Electric Line Clearance Management Plan

2023/2024

Commencement Date :	***31 March 2023***
Review Date:	***18 September 2023***
Revocation Date:	***30 March 2024***
Authorised by Responsible Person:	***Anita Curnow, Director City Infrastructure***
Responsible Branch:	***Open Space and Environment***
Version	***1***
Document date	***13 April 2023***

File Ref: D23/170737

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STRUCTURE OF THIS PLAN

This document has been prepared in accordance with the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020. This Management Plan is in accordance with Regulation 9 – Management Plans, Section 3.

This Management Plan has been structured to align with the relevant clauses of the Regulations. The corresponding section of the Plan is numbered identically to the relevant section of the Regulations to allow for cross referencing.

A copy of this Plan is available on the Merri-bek City Council website.

Definitions

CFA	Country Fire Authority
Code	Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance (Vegetation) as defined in the Regulations
ELCMP	Electric Line Clearance Management Plan
Declared Area	The area of the municipality for which Council is the Responsible Person
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
ESV	Energy Safe Victoria
HV	High voltage >1000VAC or >1500VDC up to 66kV
LBRA	Low Bushfire Risk Area - An area that a fire control authority has assigned a fire hazard rating of “low” under section 80 of the Act, or an urban area.
LV	Low voltage <=1,000VAC or <=1500VDC
MUFS	Merri-bek Urban Forest Strategy
Regulations	Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020
The Act	Electricity Safety Act 1998

DISTRIBUTION BUSINESSES

The names and contact details for the Distribution Businesses that operate within the Merribek City Council are:

CitiPower
Address: 40 Market Street Melbourne. Vic 3000
Contact name: Leo Hourigan, Council Liaison Officer CitiPower
Contact number: (03) 9683 4851

Jemena
Address: Level 16, 567 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC, 3000
Contact name: Tom Ruzeu, Electricity Asset Investment Manager
Contact number: (03) 9173 8767

Public Transport Corporation (Rail)
Address: Level 8, 1010 La Trobe Street, Docklands VIC 3008 Australia
Contact name: Ian Atkinson, Infrastructure Asset Officer
Contact number: (03) 9619 8892

Metro Trains Melbourne
Address: E-Gate, off Footscray Road, West Melbourne,
Contact name: Katrina Lewis, Production Manager Vegetation
Contact number (Mob) 0405 506 488

Yarra Trams
Address: 555 Bourke St, Melbourne VIC 3000
Contact name: Jeff Hilder
Contact number: (PH) 9610 3305
Permits at permits@yarratrams.com.au

CONTRACTOR

Clearance works are undertaken by both Council's in-house personnel and Contractors (the Contractor) under the following Contract (the Contract) – Contract RFT-P-2020-132 "Provision of General Tree and Arboriculture Services".

TREE MANAGEMENT DATABASE (TMD)

Council's Tree Management Database is TreePlotter Inventory™.

PART 2 SECTION 9 PREPARATION OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN

9(2) Preparation of a Management Plan by March 31st

Council will review and update this Plan by March 31st each year to address any changes in regulations, personnel, policies, or programs. The Plan is stored in Council's document management system ('Content Manager') and will be available on Council's website from this date each year.

The chart below details responsibilities and annual milestones to ensure the preparation of the Plan occurs on time and is evaluated by the designated responsible officers.

Action	Responsible Area	Deadline
Draft of the updated proposed ELCMP	*Unit Manager Urban Forest*	1st February if amendments proposed
Draft to Manager Open Space and Environment for review	*Manager Open Space and Environment*	1st March
Approved Draft to be forwarded to the Director City Infrastructure for review	*Manager Open Space and Environment*	15th March
Final Amendments forwarded to Director City Infrastructure.	*Director City Infrastructure*	23rd March
Old plan revoked and new planned implemented	*Manager Open Space and Environment*	31st March
Comms to replace superseded ELCMP with new plan on website	*Manager Open Space and Environment*	31st March

As part of the annual review, Council will ensure that all specific policies, relevant documents, training, program, and resourcing requirements, are reviewed and updated as required to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

This document has been prepared with respect to the following documents that govern Council's strategic management of trees and vegetation within municipality:

- Merri-bek Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2027
- Merri-bek Heritage Action Plan 2017-2032
- Urban Heat Island Action Plan 2016-2026

The implementation of this Plan is reported in the Urban Forest Service Unit Plan, which forms part Council's strategic reporting framework.

9(4) Management Plan requirements

9(4)(a) Name, address, and telephone number of the responsible person:

Name:	Merri-bek City Council
Address:	90 Bell Street, Coburg Victoria 3058
Postal Address:	Locked Bag 10 Coburg 3058
City Office Telephone No:	(03) 9240 1111 (03) 9240 1190
Name of Director:	Anita Curnow, Director City Infrastructure
Business Address:	90 Bell Street, Coburg Victoria 3058
Telephone No.:	(03) 9240 1242
Email Address:	ACurnow@Merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Signed: . . .

9(4)(b) Name, position, address, and telephone number of the person who was responsible for the preparation of the plan:

Name:	Greg Rodwell
Position:	Manager Open Space and Environment
Business Address:	5 Walter Street, Hadfield Victoria 3046
Telephone No.:	(03) 9240 1111
Email Address:	GRodwel@Merri-bek.vic.gov.au

9(4)(c) Name, position, address, and telephone number of the persons who are responsible for carrying out the plan:

Name:	Phillip Jansen
Position:	Unit Manager Urban Forest
Business Address:	5 Walter Street, Hadfield Victoria 3046
Telephone No.:	(03) 9420 1111
Email Address:	PJansen@Merri-bek.vic.gov.au
Name:	Mark Somerville
Position:	Line Clearance Surveillance Officer
Business Address:	5 Walter Street, Hadfield Victoria 3046
Telephone No.:	(03) 8311 4325
Email Address:	MSomerville@Merri-bek.vic.gov.au
Name:	Ashley Hertz
Position:	Unit Manager Compliance (Fire Prevention Officer)
Business Address:	5 Walter Street, Hadfield Victoria 3046
Telephone No.:	(03) 9240 2255
Email Address:	AHertz@Merri-bek.vic.gov.au

9(4)(d) The telephone number of a person who can be contacted in an emergency that requires clearance of an electric line that the responsible person is required to keep clear of trees or parts of trees.

After hours & emergency telephone No: 9240 1111

9(4)(e) The objectives of the plan:

The key objectives of this Plan are:

- To ensure public safely in relation hazards arising from contact between electric lines and vegetation, such as harm to people, damage to property, and disruption of electricity supply.

- To achieve compliance with the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 & Code of Practice within declared areas that Merri-bek City Council is responsible for.

- To minimise the possibility of fires caused by contact between vegetation and the electricity network.

- To manage vegetation in a manner that maximises the health, amenity, and environmental benefits, of trees by applying appropriate standards and practices, wherever practicable, within the limitations imposed by the Regulations.

- To ensure protection of important local and significant vegetation throughout the municipality in relation to activities associated to this Plan. This includes, but is not limited to, sites containing botanically, historically, or culturally important vegetation, or vegetation of outstanding aesthetic or ecological significance, and/or the habitat of rare or endangered species.

- To ensure provision of a safe working environment for employees and contractors undertaking vegetation clearance within the vicinity of powerlines.

- To ensure community satisfaction with the way works associated this Plan are carried out.

- To align outcomes, wherever practicable, with the following strategic documents:
    - Merri-bek Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2027
    - Merri-bek Heritage Action Plan 2017-2032
    - Urban Heat Island Action Plan 2016-2026

- To ensure all tree pruning activities in relation to this Plan are in accordance with AS 4373 – 2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees, wherever practicable.

