2025 – 2026 PLAN

V/Line Electric Line Clearance Management Plan

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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1 Purpose

The Electric Line Clearance Management Plan 2025-26 (the Plan) has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*, and to describe the V/Line strategies, processes and procedures adopted to manage electric line clearance responsibilities.

The purpose of the V/Line Electric Line Clearance Management Plan 2026-27 (the Plan) is to clearly define the requirements of the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* and to demonstrate how V/Line meets these responsibilities

The Plan aims to achieve compliance with the relevant legislation, maintain (as far as reasonably practicable) electric safety and reliability of electricity supply, minimise fire starts, manage public and workplace safety, protect of areas of significant vegetation, and manage community and stakeholder satisfaction.

This plan is structured to align with the relevant elements of the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*.

2 Scope

The Plan addresses V/Line's responsibilities as a Responsible person as per the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*.

Responsibility for electric line clearances sits within the Network Structures, Facilities and Vegetation team within the NDAM (network development, assets and maintenance) group. The Fire and Fuels Manager also performs the role of ELC Program Manager, supported by the Vegetation Maintenance Coordinator and Natural Resource Management Advisor roles. Electric line clearance responsibilities complement V/Line's existing fire management and risk-based vegetation management programs, including fire prevention slashing and hazardous tree management across approximately 3600 kilometres of rail reserve. The Plan also supports V/Line's broader objective of maintaining a safe and efficient rail service.

Table 1 – Plan Section and Relevant Legislation

Section	Overview of Content	Legislation Reference
Section 6 (a) - (d) **Plan information**	Provides details of those responsible for managing and authorising key elements of the plan.	Regulation 9 (4) Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (a)(b)(c)(d)
Section 7 (e) – (h)	Provides details of the area the plan relates to, objectives of the plan and vegetation profile being managed, including significant vegetation.	Regulation 9 (4) Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (e)(f)(g)(h)

Section	Overview of Content	Legislation Reference
Section 8 (i)	Provides details of the vegetation profile being managed, including significant vegetation.	Regulation 9 (4) Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (i)
Section 9 (j)(ii)(a)(b) **Management procedures for maintaining line clearances** **Determining minimum clearance space and allowance for say and sway**	Regulations and code, including: • inspection • assessment • pruning • removal • determining clearance space • work programming	Regulation 9 (4) Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (j) Division 1 of Part 3 of the Code of Practice responsible persons Section 9 (4)
Section 9 (k) – (m) **Exemption, exception, and alternative compliance mechanisms**	Provides an overview of flexibility provisions for managing ELC obligations	Regulation 9 (2) Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (k)(l) (m)
Section 10 (n)(o) **Performance, monitoring and auditing**	Describes the systems and processes in place to both monitor performance against the plan and its objective and audit to verify compliance with the plan, regulations, and code.	Regulation 9 (2) Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (n)(o)
Section 11 (p) **Training, qualifications, and experience**	Specifies the qualifications, training and experience requirements for personnel associated with V/Line to meet its ELC responsibilities.	Regulation 9 (2) Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (p)

Section	Overview of Content	Legislation Reference
Section 12 (q)(r) **Notification, consultation, and dispute resolution**	Describes the systems in place to notify and consult any persons or organisation that maybe affected by ELC activities, including the procedures that will be used to manage disputes should they arise.	Regulation 9 (2) Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (q)(r)
Section 13	Plan publication details	Part 2 (10)(6) Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020
Section 14	Exemptions and exceptions	Part 2 (11) Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020
Section 15 (a)(b)	Assessment and management of hazard trees	Schedule 1 to the Code of Practice, (2)(2)(a)(b)
Section 16	Urgent cutting of trees	
Section 17	Review and approval	9 (2) of Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020

The Plan will be reviewed annually to assess the effectiveness of Plan strategies, processes, and procedures, and available for review by Energy Safe Victoria. The Plan is publicly available at vline.com.au.

