
Safety is essential every day for our landholders, community and our people.

About this brochure

This brochure is intended to support the safe and reliable operation of our network by providing information on activities that can and can't be undertaken either on or near our easements. We are committed to working closely with landholders to ensure this information is clearly understood and implemented correctly.

General safety information

Our transmission lines are typically located within easements, a type of land tenure that provides us with legal rights to access land and carry out work to build, operate and maintain the transmission network, and to regulate certain activities on the easement area, allowing us to provide a safe and secure power supply.

Landholders continue to own and be responsible for the land on which the easement is located, including land management and other general land maintenance activities. In some instances, rules around activities you can and can't do on our easements are outlined in the registered easement terms and conditions on property titles, along with the rights of both the landholder and ourselves. In addition to registered conditions, there are also other rules based on:

- Safety for the public, our employees and contractors
- The risk of damage to property
- The safe operation of the overhead transmission line, underground cable or other assets
- Access to the line or associated infrastructure for any future works, including maintenance, upgrading or renewal activities.

The following section outlines the type of activities that can and can't be undertaken on or near our easements. It also provides helpful information that supports safe working habits for landholders.

Safe working habits

Keep a safe distance

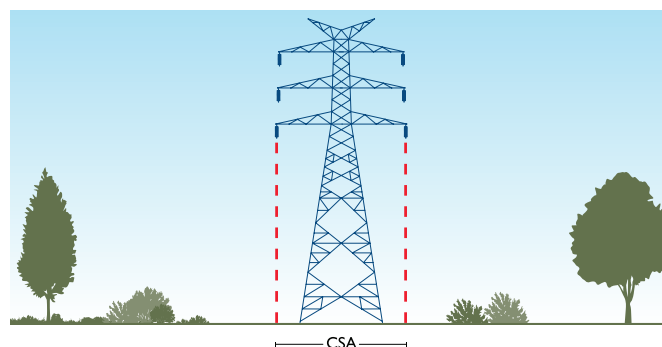
All our infrastructure should be regarded as 'electrically live' and therefore potentially dangerous at all times. If you, anything you are carrying, or equipment you are using comes into close proximity with overhead transmission conductors (wires), there is a high risk of serious injury or fatal electric shock. Electricity can jump across an 'air gap' and create a conductive path known as a 'flashover', which means you do not need to touch a high voltage line to be electrocuted. A flashover can occur between wires or from wires to the ground and can be seen as a flash or heard as a loud 'crack'. We strongly encourage you to contact us before operating any plant or equipment on a transmission line easement.

Exclusion zones that apply to untrained persons are defined in Schedule 2 of the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2013*. The regulations define exclusion zones for untrained persons in charge of operating plant or equipment in the vicinity of electrical facilities. Different exclusion zones apply for transmission lines of different voltages.

If there is any doubt that the plant or equipment you are operating will meet the prescribed clearance distances from the conductors, you are obliged under the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2013* to seek advice from us.

Keep the working area clear

It is important that a defined working area for maintenance activities is kept clear of obstructions, such as a small shed, at all times. The area should be at least 20 metres from the outside extent of a tower's footing (including foundations and anchor cables) and 5 metres either side of the Conductor Shadow Area (CSA), which is the area on the ground directly below and between the overhead wires.



For more details regarding clearance areas around our infrastructure, please view a copy of our *Management of Easement Co-use Requests Guideline*, available on the website or by contacting Powerlink.

Consider wire movement

Our easements are designed to accommodate the fact that wires can move about. Transmission line wires move vertically (sag) under changing load and temperature conditions and can move horizontally (sideways) in cross winds.

Please be aware of wire movement when planning any activities on an easement, and contact us for a detailed assessment if necessary. Generally, any planned above-ground activity in excess of 3.5 metres in height, like moving a high load under the wires across our corridor, should also be referred to us for comment and advice.

Ask before you act

If you are planning to undertake any work on or near a transmission line easement, it is likely that you will require our written consent, meaning you will need to complete and submit an *Application for the Co-use of a Powerlink Easement* form which can be done online via our website or by completing Annexure C of the *Management of Easement Co-use Requests Guideline*.