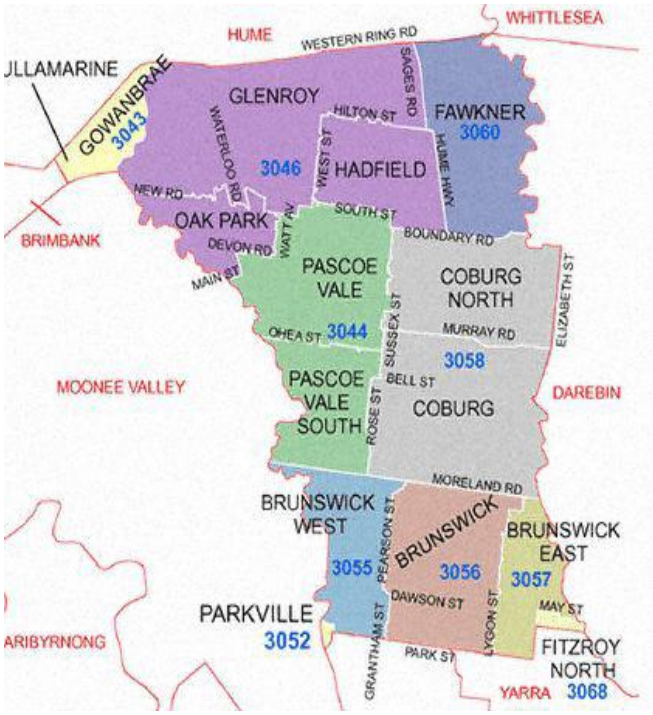
- To improve communication and collaboration between Council and the relevant Distribution Businesses.

9(4)(f) The land to which the management plan applies to

Merri-bek has approximately 570 kilometres of roadway consisting approximately 1400 streets. There are approximately 66,000 trees in streets as well as an estimated 40,000 to 60,000 trees in parks, reserves, Council facilities, and waterways.

Electric lines are present throughout the municipality, which is a Declared Area for the purposes of the Code. The whole area is rated as a Low Bushfire Risk Area (LBRA).

A map of Merri-bek City Council is provided below showing the area for which Council is the Responsible Person.



Merri-bek City Council maintains an inventory of Council managed trees affected by electric lines (up to and including 66,000 volts) using electronic spatial field data capture in the TMD.

Council's Line Clearance Surveillance Officer ensures that the relevant data is continually reviewed and updated during the inspection and pruning cycle outlined in this Plan.

9(4)(g) Any hazardous bushfire risk areas and low bushfire risk areas in the land referred to in paragraph (f).

The Declared Area of Merri-bek is classified as Low Bushfire Risk Area (LBRA). There are no Hazardous Bushfire Risk Areas (HBRA) within the Declared Area.

9(4)(h) The location of each area that the Responsible Person knows contains a tree that the responsible person may need to cut or remove to ensure compliance with Code and that is –

(i) Indigenous to Victoria

Merri-bek City Council was created through the amalgamation of the former Cities of Brunswick and Coburg, and the southern part of the former City of Broadmeadows. The street tree planting themes have varied over time from a native focus in the south to a native/exotic mix in the north.

The vegetation throughout the Declared Area consists mostly of commercial species, many of which are native, but not indigenous. In recent years, a blend of exotic species and a broader pallet of native and indigenous species have been introduced to increase the diversity of Merri-bek's urban forest.

There are several large, remnant, indigenous trees identified in Map 3 of **Appendix 1 – Merri-bek Indigenous Vegetation Assessment Final Report - Old Trees**.

The following resources are reviewed annually as to identify any significant native trees that were previously unidentified:

- Reference to the Heritage Register as per the meaning of the Heritage Act 1995 http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/

- Reference to the National Trust Register and regular communication with the Local History Officer http://trusttrees.org.au/

- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register https://www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/victorian-aboriginal-heritage-register

- Reference to the Threatened Species Advisory Lists for fauna and flora as published by the relevant State department at https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/threatened-list

- The relevant overlays of the Merri-bek Planning Scheme.

No additional trees of significance have been identified since the previous Plan.

(ii) listed in planning scheme to be of ecological, historical, or aesthetic significance

There are various controls within Merri-bek City Council that provide protection for trees under Council's Planning Scheme for their botanical, ecological, or environmental, value.

Permit requirements exist under planning scheme provisions to remove, destroy, or lop, vegetation in the following contexts:

- Heritage Overlay (HO)
- Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO)
    - Powerline clearance is exempt under the Environmental Significance Overlay so this does not apply to this Plan.
- Erosion Management Overlay (EMO)
    - Powerline clearance is exempt under the Erosion Management Overlay, so this does not apply to this Plan.
- Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO)
    - Powerline clearance is exempt under the Public Acquisition Overlay, so this does not apply to this Plan.
- Clause 52.17 Native Vegetation
    - Powerline clearance is exempt under the Clause 52.17 so this does not apply to this Plan.

The Merri-bek Planning Scheme is found at https://www.planning.vic.gov.au.

Precincts protected under the Heritage Overlay where tree controls apply and where trees may be affected by powerline clearance are listed below.

Citation	Precinct	Tree controls
HO85	Glenmorgan Street Precinct, Brunswick East	Yes, street trees
HO203	Loyola Avenue Precinct, Brunswick	Yes, street trees eastern side

Overlay maps are available for viewing upon request at Council's office at 90 Bell Street Coburg or at the Vic Plan website https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/.

iii) a tree of cultural or environmental significance

Several streets in Merri-bek have individual or avenue 'trees of value' that have very special qualities and contribute to the amenity, environment, health, and wellbeing of humans living and using those streets. Generally, these trees are native or exotic, mature, large, of good health and form, providing streetscape continuity and high aesthetic, cultural and physical amenity values.

Significant trees of value as defined in the MUFS as being significant in the following ways:

- Trees that have a trunk diameter of at least 300 mm, measured 1.4 metres from the ground or are taller than six metres
- A species or variety of tree that is rare in cultivation or unusual in Merri-bek
- A tree of outstanding aesthetic significance
- A tree that forms part of an avenue of consistent size, form, and variety
- A tree that contributes to a closed canopy over a street or pedestrian path
- A tree that was once contemporary with remaining heritage listed buildings
- A tree that is an outstanding example of the species or variety
- A tree that commemorates an occasion, event, or activities
- A remnant indigenous species tree
- A large, healthy tree or collection of trees in a high-profile location
- Areas that may indicate or provide evidence of a previous use of the land
- Trees that provide habitat for native fauna as evidenced by the presence of a nest or from a confirmed sighting of native fauna species that is unusual or rare
- Trees that are listed in the Merri-bek City Council Landscape Citations (1999) which lists local landscapes of heritage value.

A tree that meets the significance criteria will be considered for alternative management to preserve its aesthetic value, on a cost efficiency basis. Most candidates would have been included in the municipality's line clearance program works and that they have been strategically pruned to accommodate the existing architecture of the tree and to achieve compliance with the code. However, given their significance and that overall effect of pruning works to the tree and to residents' perceptions of the effects to the tree's aesthetics, Council may seek to limit the pruning to a maximum of 50% of removal of live foliage and increase the frequency of pruning to accommodate regrowth and to ensure that compliance to the code maintained. Council will only consider removal if the tree if compliance of the code cannot be met by any alternative mechanisms or if the tree conforms with the tree removal requirements of being dead, diseased, or dangerous and only after being approved by a Qualified Arborist.

There are no known trees of habitat significance for rare or endangered species listed in Council's Declared Area within the vicinity of powerlines that require pruning or clearing to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice.

There are no known trees listed of cultural significance that are affected by this Plan.

9(4)(i) The means which the responsible person will use to identify a tree of a kind specified in paragraph 9(4)(h)(i), (ii) or (iii)

The following methods are used in the management of trees referred in section 9(4)(h):

a. All pruning will take place in accordance with industry Best Practice and where practicable, pruning may be undertaken using Elevated Work Platforms (EWPs) or other similar methods to minimise overall site damage.

b. Council will as far as practicable, restrict cutting or removal of native trees or of cultural or environmental significance to the minimum extent necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Code, the schedule to the Code or to make an unsafe situation safe.

c. The application of Clauses 4, 5 or 6 of the Code, or the tree will be managed on an increased inspection or pruning cycle.

d. Council will liaise with the relevant electricity distribution businesses to pursue and investigate options for engineering solutions; these solutions could be as simple as raising the height of the conductors to clear the significant vegetation.

There are no known trees of habitat significance for rare or endangered species listed in Council's Declared Area within the vicinity of electric lines that require pruning or clearing to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice.

Should a previously unidentified specimen of high value, or a tree with or likely to contain habitat hollows, be identified by Council or its Contractors as being non-compliant, the tree will be individually assessed by Council's Line Clearance Surveillance Officer to ensure that pruning is minimised, and the environmental value of the tree is preserved. This may include managing the tree in line with Clauses 4, 5 or 6 of the Code, on an increased inspection or pruning cycle. If any are identified in the future, they will be plotted on Council's mapping system and monitored to ensure that minimal impact is made in the event of works being required.

