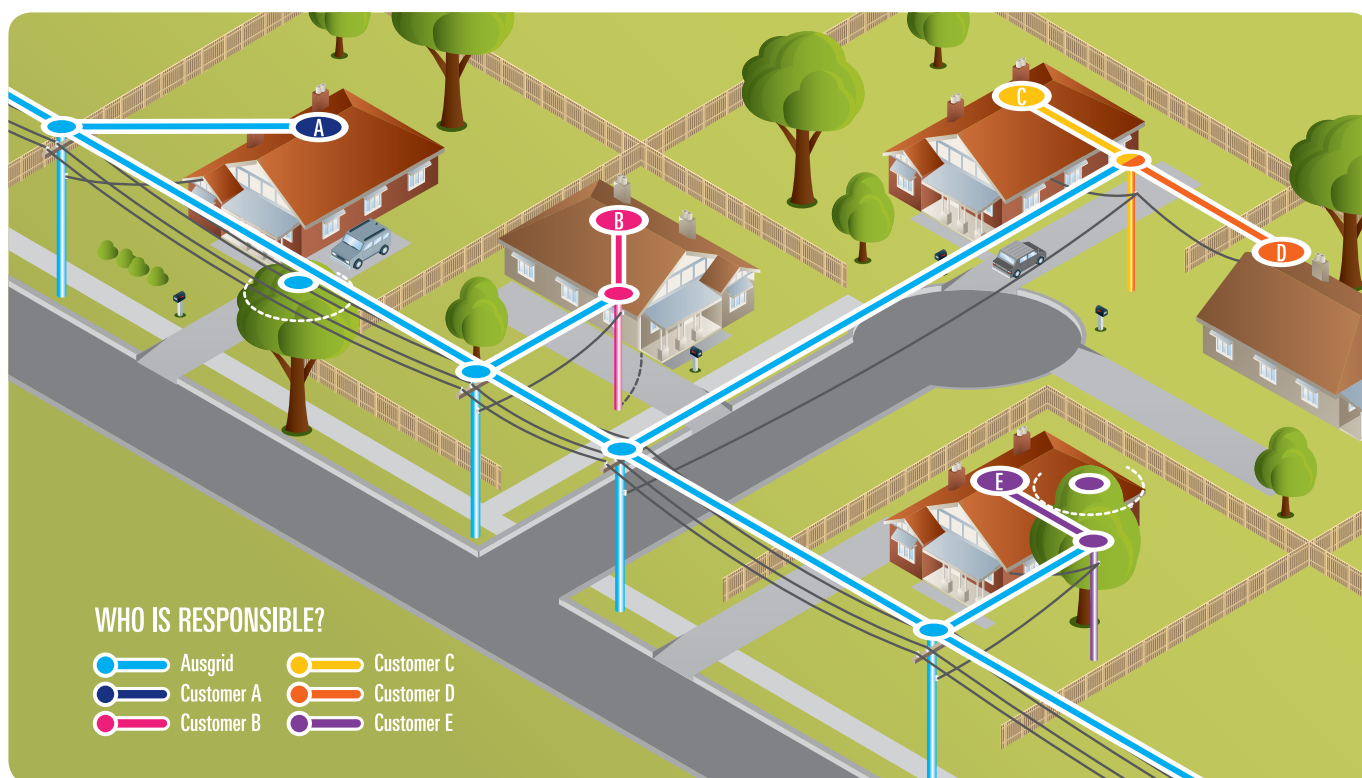
Recent amendments to the Electricity Supply Act 1995 require property owners to respond to defect notices within 30 days.

You will need to tell us that the work has been done or will be done within 60 days of the date it was issued. As an alternative, you may request that the property is disconnected within 30 days of the defect notice being issued.

Please contact us if you are unable to complete the work in the required time.

If you don't comply with the notice, Ausgrid may enter the property to carry out any required works, and recover the reasonable cost of doing the work from the property owner. Alternatively, we may need to disconnect supply for safety reasons.

If the inspector does not identify any bushfire risks, we will leave you a letter and more information about your responsibilities for maintaining your private poles and powerlines.



Your responsibilities

As the property owner you are responsible for the safe maintenance and operation of electrical assets on your property. In bushfire-prone areas, you may need to organise an inspection before each bushfire season and after any major storms or suspected damage.

Any repair work must be done by a licensed electrician. Trees and branches must be a safe distance away from poles and overhead powerlines, and you should engage a suitably qualified tree management contractor to complete any work.

CONTACT WITH LIVE WIRES CAN KILL

You should never approach live powerlines or climb a pole. Do not attempt to carry out any electrical repairs yourself or cut any vegetation near an energised powerline.

For more information

To learn more about these inspections and your responsibilities, including what to do if you notice defects, please:

- visit www.ausgrid.com.au/privatepoles for detailed information, including responses to frequently asked questions
- read our Management of Overhead Private and Shared Mains policy at www.ausgrid.com.au/privatemains
- talk to Ausgrid on **13 13 65**
- email us at privatemains@ausgrid.com.au



Interpreter service **131 450**