To progress your written request, we will need:

- A plan clearly locating your proposal in relation to the property boundary, and if possible, the easement boundary
- A description of works, including dimensions of any proposed installations and equipment used
- A map of the property showing main access roads and the position of any towers on the property
- A copy of the Certificate of Title or the Real Property Description (RPD) of your allotment, which you will find on your council rates notice

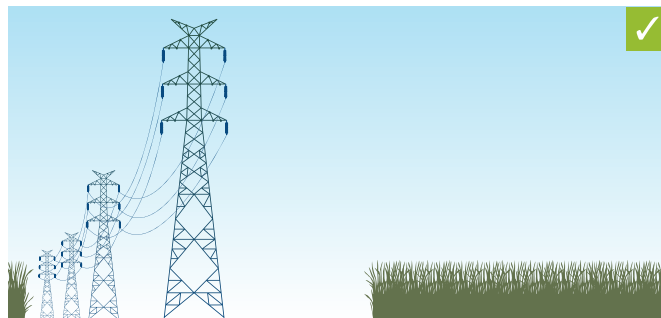
If you have any doubts about what you can or can't do, please ask us first. If we have not consented to the presence of an existing structure on an easement, please contact us so we can assess any potential safety risks accordingly.

What can you do on an easement?

The activities outlined right are examples only and are not an exhaustive list. If you are planning an activity on an easement, we suggest you download a copy of our *Management of Easement Co-use Requests Guideline*, which provides a guide to activities that can or can't safely take place on our easements.

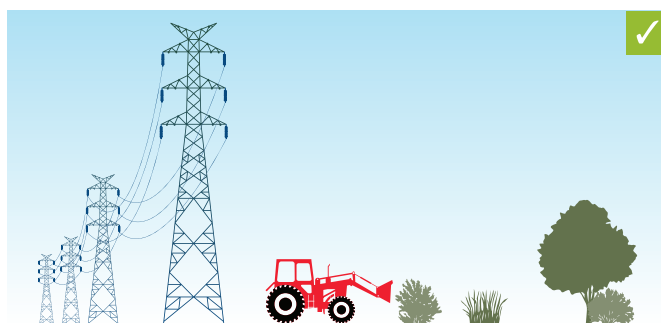
✓ Generally permitted

Activities that are generally permitted on an easement without written approval include:

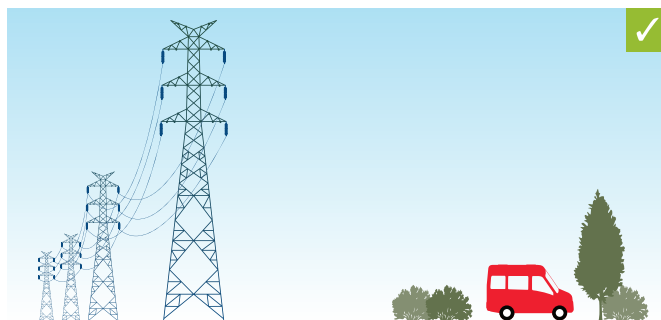


Agricultural activities, such as grazing or production of low growing crops (less than 3.5 metres high), although approval may be necessary for operating equipment.

A clearance area of 20 metres around towers needs to be maintained for all planting type activities.

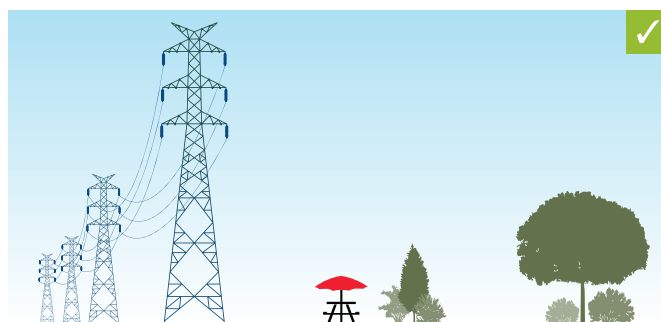


Operating mobile equipment such as tractors – providing they comply with the electrical safety clearance requirements for the voltage of the overhead line and are not carrying out on-easement work.



Recreational activities such as walking and driving.