If Council intends to cut or remove a tree that has been identified as habitat for fauna listed in the Advisory Lists (as referenced in 9(4)(g)) as –

a) threatened in accordance with section 10 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 or
b) listed in the Threatened Invertebrate Fauna List with a conservation status in Victoria of vulnerable", "endangered" or "critically endangered" or
c) listed in the Threatened Vertebrate Fauna List with a conservation status in Victoria of "vulnerable", "endangered" or "critically endangered.",

Council will undertake cutting or removal of the tree outside of the breeding season for that species. Where it is not practicable to undertake cutting or removal of the tree outside of the breeding season for that species, translocation of the fauna will be undertaken wherever practicable. All records will be recorded on Council's Content Manager system or filed at Merri-bek City Council's Walter Street Operations Centre located at 7-9 Walter Street Hadfield and kept for a minimum of 5 years.

In exceptional circumstances, fauna may be required to be relocated. This is not Council's preferred option and will be used only as a last resort, for example, if the tree is assessed to be a hazard tree. In such instances Council will engage a specialist animal management consultant to ensure that the relocation adheres to relevant legislation and Codes of practice and the impact of relocation to the fauna is minimised.

Where structural branches from the municipalities 'trees of value' require pruning to ensure that clearance distances comply with the Code and the amenity value, viability or aesthetics of the tree would be significantly affected because of this, Council may apply for an exemption (under the Clause 10 exemption). In such cases Council will utilise the hierarchal controls outlined in this plan to best manage this process in consultation with both the relevant utility company and ESV to achieve an agreed compliant outcome.

Merri-bek City Council has developed an electronic tree database, the TMD, which has the capacity to identify the location of and record information regarding electrical lines, trees and associated data relating to their condition, size, species, structure, and management i.e., date of last inspection or cutting. This data can be displayed on electronic field data capture equipment to assist the assessor in identifying trees of significance and applying the appropriate management strategy or refer the tree to Council for consideration of alternative management measures.

9(4)(j) The management procedures that the responsible person is required to adopt to ensure compliance with the code

(i) Include details of the methods to be adopted for managing trees and maintaining a minimum clearance space as required by the Code:

Identification of Work Required

Council conducts an annual inspection of all trees adjacent to electric lines to identify trees that require intervention to achieve compliance with the Code. Council will engage qualified staff or contractors to undertake annual inspections. The inspector is required to assess pruning requirements, alternative management options where appropriate, and how regrowth may impact on electric lines prior to the next planned inspection.

The inspection program is completed progressively within a financial year based on twenty geographic areas (Area Integrated Maintenance (AIM) areas) for the purpose tracking and managing inspection and works progress. Refer to **Appendix 2 - AIM Program (Powerline Clearance) Area Maps**.

Council employs an in-house assessor (Line Clearance Surveillance Officer) but may also use an external assessor if required. When assessing the vegetation, the assessor must:

a. assess the distance between each power pole to derive the Applicable Distance for the span as described in the Code. This is achieved by visual assessment but also can be verified using an electronic measurement tool (Laser Rangefinder 360R to more accurately capture the field data if required).

b. assess all trees on both sides of each street and behind termination poles and where necessary action all trees to overcome any identified tree problems or structural issues which are classified as a Hazard Tree within the inspection cycle.

c. will also ensure that any cables, stays, and other structures attached to the electric lines are included in the assessment, and that vegetation interfering with such assets is actioned accordingly.

d. Assess the risk of contact between trees and the electrical conductors having regard to foreseeable local conditions.

e. Record the work to be performed in the TMD.

Reports of non-compliance from relevant distribution company(s), residents or other sources will be investigated by Council’s Line Clearance Surveillance officer or external consultant. Once the investigation has been completed, any pruning action required to rectify the non-compliance will be undertaken. In cases where the distribution companies are requesting clearances greater than the Code or provided information that is not accurate, Council will advise the utility of this where the trees are compliant.

Hazard Trees

During the inspection of the Declared Area, the assessor will also inspect areas adjacent to the clearance space or regrowth space for trees that could become a hazard to the lines under adverse weather conditions.

Note: For this Plan, a hazard tree is a tree that possesses hazardous faults which, if not actioned, will negatively impact distribution assets. These trees may possess characteristics such as large cavities, severe decay, major cracks etc.

In a situation where a tree is identified that is likely to fall onto or otherwise come into contact with an electric line, Council will assess the tree using a Qualified Arborist with a minimum qualification of Certificate III in Arboriculture, including the "Perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation" unit of competency, or an equivalent qualification, with at least 3 years field experience in assessing trees. Council on occasion may undertake specialist assessment to further determine the structural integrity of the tree.

Where the arborist's assessment confirms the likelihood of contact with the electric line having regard to foreseeable local conditions including weather and ground instability, Council will remove or cut the hazard tree as per the Code. In the event of a hazard tree being identified as a culturally significant, environmentally significant or habitat tree, Council will where possible minimise the impact on the tree or fauna as previously outlined, to ensure compliance with the requirements of the code, or to make an unsafe situation safe.

The Electricity Safety Act 1998 (Victoria) Section 86B provides that a municipal council must specify, within its Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP):

(a) procedures and criteria for the identification of trees that are likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line (**hazard trees**); and

(b) procedures for the notification of responsible persons of trees that are hazard trees in relation to electric lines for which they are responsible.

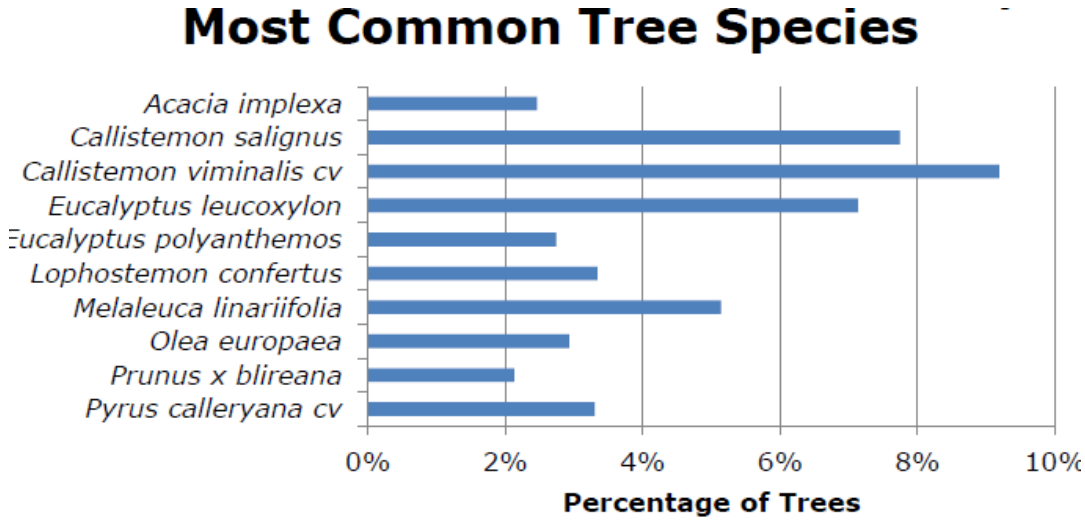
Merri-bek City Council's Emergency Management Plan, Risk Register & Treatment Plan, which includes the municipality's Fire Management Plan, refer to the Electric Line Clearance Management Plan in relation to Hazard trees. Council's Fire Prevention Officer is responsible for meeting with Fire Rescue Victoria annually to make amendments as required.

Assessment of Regrowth Space

The assessor will observe and apply their knowledge of growth of species under the growing conditions that prevail in the Municipality and apply these observations when determining the extent and frequency of pruning.

As part of the annual inspection, the assessor will determine the amount of clearance required to meet the minimum clearance specified by the Code plus an additional clearance for any regrowth that is expected to occur prior to the next planned inspection. Factors such as species, growth rates, and climatic conditions, are considered when determining the additional clearance.

The 10 most common street tree species in the municipality are:



The following is a summary of typical regrowth rates for common species:

- *Callistemon, Prunus*, and *Olea* species have slow regrowth rates and are unlikely to grow into the Clearance Space within an annual cycle.
- *Pyrus, Agonis* and *Acacia* species have moderate regrowth rates and typically require biennial clearance pruning.
- *Lophostemon, Eucalyptus, Melaleuca* species are capable of rapid regrowth and usually require annual clearance pruning.

Pruning to maintain the Clearance Space

Merri-bek City Council applies the following management principles to manage its trees in accordance with the Code:

- Annual inspection of all Council trees in the vicinity of powerlines by the in-house assessor (Line Clearance Surveillance Officer). This data is recorded electronically and spatially in the TMD for each tree requiring intervention to achieve or maintain compliance.

- Pruning of identified trees within the vicinity of HV annually. Council also has a reactive clearance program to respond to high priority trees identified as part of the distribution company's High Risk Feeder assessments. Trees in the vicinity of HV are pruned to achieve a minimum 1-year cycle.

- Pruning of identified trees in the vicinity of LV, including service wires. Trees in the vicinity of LV are pruned to a 1 year or 2-year cycle depending on the architecture of the tree; however, most trees are pruned annually to reduce the impact on the trees.

- Council will undertake directional pruning and/or increase the frequency of pruning to manage regrowth before seeking other alternatives to maintain compliance with the Code.

- Any third-party reports of non-compliant trees are recorded in the Customer Request System (CRS). These trees are then inspected within a 2-week timeframe. The inspection is recorded in the TMD and any works are prioritised as per the following timeframes:

    - **P1** immediate response
    - **P2** within 48hrs
    - **P3** within 6-12 weeks and
    - **P4** withing 12 months.

- Ensure all Council staff and contractors who are engaged to prune Merri-bek City Council's trees are appropriately trained, certified, and qualified as described in 9(4)(p).

- Provide qualified after-hours call out staff for emergency management of hazardous or storm event situations.

- Selective and staged removal of unmanageable low value species or inappropriate species that are planted directly underneath the open-wire electric lines.

- Reporting of spans with inadequate ground clearance to relevant utility companies and ESV for rectification.

- Maintaining an open dialogue with the relevant Distribution Business' vegetation management groups to ensure both parties have a clear understanding of each other's priorities. This will be achieved through an annual meeting between the relevant electricity distribution and the Merri-bek City Council's responsible employee.

- Investigate alternative compliance options including Exceptions or engineering solutions where significant vegetation clearance conflicts arise. The Merri-bek City

Council believes in investigating all possible engineering solutions for each given situation.

All pruning works will be undertaken in accordance with industry Best Practice methods. Council's crew or contractor will be directed to prune each tree in accordance with the voltage affecting the tree.

Alternative methods that may be adopted to maintain the clearance space

Where a significant tree is to be severely affected, or an affected person objects to the pruning or clearing of vegetation near powerlines, Council Officers will consult with the affected person to determine alternatives, such as removal and replanting with suitable species or alternative pruning methods. Where an affected person requests the relocation or provision of alternate services such as Aerial Bundled Cable, Council will refer the matter to the distribution company for further consideration.

Council may undertake a cost benefit analysis on a case-by-case basis where vegetation significance or public need dictates an alternative course should be pursued.

The following alternative methods may be adopted for maintaining clearance if a person objects to the methods proposed by Council:

- Use of an Exception under the Code
- Reduced pruning cycle
- Removal/Replacement with suitable species
- Use of Aerial Bundled Cable
- Powerlines to be re-routed
- Undergrounding of powerlines
- Other engineering solutions.

(ii) Specify the method for determining an additional distance that allows for cable sag and sway

Council's Line Clearance Surveillance Officer will use the information outlined in Part 3 of the Code, and clauses 23-27 including graphs contained in pages 53-60 of the Code (also available in **Appendix 3 – Applicable distance for middle 2/3 of span**), to determine any additional clearance distance to allow for cable sag and sway.

Uninsulated spans greater than 100 metres in length in LBRA require additional allowance for sag and sway. Council has identified 2 spans >100m but these are in an easement and are not affected by vegetation. If Council identifies further spans over 100m affected by vegetation, Council's Line Clearance Surveillance Officer will seek advice from the relevant Distribution Business regarding the additional sag and sway requirements and incorporate these within the Plan.

Council notes under Division 4 (21) that an owner, operator, or distribution company that is consulted by a Council must assist the Council by determining the additional distance.

There is no HBRA in the Declared Area of Merri-bek.

9(4)(k) The procedures to be adopted if it is not practicable to comply with the requirements of AS 4373 while cutting a tree in accordance with the Code.

Compliance with AS4373 *Pruning of amenity trees* (AS4373) requires observation of several factors when undertaking pruning.

These factors include

- Formative pruning of young trees
    - This is a critical requirement for trees under powerlines to develop canopy shapes that can be managed for Compliance when the tree matures.
- The amount and distribution of canopy removed
    - This is dictated by the Compliance requirements
    - The amount of canopy removed shall be the least amount required to achieve and maintain compliance, or to manage the tree in line with Clause 9(i)(i)(c) of this Plan and the canopy will be shaped to create a weight and canopy distribution as close to normal as possible.
- The size of the limb to which the pruning cut is made
- The angle of the final pruning cut

The current version is AS4373-2007, which was reconfirmed by Standards Australia in 2019. As a result of the need to achieve minimum clearance distances, as well as access restrictions inherent in maintaining safe approach distances, a safe work environment when working at heights and achieving an affordable level of productivity, it is acknowledged that compliance with AS4373, especially in relation to the final pruning cut, cannot always be achieved. Council requires that compliance with AS4373 be achieved whenever reasonably practicable considering these limitations in terms of pruning techniques and pruning cuts.

To achieve pruning of acceptable quality, all pruning personnel, either Council employees or contractors, must have the following as a minimum:

- Formal training as outlined in 9(4)(p) that incorporates modern tree pruning practices including awareness of AS4373 and natural target pruning principles.
- Project induction including awareness training in the Code of Practice and this Management Plan.

As part of Council's normal line clearance management processes, pruning quality will be monitored by Council's Line Clearance Surveillance Officer and poor performance will be identified. Contract management processes in the Contract will be used to address poor performance, including contract meetings, increased compliance audits, remedial training and, where necessary, application of contract non-conformance penalties.

If Council's Line Clearance Surveillance Officer determines that it is not practicable to comply with the requirements of AS4373 to achieve compliance, they will consult the with the Unit Manager Urban Forest to determine an alternative solution which may include:

- If applicable, apply an Exception under Clauses 4-7 of Part 2 Division 1 of the Code.
- Applying a more frequent pruning cycle to reduce the opportunity for regrowth.
- Apply an engineering solution to increase the separation between the tree and conductors.

9(4)(l) A description of each alternative compliance mechanism in respect of which the responsible person has applied, or proposes to apply, for approval under clause 31 of the Code.

Council does not intend to apply for any alternative compliance mechanisms at the time of preparation of this Plan. If Council is required to make application for approval of alternative compliance mechanisms in the future, it will be in compliance with the requirements covered in schedules 31 & 32 of the Code.

9(4)(m)(i) The details of each approval for an alternative compliance mechanism that the responsible person holds

Council does not hold any approvals for any alternative compliance mechanisms at the time of preparation of this Plan. If Council is required to make application for approval of alternative compliance mechanisms in the future, it will be in compliance with the requirements covered in schedules 31 & 32 of the Code.

9(4)(m)(ii) The details of each approval for an alternative compliance mechanism that is in effect

Council has no alternative compliance mechanisms in effect at the time of preparation of this Plan. If Council is required to make application for approval of alternative compliance mechanisms in the future, it will be in compliance with the requirements covered in schedules 31 & 32 of the Code.

9(4)(n) A description of the measurements that must be used to assess the performance of the responsible person under the management plan:

The following criteria will be used to assess Council's performance under this Plan:

Criteria	Measurement method	KPI	Reporting Requirements
Completion/review of the ELCMP prior to the 31st of March each year	• Reviewed Plan available on Council website	• Approved Plan available from March 31	• Risk Compliance Register Pulse
Maintain continuity of supply through compliance with the Code **Minimisation of fire risk in Potential fire ignition areas such as Merri Creek.**	• Contractor performance audits & monthly service performance reports • Records of annual inspection of Exceptions (if necessary) recorded in TMD • Jemena and CitiPower and Yarra Trams reports	• Zero fires or tree related conflict incidents • Number of DB noncompliance reports substantiated	• Monthly reporting to Branch Manager and quarterly reporting to Director • Quarterly SUP reporting • As determined by the relevant DB
Response times to notifications of non-compliance	• Customer Requests System (CRS) internal reports	• Percentage of CRS completed on time	• Monthly reporting to Branch Manager and quarterly reporting to Director • Annual organisation reporting
Safety of public and workers ***Compliance with ESV Electrical Safety Rules for Vegetation Management Work Near Overhead Powerlines by Non-Electrical Workers***	• Internal and Contractor Incident reports • Training compliance audits • Random onsite audits • ESV compliance audits	• Electrical Safety Line Clearance Regulations 2020 requirements • Zero electrical incidents • 100 percent compliance • 100 percent compliance with legislation	• Contact RFT-P-2020-132 monthly reporting • Quarterly SUP reporting • Fortnightly incident reporting
Quality of Work (Pruning Techniques)	• Contractor and In-house Staff performance audits • Annual audit of contractor staff qualifications and training	• 95% Compliance	• Contact RFT-P-2020-132 monthly reporting

Criteria	Measurement method	KPI	Reporting Requirements
Annual independent audit of 5% of Declared Area	• Independent Audit results	• Min 90 % compliance LV • 100% compliance HV • % Compliance across pruning across all AIM grids	• Annual SUP reporting
Number of complaints received regarding the Contractor's work (Council's customer request system)	• Customer Requests System internal reports	• Reduction in complaints received	• Monthly CRS reporting
Number of substantiated notifications of breaches of the Code from DB	• Reports received and actioned • Customer Requests System internal reports • Recorded in works management system	• Percentage increase in substantiated pruning interventions	• Annual SUP reporting
Works requiring live line or Shutdown works	• Number of pruning works	• Zero shut down less than and less than 5% or live line works recorded annually.	• Quarterly SUP reporting

To ensure both compliance and continual improvement of the program, the ongoing monitoring of the above indicators allows comparison to historic indicators to ensure program compliance and improvement in work efficiencies, as well as providing a framework to assess seasonal climatic influences.

9(4)(o) Details of the audit processes that must be used to determine the responsible person's compliance with the Code:

Council's Line Clearance Surveillance Officer undertakes regular audits of works completed by contractors and in-house crews under this Plan. The auditing follows the completion of each AIM quadrant in accordance with the program schedule. A representative sample of trees to be audited in each quadrant is determined using the Australian Bureau of Statistics sample size calculator. The minimum sample size is 5%.

All trees within the sample are audited for compliance with the Code and for the adequacy of any additional clearance given to account for any regrowth expected prior to the next planned inspection. The quality of pruning will be assessed against the considerations outlined in this Plan. Works that do not conform to the required standard are considered to be non-conformant.

Where non-conformance is identified, rectification works are issued to the responsible work crews or contractors to be completed within 28 days. Once notification is received that rectification has been completed, the trees are re-assessed by Council's Line Clearance Surveillance Officer to ensure that all non-conformance has been rectified.

If the percentage of non-conformance for a given AIM quadrant exceeds 20% of the sample, the responsible work crews or contractor will be required to re-assess and rectify all works allocated in the quadrant. A follow-up sample audit is then undertaken to assess overall compliance with the Code

Additionally, an annual sample audit of 5% of all trees in the vicinity of overhead conductors within the Declared Area is undertaken by an external, independent, contractor to determine Council's overall compliance with the Code.

Record keeping

All audits are recorded in Council's TMP and the outcomes are stored in Council's Content Manager document register system.

9(4)(p) The qualifications and experience that the responsible person must require of the persons who are to carry out the pruning or removal of trees in Accordance with the Code:

Council will ensure all contractors and employees performing works under this Plan are appropriately qualified and trained and hold appropriate certificates for both themselves and the equipment that they use to undertake the work. A record of the sighting of these documents is kept by Council and updated annually.

A training matrix for personnel working on Merri-bek's line clearance program is provided below:

Role	Qualification(s)	Other Licences / Training that may apply
Vegetation Clearance Worker Tree pruning and removal near powerlines	UET20312 Certificate II in ESI – Powerline Vegetation Control	• Safe Approach Distances – Vegetation Work • Safe Approach Distances to SWER • Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (HLTAID009) • Provide First Aid in an ESI environment (UETTDRRF10) • Licence to operate a boom-type elevating work platform (boom length 11 metres or more) (TLILIC0005) • Use elevated platform to cut vegetation above ground level near live electrical apparatus (UETTDRVC25) • Perform EWP rescue (UETTDRRF03) • Perform EWP controlled descent escape (UETTDRRF08) • Elevated Work Platforms High Risk Work Licence • Operate A Mobile Chipper FWPHAR2206 • Chainsaw accreditation equivalent to AHCMOM213 • Manual Handling Training (TLID1001) • Noise Conservation • Sun Smart training • Appropriate driving licence • Appropriate, Accredited Traffic management training
Line Clearance Surveillance Officer Line clearance assessment + defect assessment	Certificate III Arboriculture + UET20312 Certificate II in ESI – Powerline Vegetation Control	• First Aid Level 2 certificate • Sun Smart training • Driver's licence

		• Assess vegetation and recommend control measures in an ESI environment (UETTDRVC24)
Qualified Arborist Hazard tree and risk assessment	Certificate III Arboriculture + AHCARB408 - Perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation + at least 3 years of field experience	• First Aid Level 2 certificate • Sun Smart training • Driver's licence • Assess vegetation and recommend control measures in an ESI environment (UETTDRVC24)
Consultant Arborist Hazard tree and risk assessment, auditing	Diploma in Arboriculture + 5 years' experience	• First Aid Level 2 certificate • Sun Smart training • Driver's licence • 5 years industry experience • Assess vegetation and recommend control measures in an ESI environment (UETTDRVC24)

Council's employees or Contractors must also follow the minimum distances specified in the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019 (specifically outlined in regulation 616) when undertaking tree clearing works and comply with the safe approach distances as outlined in the Blue Book and *ESV Electrical Safety Rules for Vegetation Management Work Near Overhead Powerlines by Non-Electrical Workers*.

Council does not require persons undertaking tree cutting works to have a minimum level of experience to undertake the work. As long as individuals have the required training and operate to the training and safety standards outlined in the required training and within the Regulations, a minimum level of experience is not required by Council.

In a situation where a tree is identified that is likely to fall onto or otherwise come into contact with an electric line, Council will assess the tree using a Qualified Arborist with a minimum qualification of Certificate III in Arboriculture, including the "Perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation" unit of competency, or an equivalent qualification, with at least 3 years field experience in assessing trees. The assessment will take into account foreseeable local conditions and consider the classification of the tree. Based on the Qualified Arborist's assessment and recommendations, the hazard tree will be actioned in compliance with the Code.

Personnel found not to be appropriately trained for the designated task will be removed from line clearance work as appropriate.

9(4)(q) Notification and consultation procedures

Council recognises the importance of providing notification of programmed tree pruning works to affected persons.

Council has made available access to the tree pruning programme to all residents at https://www.Merri-bek.vic.gov.au/living-in-Merri-bek/environment/trees/tree-maintenance-schedule/

Council's Line Clearance Surveillance Officer will ensure advertisements are placed on the website prior to the trees being pruned in each area or in some cases notify residents by handouts. Consistent with Councils' tree removal process, Council's Contractor will notify the affected property owner of any tree being removed for powerline maintenance reasons. The extent of notification is generally the property nearest the tree being removed.

Notifications will be made no less than 14 and no more than 60 days prior to the commencement of works.

If the pruning works cannot be undertaken within the notification period, then the notification will be updated to include these works on the Council website

Where the tree intended for cutting or removal is a tree of cultural or environmental significance, notice will include the impact of the cutting or removal of the tree and the actions to be taken to minimise that impact.

9(4)(r) Dispute resolution procedures

INTERNAL PROCESS

Council has a CEO authorised Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedure to ensure that the dispute resolution process is fair and reasonable and meets with community expectations. The procedure consists of a 3-tier system that is explained below:

Tier 1
Complaints about Council's standard services, such as the quality, delay, or failure to deliver a service are handled at tier 1 by officer level staff.

After the complaint is resolved, there is an option of complaining about the way the complaint has been handled by asking for the complaint to be escalated to tier 2.

Tier 2
Complaints about policy decisions or officer conduct are handled at tier 2 by Team Leaders and Managers.

After the complaint is resolved, there is an option of complaining about the way the complaint has been handled by asking for the complaint to be escalated to tier 3 for an independent review.

Tier 3
Tier 3 covers independent internal reviews of how a complaint was handled at tiers 1 or 2, and are investigated by Council's Complaint Resolution Coordinator.

Further information about the procedure be found on Council's website at https://merri-bek.vic.gov.au/my-council/contact/more-information-about-our-customer-service/complaints/.