3 Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

Definitions, acronyms and abbreviations commonly used throughout this document are provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
CFA	Country Fire Authority
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
ELC	Electric Line Clearance
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
ESV	Energy Safe Victoria
EWOV	Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria
EWP	Elevating Work Platform
EWRM	Enterprise Wide Risk Management System
FAMS	Findings and Actions Management System
FDP	Fire Danger Period
GPS	Global Positioning System
HBRA	Hazardous Bushfire Risk Area
HV	High Voltage

Term	Definition
KPI	Key Performance Indicator/s
LBRA	Low Bushfire Risk Area
LGA	Local Government Authority
LV	Low Voltage
OH	Overhead
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
RIW	Rail Industry Worker
RSWHA	Rail Safety Worksite Hazard Assessment
RTO	Registered Training Organisation

4 Roles and Responsibilities

Table 3 – Roles and Responsibilities

Term	Definition
ELC Program Manager, Fire and Fuels Manager	Responsible for delivering the annual plan
Director Infrastructure, Head of Network Structures, Facilities and Vegetation	Accountable for the success of the plan
Environment roles, Safety, Sustainability and Risk team	Consulted for details and additional requirements
Reserve Maintenance team, Safety, Sustainability and Risk team	Kept informed of major updates

5 Context

5.1 Organisational Context

This plan has been developed to demonstrate the processes and systems in place to ensure V/Line's compliance with *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020.*

5.2 Strategic Context

This plan is required as per the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* and has been developed in consultation with Energy Safe Victoria.

6 Plan Information

The following information is required as defined in Part 2 Section 9(4):

6.1 Responsible Persons

Table 4 – Responsible Persons as defined in Part 2 Section 9(4)

	Context	Responsible Persons
(a)	**Name, Address and Telephone Number of the Responsible Person**	Warwick Horsley, A/CEO V/Line Corporation 452 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000 1800 800 007
(b)	**Name, Position, Address and Telephone Number of the Individual who was responsible for the preparation of the plan**	Jonathan McKeown, Executive Director Network Development, Assets and Maintenance V/Line Corporation 452 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000 1800 800 007
(c)	**Name, Position, Address and Telephone Number of the Person/s who are responsible for carrying out the plan**	Jai Nunn, Director Infrastructure V/Line Corporation 452 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000 1800 800 007 Matthew Trevaskis, Head of Network Structures, Facilities and Vegetation V/Line Corporation 452 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000 1800 800 007
(d)	**The telephone number of a person who can be contacted in an emergency that requires clearance of a tree from an electric line that the responsible person is required to keep clear of trees:**	Fault Management Centre (24 hours) (03) 9619 5849 0231 691

6.2 Plan Objectives and Application

Table 5 – Plan Objectives and Application

	Context	Objectives
(e)	**The objectives of the management plan:**	• Outline the strategies to achieve compliance with the regulations and the code • Outline the strategies to maintain electrical safety and reliability of electricity supply, and public and property safety • Describes how the ELC program supports V/Line's fire management program objectives, including minimising fire starts • Maintain workplace safety

	Context	Objectives
		• Outline the management strategies to maximise environmental values and protection of areas of important vegetation • Outline the strategies to support community and stakeholder satisfaction with the ELC program • Describe how the ELC program complements V/Line's commitment to rail safety and the safe and efficient operation of the network
(f)	**The land to which the management plan applies:**	V/Line manage approximately 3400km of rail corridor under the Regional Infrastructure Lease (RIL) agreement. Electric line assets are largely contained to stations, yards, and depots, except for a signal line running the length of the corridor between Donnybrook and Seymour. An overview map of the V/Line network is provided in Appendix A. As per section 81 of the Electricity Safety Act 1998, the Governor in Council designates Declared Urban Areas, which are managed by the local government authority (LGA) as the Responsible Person as per Section 81 of the Electricity Safety Act 1998. Maps of Gazetted Declared Area are available via Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) at https://lineclearance.esv.vic.gov.au/ and an indicative overview map is included in 0 and further clarification can be sought by contacting ESV. If a V/Line electric asset is located within a Declared Area, access and rail safety requirements may dictate that V/Line (rather than the LGA) undertake the work in consultation with the LGA. Please see section 5(q) for detail on V/Line consultation process. The V/Line network interfaces with the boundaries of 39 LGAs – an internal database of Council interface areas and contact areas is maintained and consulted to determine contact details for notification and consultation with local government. The V/Line network interfaces with three distribution business boundaries – see 0.
(g)	**Any hazardous bushfire risk area and low bushfire risk areas in the land referred to in paragraph (f)**	An overview map depicting the sections of the V/Line network designated as a low bushfire area (LBRA) is provided in 0 overview map. All sections of the network outside the mapped LBRA are presumed to be designated as a Hazardous Bushfire Risk Area (HBRA). This map is sourced from a CFA-managed (Country Fire Authority) shape file (publicly available via data.vic.gov.au last updated 13 June 2024) depicting designated LBRA areas across the state and is a key source of data that informs inspection and works programming. LBRA mapping is available for contractors undertaking the inspection and cutting program via a shared Google Earth layer, viewed on tablets in the field. The process for contractors to access LBRA mapping is documented in the annual scope of works for the inspection and cutting programs and is also communicated through an online induction. Additionally, the work instruction to