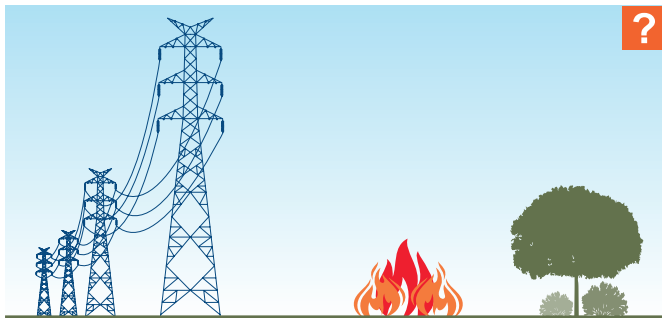
This does not include using kites, flying model aircraft or other activities which could breach safety clearances.



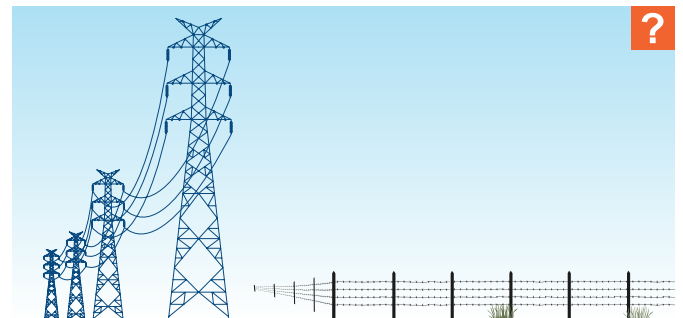
Constructing small (that is, less than 24m² floor area and less than 2.5 metres high) temporary or easily removable non-habitable structures, such as a garden shed or picnic table – ensuring they are at least 20 metres from any tower or pole, and more than 5 metres outside the CSA.

? Requires written approval

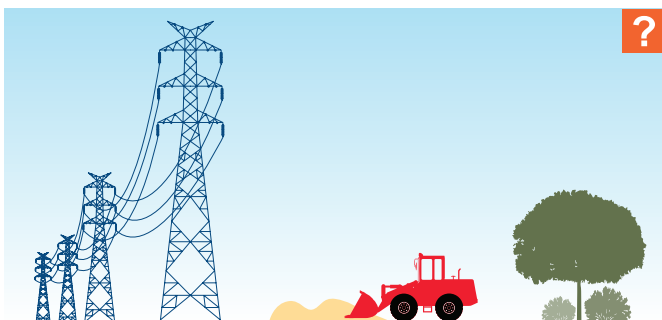
Activities that may be permitted on an easement, although they require written approval and may be subject to certain conditions, include:



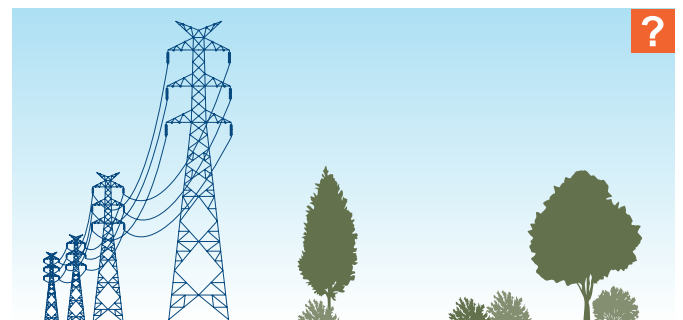
Burning off or lighting fires.



Erecting any fencing, including electric or metallic fencing.



Quarrying, excavating, ploughing, filling and any general ground disturbance works.



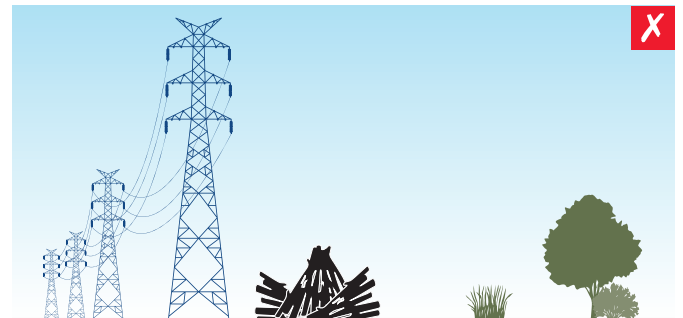
Planting trees whose mature height will exceed 3.5 metres.
Installing a swimming pool on the easement or within 35 metres of a transmission tower.