All complaints received by Council are recorded on Council's Customer Request System (CRS). Each complaint has a unique identification number that is monitored electronically until the complaint is resolved.

The persons responsible for resolving official disputes between Council and members of the public are:

TIER 1

Title	Line Clearance Surveillance Officer
Name	Mark Somerville

TIER 2

Title	Unit Manager Urban Forest
Name	Phillip Jansen

TIER 3

Title	Complaint Resolution Coordinator
Name	Danielle Hutchinson

EXTERNAL PROCESS

Council acknowledges that there may be times when a dispute cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the person lodging the complaint through the internal process. In such cases when the tiered process is exhausted, Council will direct the person to Energy Safe Victoria, or in some cases to the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria.

First External Contact	CONTACT:	ENERGY SAFE VICTORIA
	TELEPHONE:	03 9203 9700
	E-MAIL	info@energysafe.vic.gov.au

Second External Contact	CONTACT:	ENERGY & WATER OMBUDSMAN VICTORIA
	TELEPHONE:	1800 500 509
	E-MAIL	ewovinfo@ewov.com.au

PART 2 CLEARANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

DIVISION 1 – ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

(4) Exception to minimum clearance space for structural branches around insulated low voltage electric lines

Council may identify trees within the Declared Area that meet the requirements for exception as outlined in Section 4 of Schedule 1 of the Code. The exception relates to a structural branch with a part that is >130mm diameter within the Clearance Space for spans that are:

(i) Less than or equal to 40m in length and the branch is >150mm from the line, or
(ii) Greater than 40m in length and the branch is >300mm from the line.

If Council chooses to apply this Exception, an individual risk assessment of the tree will be undertaken to determine that the branch does not have a defect or otherwise pose an unreasonable risk. All assessments for trees to which this exception may be or is applied will be undertaken by a Qualified Arborist with all relevant training as detailed in Part 1 9(4)(p) of this Plan within 14 months of the previous assessment.

Where the assessment determines that the limb is a low risk of impacting the powerlines, the tree will be flagged as being managed as an Exception in Council's TMD.

(5) Exception to minimum clearance space for small branches around insulated low voltage electric lines

Where it is identified that foliage and branches less than 10mm in diameter have grown within the Clearance Space of an insulated low voltage line, the pruning records for the tree will be reviewed to ensure the tree has been pruned to comply with the minimum Clearance Space in the previous 12 months. If it has, the tree will be noted as requiring pruning during the next cycle of the annual clearance program. If it has not, the Line Clearance Surveillance Officer will schedule the relevant clearance works to be completed within the timeframes specified in section 9(4)(j).

(6) Exception to the minimum clearance space for small branches around uninsulated low voltage electric lines in low bushfire areas

Where it is identified that foliage and branches less than 10mm in diameter have grown no more than 500mm within the Clearance Space under an uninsulated low voltage line, and if it is within the middle 2/3 of the span with spreaders fitted as specified in the Regulations, the pruning records for the tree will be reviewed to ensure the tree has been pruned to comply with the minimum Clearance Space in the previous 12 months.

If it has, the tree will be noted as requiring pruning during the next cycle of the annual clearance program. If it has not, the Line Clearance Surveillance Officer will schedule the relevant clearance works to be completed within the timeframes specified in section 9(4)(j).

(7) Exception to minimum clearance space for structural branches around uninsulated low voltage electric lines in low bushfire risk areas

Where a tree is identified with a structural branch within the Clearance Space >130mm in diameter and removal of the branch will significantly alter the shape of the tree or compromise its structure, Council may undertake an individual risk assessment of the tree to determine whether this Exception to the normal clearance requirements is appropriate.

This Exception relates to a structural branch with a part that is >130mm diameter within the Clearance Space for spans that are:

(i) Less than 45m in length, contain one conductor spreader and the branch is >500mm from the line, or
(ii) Greater than 45m in length, contains two conductor spreaders and the branch is >500mm from the line.

If Council chooses to apply this Exception, an individual risk assessment of the tree will be undertaken to determine that the branch does not have a defect or otherwise pose an unreasonable risk. All assessments for trees to which this exception may be or is applied will be undertaken by a Qualified Arborist with all relevant training as detailed in Part 1 9(4)(p) of this Plan within 14 months of the previous assessment.

Where the assessment determines that the limb is a low risk of impacting the powerlines, the tree will be flagged as being managed as an Exception in Council's TMD.

(8) Not applicable

(9) Responsible person may cut or remove hazard tree

Please see 9(4)(j).

DIVISION 2 – MANNER OF CUTTING AND REMOVING TREES

(9) Responsible Person may cut or remove hazard trees

Please see 9(4)(j).

(10) Cutting of tree to comply with the Code

Please see 9(4)(j) and 9(4)(k).

(11) Cutting or removal of indigenous or significant trees must be minimised

Please see 9(4)h and 9(4)(i).

(12) Cutting or removing habitat for threatened fauna

Please see 9(4)(i).

(13) Restriction on timing of cutting or removal if notification is required

Covered in Clause 16 and 17 of the Code.

(14) Restriction on urgent cutting of trees

Covered in Clause 9 of the Code**.**

(15) Restriction on urgent removal of trees

Covered in Clause 9 of the Code**.**

DIVISION 3 – NOTIFICATION, CONSULTATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

(16) Responsible person must publish notice before cutting or removing certain trees

Please see 9(4)(q).

(17) Responsible Person must provide notification before cutting or removing certain trees

Please see 9(4)(q).

(18) Responsible Person must consult with occupier or owner of private property before cutting or removing certain trees

Clause18 is not applicable as the Merri-bek City Council does not undertake works on trees within private property.

(19) Notification and record keeping requirements for urgent cutting or removal

Clause 19 is not applicable as the City of Merri-bek does not undertake works on trees within private property or land belonging to adjacent Councils.

DIVISION 4 – ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

(20) Duty relating to the safety of cutting or removal of trees close to an electric line

Where Council staff and or Council's Contractor are unsure of the safety of pruning or removing a tree, they will consult with the relevant Distribution Business, or if the tree affects a railway/tram supply line, the relevant Railway/tram Operator, to develop an appropriate action plan to mitigate the hazard or bring the tree into compliance with the Code.

The contact details of the relevant organisations are provided on page 4 of this Plan.

(21) Duty relating to assisting to determine the allowance for conductor sag and sway

Notwithstanding other requirements of this clause, Council notes that an owner, operator, or distribution company that is consulted by a Council under subclause 21(1) must assist the Council by determining the additional distance.

PART 3 – MINIMUM CLEARANCE SPACES
DIVISION 2 - ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE MECHANISMS

(31) Application for approval of alternative compliance mechanism

Council does not use, or has applied for, any alternative compliance mechanisms.

If Council should apply to Energy Safe Victoria for approval to use an alternative compliance mechanism in respect of a span of an electric line or a class of spans, the application will include details of:

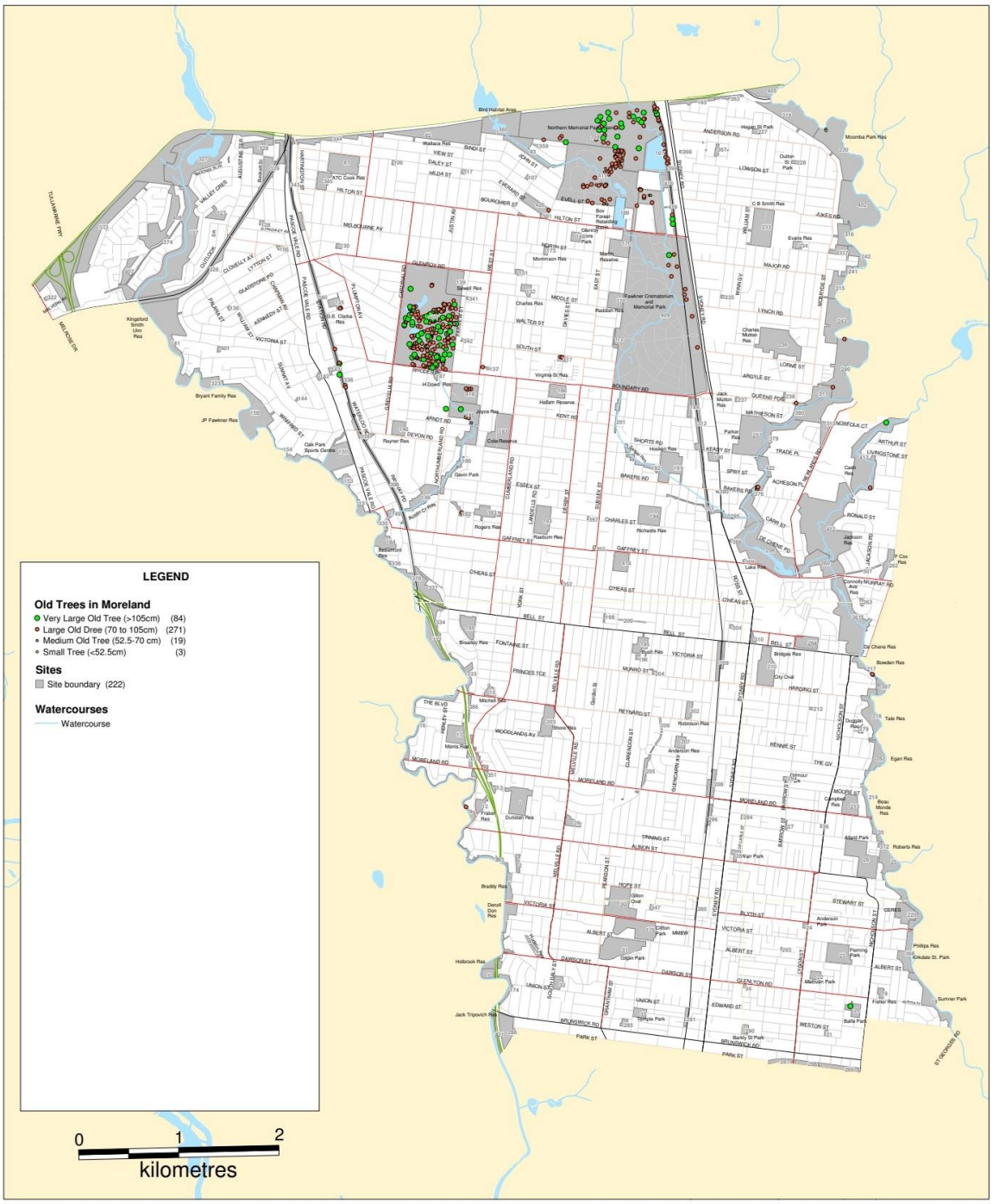
i. the alternative compliance mechanism; and
ii. a written confirmation from the Distribution Business or alternative qualified provider that includes
    a. the procedures to be adopted for commissioning, installing, operating, maintaining, and decommissioning the alternative compliance mechanism; and
    b. the published technical standards that will be complied with when commissioning, installing, operating, maintaining, and decommissioning the alternative compliance mechanism; and
iii. the location of the span; or describe the class; and
iv. the minimum clearance space that the applicant proposes is to be applied in relation to the span, or class of spans, in respect of which the application is made; and
v. a copy of the formal safety assessment prepared by the Distribution Business or an alternative qualified provider under clause 32.
vi. a copy of the written agreement of the owner or the operator of the span; or the owner or the operator of each span that belongs to that class.

(32) Formal safety assessment of alternative compliance mechanism

Council does not use, or has applied for, any alternative compliance mechanisms.

As Council Officers are not qualified to provide a formal safety assessment, this will be prepared by the Distribution Business or an alternative qualified provider and will comply with the requirements as defined in Schedule1, part 3, Division 2, and Clause 1 of the Code.

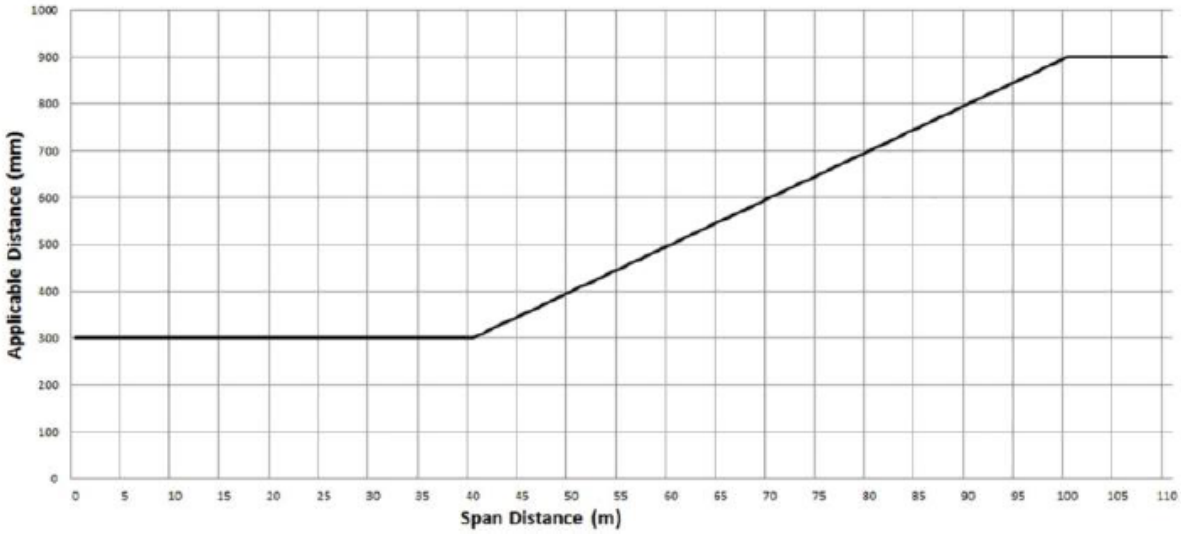
Appendix 1 – Merri-bek Indigenous Vegetation Assessment Final Report Old Trees



Appendix 2 - AIM Program (Powerline Clearance) Area Maps

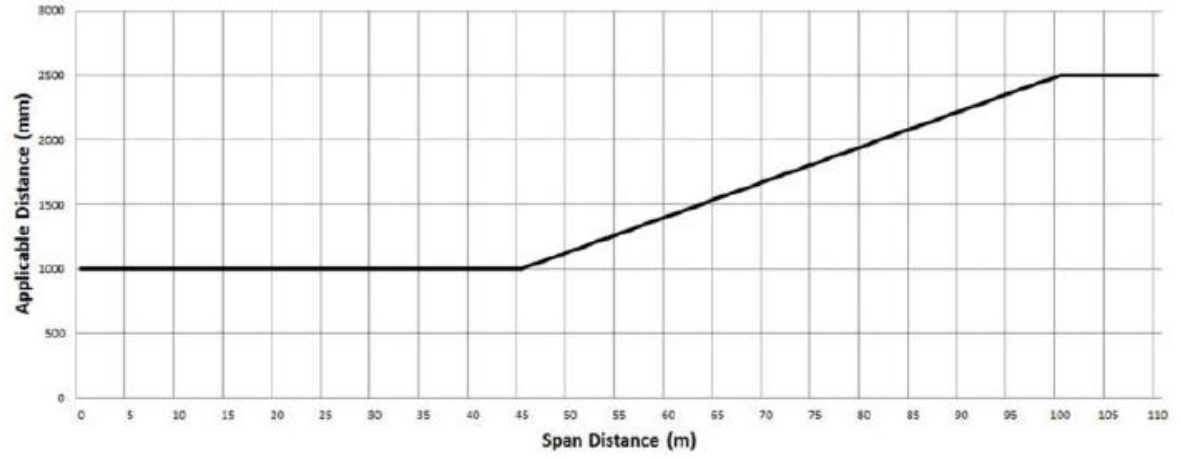
Appendix 3 – Applicable distance for middle 2/3 of span

GRAPH 1—INSULATED ELECTRIC LINES IN ALL AREAS



The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle two thirds of a span of an insulated electric line in all areas is calculated is as follows:
The applicable distance for the middle two thirds of the span is:
A. if the span distance is less than or equal to 40 m the applicable distance equals 300 mm.
B. if the span distance is greater than 40 m and less than or equal to 100 m — the applicable distance is calculated in accordance with the following expression — 300 + [(span distance minus 40) multiplied by 10];
C. if the span distance is greater than 100 metres the applicable distance equals 900 mm.