	Context	Objectives
		contractors undertaking the cutting program will include information on LBRA/HBRA. CFA review fire risk mapping, undertaken as a rolling program on a four-year cycle. Consultation is undertaken per LGAs to identify relevant changes in land use that require a change to LBRA/HBRA and mapping updates are released per Distribution Business. Following the publication of the reviewed mapping in 2022 V/Line engaged with CFA to identify the location of V/Line electrical assets per LGA, and to advise of any mapping anomalies or changes in land use.
(h)	**Each area that the responsible person knows contains a tree that may need to cut or remove to ensure compliance with the code:**	The location of areas containing trees which may need to be cut or removed for compliance with the Code of Practice and that are: (i) Indigenous to Victoria; Indigenous vegetation means plants like trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses that would have grown naturally in Victoria before European arrival, refer: (ii) Listed in a planning scheme to be of ecological, historical or aesthetic significance (iii) Trees of cultural or environmental significance Tree of cultural or environmental significance means a tree that is: • Included in the Heritage Register or Heritage area within the meaning of the Heritage Act 1995; or • Included in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register or area established under section 144 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006; or • Flora or a habitat of fauna listed as threatened in accordance with section 10 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988; or threatened FFG vegetation communities • Flora listed in the Threatened Flora List with a conservation status in Victoria of "endangered" or "vulnerable"; or a habitat of fauna which is: (i) listed in the Threatened Invertebrate Fauna List with a conservation status in Victoria of "vulnerable", "endangered" or "critically endangered"; or (ii) Listed in the Threatened Vertebrate Fauna List with a conservation status in Victoria of "vulnerable", "endangered" or "critically endangered". • Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) (i) EPBC Act List of Threatened Flora (ii) EPBC Act List of Threatened Ecological Communities (iii) EPBC Act List of Threatened Fauna.

7 Environment and Heritage Assessment

The V/Line network spans broad ranging areas of indigenous vegetation, multiple planning schemes and overlays and includes locations containing trees of cultural or environmental significance. Table 6 provides the internal and external data sources that may be used to identify such locations:

Table 6 – Data Sources for Significant Vegetation

ELC Management Plan Element	Data Sources
Overall vegetation/tree population information	Reports commissioned by Vline for new projects: • Ecological Assessments • Flora and Fauna assessments • Ecological (fauna and flora) surveys
Listed in a planning scheme	**VicPlan** https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/
Tree or area of cultural or environmental significance	**Victorian Heritage Register** https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/ **Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register** https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/victorian-aboriginal-heritage-register **NatureKit** https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit **Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria** https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0021/50448/Advisory-List-of-Rare-or-Threatened-Plants-in-Victoria-2014.pdf **Advisory List of Threatened Invertebrate Fauna in Victoria** https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/50452/Advisory_List_of_Threatened_Invertebrate_Fauna_2009_FINAL_Sept_2009.pdf **Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria** https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/50450/Advisory-List-of-Threatened-Vertebrate-Fauna_FINAL-2013.pdf **FFG listed species or communities:** **Communities:** https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species?a=50418 **Species**: https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/536089/FFG-Threatened-List-October-2021.pdf **EPBC listed species or communities:** **Communities:** http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publiclookupcommunities.pl **Flora:** http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=flora

ELC Management Plan Element	Data Sources
	Fauna: https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl

Table 7 – Sample of Supporting Documentation Relevant to Significant Vegetation and Environmental Controls

Document ID	Title
SAMG-32	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - Northern Corridor
SAMG-33	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - North Eastern Corridor
SAMG-34	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - South Eastern Corridor
SAMG-35	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - South Western Corridor
SAMG-36	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - Western Corridor
SAMG-37	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - North Western Corridor
SAPR-87	Vegetation Disturbance and Removal - Victoria
NIST-2711	Inspection and Assessment of the Permanent Right of Way
SAPR-74	Managing Heritage Values within the Rail Reserve
SAPR-9	Safety, Security, Health & Environment Risk Management Process
SAPR-42	Determining Environmental Aspects and Impacts
LEST-2	Enterprise Risk Management Framework
LEST-3	Enterprise Risk Management Risk Assessment Standard Ratings Criteria
ISO 14001	Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with Guidance for Use

Compliance with ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems requires V/Line to identify the environmental aspects of its activities and determine those with potential to have significant impacts and document this information within the Enterprise Wide Risk Management System (EWRM). These risks are also identified in *SAMG-7: V/Line's Significant Environmental Aspects & Impacts* – internal policy that undertakes a risk assessment of the aspects (vegetation management works), the impacts (risks to environmental values) and the controls in place to mitigate risks.

7.1 (i) The means which the responsible person is required to use to identify a tree of a kind specified in paragraphs h (i), (ii) or (iii)

A tree is of cultural or environmental significance if it is listed on any of the following registers or lists:

- Victorian Heritage Register
- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register
- Flora listed as “endangered” or “vulnerable” on the Advisory List of Rare or Threatened
- Plants in Victoria (Threatened Flora List)
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* Threatened Lists (Flora, Fauna & communities)

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) Threatened lists (Flora, fauna & communities).

Once ELC inspections have been undertaken, the inspection data (GPS location of the tree impacting a line, species information, and extent of impact) is provided to the V/Line Natural Resource Management Advisor, who will undertake the following checks:

1. Consult the internal and external data sources contained in Table 6 to identify the presence of planning scheme clauses and overlays

The Natural Resource Management Advisor will follow the Procedure to rely on the railways exemption in planning schemes (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning - DELWP 2018). The procedure states that, for maintenance works, the requirement to obtain a permit does not apply to native vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed, or lopped to the minimum extent necessary to maintain the safe and efficient function of an existing railway, or railway access road does not exist where land is covered by the following overlays:

- 42.01 - Environmental significance overlay
- 42.02 - Vegetation protection overlay
- 42.03 - Significant landscape overlay
- 44.01 - Erosion management overlay
- 44.02 - Salinity management overlay
- 52.16 - Native vegetation precinct plan
- 52.17 - Native vegetation

Whilst exemptions to the above clauses and overlays are available as per the procedure, V/Line is required to notify the local council when native vegetation works occur on land listed in the relevant overlays and, and if required consult with relevant DELWP region if listed vegetation community, flora or fauna is found, to obtain permits.

2. Consult the internal and external data sources contained in Table 2 to identify:

- Presence of a tree on a register or list as per paragraph h (i)(ii) or (iii).

If checks of internal and external data sources demonstrate a requirement to obtain permits, or permit exemptions, these are sought from the relevant authority.

3. Provision of environment and heritage approvals and conditions:

Once checks are complete, the Natural Resource Management Advisor will provide the ELC Program Manager with a database of environmental and heritage checks, information on permit exemptions or permits granted, and the environmental controls that must be in place when works are planned and undertaken. This information is provided in writing to the ELC Program Manager and included in the contractor's work instructions:

- Works to be undertaken in accordance with the Code of Practice for trimming/clearing around powerlines as per the Electricity Safety (Electrical Line Clearance) Regulations

2020, and AS 4373—2007: Australian Standard Pruning of amenity trees

- Trimming to remove no more than 1/3 of tree canopy
- No additional vegetation to be impacted outside the approved work sites
- Unnecessary ground disturbance to be avoided
- Works are not to be undertaken in wet/boggy conditions
- All cut material to be taken off site (e.g., take to tip/transfer station, or removed by contractor)
- Work to be undertaken in V/Line lease area (RIL) only, except with approval from relevant landowners and managers
- Vehicles to remain on existing access tracks
- Environmental hygiene protocols to be implemented, including ensuring all vehicles and equipment are free of mud and plant material prior to entry into the RIL.

Removal of a significant tree is only permitted if a suitably qualified arborist advises that pruning tree to compliance will make tree unviable, as per clause 11(2)(b)(ii) of the Code of Practice.

Cutting or removal of trees identified as habitat for threatened fauna is to be undertaken outside of the breeding season of threatened fauna wherever practicable, as per clause 12(1)(b) of the Code of Practice. Cutting or removal of such trees will only occur during the breeding season when it is not practicable to cut or remove the vegetation outside breeding season. Translocation of threatened fauna will be undertaken if it is not practicable to cut or remove outside breeding season, as per clause 12(2) of the Code of Practice.

8 Inspection and Works Programming

Table 8 – Plan Objectives and Application

	Context	Objectives
(j)	**The management procedures that the responsible person is required to adopt to ensure compliance with the Code, which must:**	(i) Include details of the methods to be adopted for managing trees and maintaining a minimum clearance space as required by the Code: V/Line's high-level strategy to maintain minimum clearances space is as per the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (clauses 24-29). V/Line's approach is to undertake an annual inspection of all spans within its network, and to ensure that the minimum clearance space (the minimum clearance space set out in the Code of Practice plus additional clearance required for sag and sway if required) is maintained for a 12-month window. Within the overarching program, the corrective works program to maintain minimum clearance space around spans in designated HBRA is prioritised to ensure compliance by 1 December or the declaration of the Fire Danger Period (FDP) annually. This approach is the most practical way of managing the state-wide reserve network and supports V/Line's capacity to plan and deliver works that makes the best use of rail occupations (planned closures, between train services, or during the night between last and first train). The ELC inspection program commences annually in March and runs for approximately three months (see 0). To ensure that corrective works in HBRA spans can be completed prior to the introduction of the Fire Danger Period across the state, inspections commence in the northwest of the state (in which the Fire Danger Period is normally declared first) and roll out progressively across the network. This approach aims to ensure that corrective works to achieve minimum clearance space is completed in HBRA before 1 December or introduction of the FDP (whichever occurs first). The reserve network is broken into line corridors, which form 39 distinct inspection and corrective work blocks. Each corridor is inspected, and work orders for any identified corrective works are sent to panel contractors as each work block is completed. Once corrective work orders are sent to cutting contractors, opportunities are identified to undertake the works and works safely and effectively, and works are programmed accordingly. Maximum response timeframes are as follows:

	Context	Objectives
		1. Non-compliant (tree contacting line) – (undertake corrective works within fourteen days of inspection) a. Non-compliant (tree inside minimum clearance space) – (Corrective works programmed within 90 days of inspection, and before Fire Danger Period for HBRA spans) b. Compliant at time of inspection but likely to become non-compliant within current cycle – (Corrective works to be programmed within 90 days of inspection, and before Fire Danger Period for HBRA spans) 2. Compliant at time of inspection (vegetation outside minimum clearance space and not likely to encroach the minimum clearance space prior to the commencement of the next inspection program) – no works identified 3. Vegetation-free span (no works identified) The methods to be adopted for the ELC works component include: • Cutting to AS4373 Pruning of Amenity Trees, except in circumstances in which cutting to the standard is deemed not practicable (see 9 (4)(k)) • Application of site-specific environmental controls and the use of appropriate plant and equipment (such as use of an elevating work platform) to limit potential site damage and vegetation disturbance • Prune or remove indigenous, or otherwise significant trees to the minimum extent necessary • Engagement of suitably qualified contractors to undertake inspections and undertake clearance works In determining the minimum clearance space, the ELC assessor undertakes the inspection program and make recommendations on required cutting distances to allow for regrowth that does not encroach the minimum clearance space between work cycles. To determine likely regrowth, inspectors consider the following factors: • Vegetation species and vigour • Ground and weather conditions • Cutting program schedule • Prescribed minimum clearance space. (ii) For the purposes of determining a minimum clearance in accordance with Division 1 of Part 3 of the Code:

