

Other Tree and Vegetation Issues



Service Lines

This is the power line that connects your house or property to our network of distribution lines. It is your responsibility to keep your trees clear of this line. It is a live power line, and if your trees have grown closer than 0.5m to the line, they will either need cutting by an approved lines qualified contractor, or you can arrange for temporary disconnection of power to your property (at your cost) – this will de-energise the line so a competent person can carefully cut trees. See our website for a list of approved contractors.

Creepers on Poles and Guy Wires

Poles and guy wires need to be kept clear of these. Creepers can damage poles – our linesmen need to assess the condition of a pole before they can safely climb it; they can't do that if it is covered in creepers! Creepers can climb guy wires and poles onto the power lines and crossarms which can cause faults and damage. Network Tasman will clear creepers from poles and guy wires and swab the cut stems with herbicide to reduce regrowth – we will do this at Network Tasman's cost. However, it would be greatly appreciated if you could keep creepers on your property clear of poles and guy wires.

Trees and Vegetation restricting Access to Poles

Our linesmen need safe and clear ladder access to the top of poles for maintenance work and during fault (power outage) situations. This is especially important for poles with transformers on them, and/or with fuses on the crossarm and where there are handles on the pole used for network operation. Please keep the area around the base of the poles clear of vegetation.

Possum Guards on Poles

This is a wide band of metal just over halfway up poles which helps to stop our furry friends from climbing power poles and ending up on the live lines or on live parts of transformers etc. – which can cause power outages and isn't too good for the animal either! Trees and other vegetation need to be kept clear of this guard, otherwise, it doesn't work.

Padmount Transformers

Many transformers are mounted on power poles. Padmount transformers are on the ground – usually a large green box with doors at each end. The surrounding area needs to be kept clear of vegetation. The doors need to be easy to access and need to be able to open fully. If creepers or other vegetation grows into the transformer, this can damage the hardware or cause power outages.

Black Boxes

Some main distribution electricity cables run underground. Their connection to individual supplies needs to be accessed for maintenance or faults, and this is contained within a small black box, usually on property boundaries. They need to be kept clear so they are easily seen and so they can be opened by linesmen.

Underground Cables

It is very important that you know where any underground electricity cables are around and on your property. Buried cables can present a serious and potentially fatal hazard if you damage them. You should always check for underground cables before digging stakes, fence posts or warratahs into the ground. For more information, see our [Excavation webpage](#).

Horticultural Shelter Belts

The Nelson Tasman region has a large Horticultural industry with many shelter belts growing near power lines. These shelter belt trees need to be trimmed frequently to ensure that they do not grow into the Growth Limit Zone of power lines. We do not trim shelter belts, although may assist with safety trims when hedge trimming machines can't access the area by poles and guy wires. A machine permit is required to operate within 4 metres of power lines. For more information, see our [Working With Machinery webpage](#).