GRAPH 2: UNINSULATED LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINE IN LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA



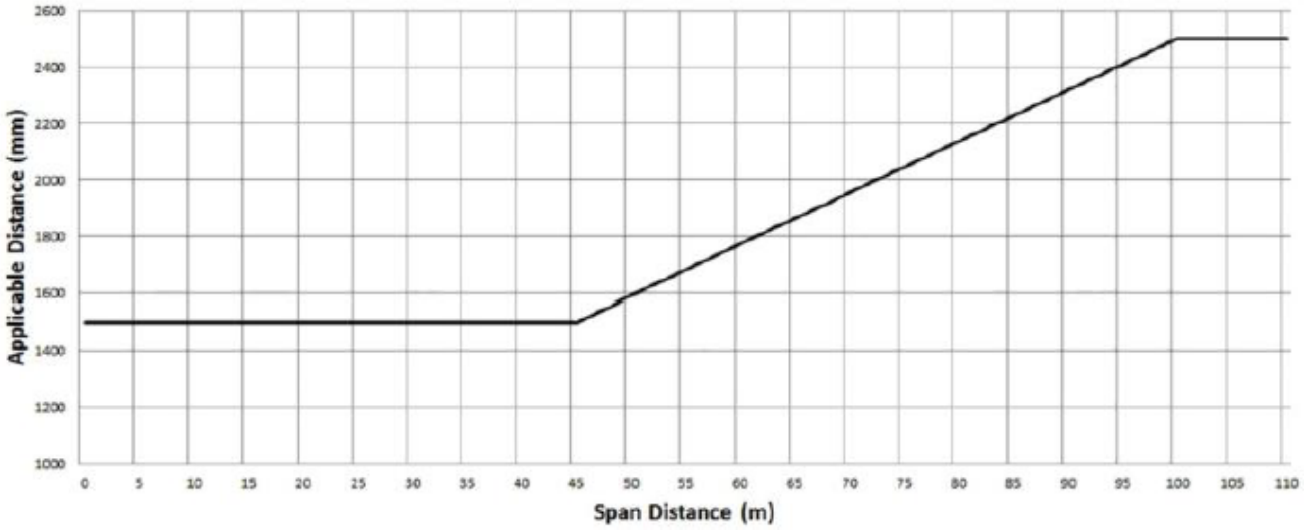
The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle two thirds of a span of uninsulated low voltage electric line in a low bushfire risk area is calculated is as follows

A if the span distance is less than or equal to 45 m the applicable distance equals 1000 mm;

B. If the span distance is greater than 45 m and less than or equal to 100 m the applicable distance is calculated in accordance with the following expression: 1000 + [(span distance minus 45) multiplied by (1500 divided by 55)];

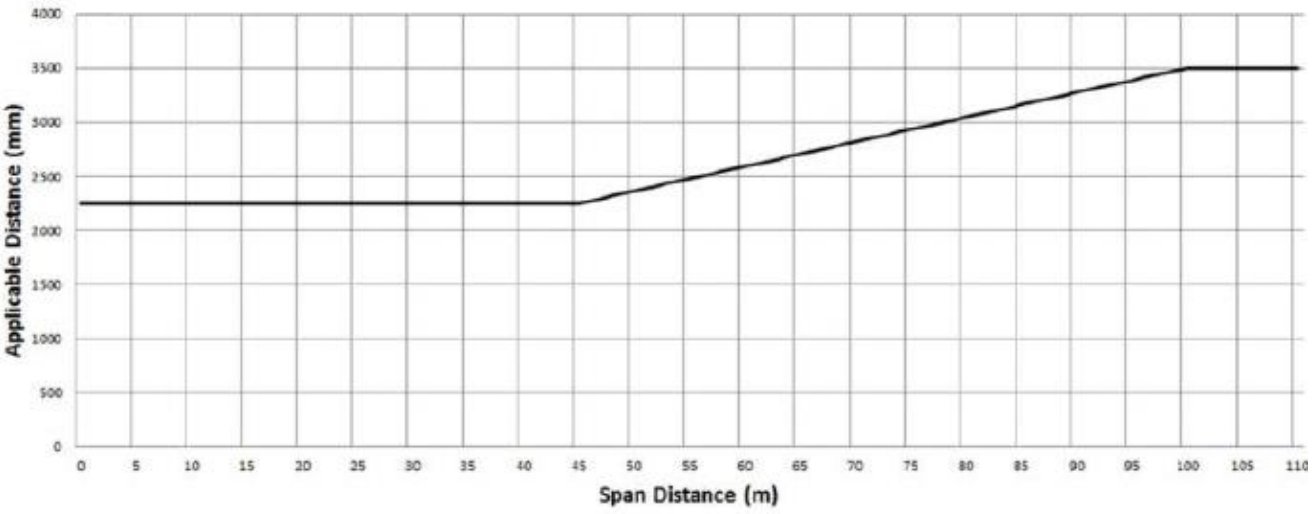
C. if the span distance is greater than 100 m the applicable distance equals 2500 mm.

GRAPH 3: UNINSULATED HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINE (OTHER THAN A 66,000 VOLT ELECTRIC LINE) IN LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA



The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle two thirds of a span of uninsulated high voltage electric line (other than a 66,000-volt electric line) in a low bushfire risk area is calculated is as follows:
A. if the span distance is less than or equal to 45 m the applicable distance equals 1500 mm;
B. if the span distance is greater than 45 m and less than or equal to 100 m, the applicable distance is calculated in accordance with the following expression 1500 + [(span distance minus 45) multiplied by (1000 divided by 55)];
C. if the span distance is greater than 100 m the applicable distance equals 2500 mm.

GRAPH 4: UNINSULATED 66,000 VOLT ELECTRIC LINE IN LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA



The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle two thirds of a span of uninsulated 66,000-volt electric line in a low bushfire risk area is calculated is as follows:
A. if the span distance is less than or equal to 45 m the applicable distance equals 2250 mm
B. if the span distance is greater than 45 m and less than or equal to 100 m the distance calculated in accordance with the following expression 2250 + [(span distance minus 45) multiplied by (1250 divided by 55)].
C. if the span distance is greater than 100 m the applicable distance equals 3500 mm.

Tables and graphs in this section have been extracted from the Regulations.

Plan and section view of Clearance Spaces for all areas per Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020

FIGURE 1 – PLAN VIEW OF ELECTRICAL LINES IN ALL AREAS

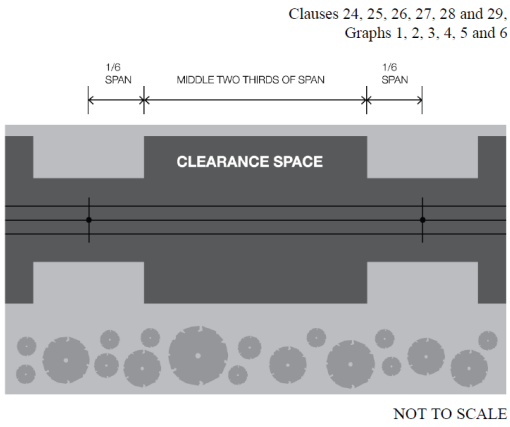


FIGURE 2 – INSULATED ELECTRICAL LINES IN ALL AREAS

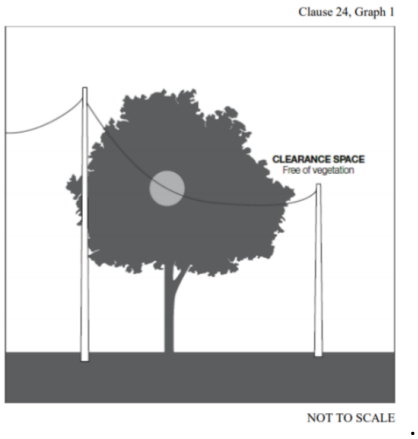


FIGURE 3 – INSULATED ELECTRICAL LINES IN ALL AREAS AND UNINSULATED HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL LINES (OTHER THAN 66 000 VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINES) IN LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS

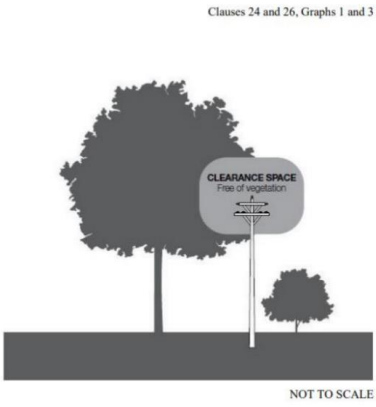


FIGURE 4 – UNINSULATED LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL LINES IN LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS

FIGURE 5 – UNINSULATED 66 000 VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL LINE IN A LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA AND UNINSULATED ELECTRIC LINE IN A HAZARDOUS BUSHFIRE RISK AREA