X Not permitted

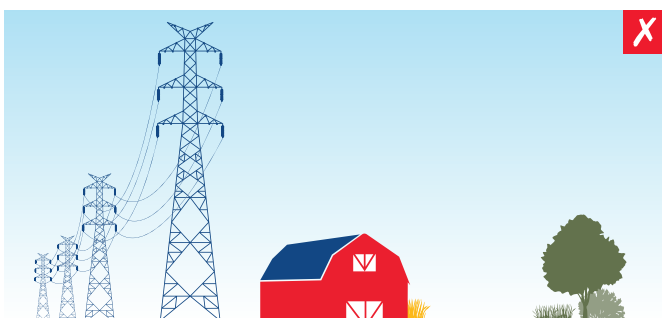
Activities which are not allowed on an easement include:



Constructing houses or habitable structures and other substantial structures.



Placing garbage, refuse, fallen timber or any flammable material on the easement.



Placing an obstruction – for example, the installation of a small shed (less than 24m² floor area and 2.5 metres in height) within 20 metres of a transmission tower or supporting structure, or within 5 metres of the CSA.



Operating mobile plant such as a tractor that breaches the overhead statutory clearance distances.
Undertaking any activity that may intrude upon the regulated safety exclusion zone.
Climbing a transmission tower.



Safe farming activities on or near easements

Harvesting and grazing

Reasonable modifications that are practical and cost-effective may be made during the transmission line design process, such as increasing the height of the transmission conductors (wires) to help reduce the impact a new transmission line has on farming practices. Grazing near or on easements is generally permitted as long as relevant safety clearances are observed. Please ask us how to safely operate equipment prior to working in the vicinity of a transmission line.

Aerial operations

Your safety when undertaking aerial operations such as spraying, crop dusting, fertilising or mustering around transmission lines is essential. Further information can be obtained in our *Aerial Mustering Near Transmission Lines* guidelines. Please contact us about your aerial operations and how to safely achieve maximum crop coverage with your aerial operator.

Irrigation systems

Some common types of irrigation systems can be used quite safely, however certain types can be dangerous on a transmission line easement. The water from stream gun irrigators must not make direct contact with transmission line poles or towers and should not intrude on exclusion distances from the conductors or any live parts. It is important to discuss your irrigation system with us so that a proper safety assessment can be made.

It is also important you take particular care when moving, assembling or disassembling irrigators. Pipes or long metal parts must be carried in a horizontal position and as low to the ground as is practical. Remember, transmission lines carry electricity at very high voltages and contact does not need to be made with the wires for a flashover to take place (a flashover occurs when electricity jumps across an air gap to create a conductive path to earth).

Fencing

Remain at least 25 metres away from transmission line structures, whether crossing perpendicular under the line or running parallel to it.

If it is not possible to remain 25 metres away, the parallel fence must be periodically earthed depending on the distance it follows the transmission line.

Further information can be obtained in our *Fencing near Powerlink transmission lines* brochure.

Access tracks

For the security of power supply it's important that we have adequate access to our transmission lines at all times, especially in the case of an unexpected electrical fault on the network.

Consent must be sought from us if you wish to undertake works that would either modify an existing track, or create a new track within the easement.

Fire management

Fires burning underneath or near our transmission lines can endanger people, animals and property, and have the potential to interrupt electricity power to customers. Please seek our advice and approval as early as possible before undertaking any activity involving fire near our transmission lines and easements.

If you see a fire burning underneath or near a transmission line, please report it to us as soon as possible on our 24-hour emergency FREECALL 1800 353 031 (24 hours, 7 days a week). If people or properties are at risk please call emergency services immediately on Triple Zero (000).

Contact Us

Further information about Powerlink and our projects can be downloaded from www.powerlink.com.au

General Enquiries FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours) and ask for Property Services

In case of emergency FREECALL 1800 353 031 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Email Property@powerlink.com.au

www.powerlink.com.au |    



SAFE FOR LIFE
Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday.