

Trees and Power Lines

Keeping you and your community safe

Trees and branches falling onto lines are the major cause of power outages in the Waikato region, particularly in storms.

Overgrown trees can also prevent our crews from repairing equipment quickly and often delay the process of restoring power.

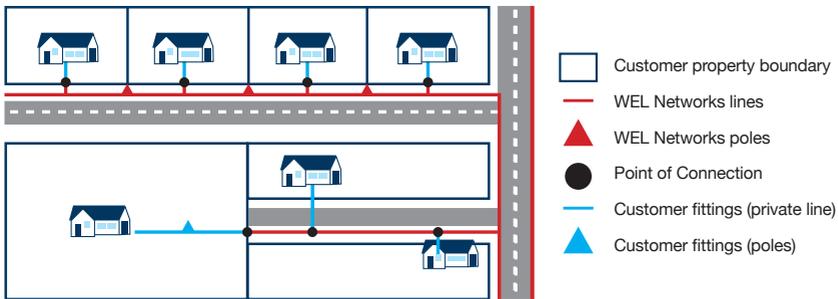
Managing vegetation within the WEL network area is a shared responsibility and by working together we can continue to deliver a safe and reliable power supply to our communities.

MAINTAIN YOUR SERVICE LINE

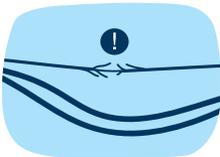
Did you know that you own and are responsible for the electrical lines and structures within the boundary of your property?

In a fault or outage situation, if the condition of your service line is poor, for safety reasons WEL Networks may be unable to restore power to your premises until you carry out maintenance.

Electrical lines or cables that leave our network at your property boundary or enter a right of way, and supply electricity to buildings or pumps, are owned by you and are commonly referred to as service lines. This is often only a few metres of line, but in rural areas this can be several hundred metres of conductor and poles. Service lines require maintenance to ensure safe and reliable power to your premises.



If your service line has leaning poles, low hanging lines, crooked cross arms or shows signs of damage, make urgent contact with an electrician to provide remedial work.



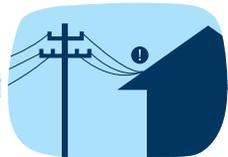
Frayed or sagging power lines break easily, especially in high winds.



Look for signs of rotten wood on cross arms, check whether your poles are rotting at the base.



Keep trees away from power lines – they cause anything from flickering lights to a total power outage.



Check the point where the service line enters your house – is the line old or frayed?

KEEP TREES CLEAR

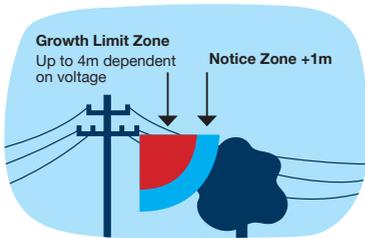
As a landowner you are responsible for ensuring vegetation and trees do not encroach on overhead or underground electrical lines.

Stay safe – use a professional to trim trees within 4m of power lines

Only approved vegetation contractors should be used to maintain safe clearances. Attempting to cut or trim trees yourself near power lines could result in damage, severe injury or even death. Under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003, trees must be kept at a minimum distance from power lines and electrical equipment to prevent disruption to power supply.

Clearances

Tree clearances are dependent on the voltage of the overhead lines. There are two zones; **Growth Limit Zone (GLZ)** – the space around the power line (measured in metres) where trees must not encroach, even in windy or stormy conditions, and the **Notice Zone (NZ)** is one metre beyond the Growth Limit Zone.



Overhead line	GLZ	NZ
33kV	2.5 metres	3.5 metres
11kV	1.6 metres	2.6 metres
230/400V	0.5 metres	1.5 metres

The size of the Growth Limit Zone depends on the voltage of the lines. If your trees are encroaching on the Growth Limit Zone of that line, you could be issued with a cut or trim notice. You must respond and take the action required by the cut or trim notice or face a fine of up to **\$10,000**.

SAFETY DISCONNECTION

We offer a free safety disconnection for your own safety and the safety of our community. Cut the power before you cut trees – book in your free safety disconnection now.

Call **0800 800 935** or visit wel.co.nz/every-day-home-safe for more information.

HELP US KEEP THE POWER ON

Prior to selecting and planting trees on your property, please think carefully about the location and height to avoid the risk and future costs associated with trees growing too close to electricity lines.

If you observe trees across our network which are close to power lines, call **WEL Networks** on **0800 800 935**, so together we can maintain a reliable power supply.



STAY SAFE