	Context	Objectives
		a. The method for determining an additional distance that allows for cable sag and sway for the purposes of determining a minimum clearance space in accordance with Division 1 of Part 3 of the Code: Span distances have been determined as part of the inspection of electrical lines. Pole locations are determined using both GPS data and the V/Line register of pole locations, sourced from a network-wide Electric Assets Survey in 2018. This information, in conjunction with aerial photographs, is used to plot the length of each span that falls within V/Line's area of responsibility. Inspectors use this data to validate span length during their inspections and determine compliance for clearance, including cable sway and sag, based on the graphs from the Code of Practice as referenced in 9(4)(j)(i) and measurements taken with a laser rangefinder. Over 95% of V/Line's overhead lines are service wires, located within station precincts (servicing station buildings, platforms, carparks, and yards). No uninsulated line spans exceed a length of 45m. As such, minimum clearance space can be determined using the minimum clearance space distance specified in the Code of Practice and additional allowances for cable sag and sway are not required. If an uninsulated span with a length exceeding 45m is identified (or constructed) the ELC Program Manager will seek external advice as per engineering standards to calculate adequate additional clearance spay to allow for cable sag and sway. b. Different additional distances for different parts of an electric line span: Spans will be maintained so that they are clear of the minimum clearance space (which is the applicable distance plus any additional clearance required for sag and sway) for the middle 2 thirds, as calculated in Schedule 2 Graphs 1- 6 of the Regulations (also available in 0), regardless of where on the span the vegetation is located.
(k)	**The procedure to be adopted if it is not practicable to comply with the requirements of AS 4373**	AS4373 encourages pruning practices that reduce the risk of tree hazard development, branch failure, pathogen infection and premature tree death. Whilst V/Line aims to apply AS4374 as a standard practice for all tree management works, there are circumstances in which application of the standard is not practicable. V/Line's interpretation of situations in which it is not practicable to comply with AS4373 includes: • Tree is identified as a Heritage Tree, or a tree with identified heritage values that would be compromised by applying AS4373 methods • Inability to undertake works to AS4373 due to time constraints on the rail reserve owing to limited access windows and rail safety requirements • Inability to undertake works to AS4373 in locations with limited machinery access

	Context	Objectives
		• Tree trunk or scaffold limbs are within minimum clearance space and pruning would not achieve minimum clearance space V/Line's interpretation and approach to applying AS4373 is detailed in the ELC program online induction and in works instructions to the inspecting and cutting contractors. The inspection template includes a location to include recommended cutting practices if the inspector identifies that compliance with AS4374 is not practicable. These recommendations are communicated to cutting contractors via the work order process. If the cutting contractors additionally identify situations in which it is not practicable to cut to AS4373, they will follow the procedure to notify the ELC Program Manager, who will proceed to engage a suitably qualified arborist to assess the tree and make works recommendations in line with V/Line's interpretation of 'as far as reasonably practicable', including: • Alternate pruning techniques with consideration to heritage values, rail safety, time, and access constraints • Increased frequency of pruning • Alternative engineering solutions (such as re-routing an overhead wire) • Hedging or top trimming where collar cuts are impracticable • Removal of tree and replacement with a more suitable species (as a last resort option) Where quality inspections identify instances of tree cutting that are not in accordance with AS4373 or V/Line's approach to application of the standard and agreed alternate methods (above) those instances will be recorded as a negative observation in V/Line's internal safety and competency portal Hammertech, and notifications are automatically sent to contractors to provide further information or explanation. Incident investigation and outcomes are recorded in Hammertech and communicated to contractors and quality inspectors. Recommendations from such investigations may include expanding approach to AS4373 to include additional situations in which it may not be practicable to comply, increased quality inspections, or recommendations for contractors to include AS4373 in prestart and toolbox documentation.
(l)	**A description of each alternative compliance mechanism in respect of which the**	V/Line has not applied for an alternate compliance mechanism

	Context	Objectives
	responsible person has applied, or proposes to apply:	
(m)	**The details of each approval for an alternate compliance mechanism that:**	i. The responsible person holds; and ii. is in effect V/Line has not applied for an alternate compliance mechanism

9 Performance

9.1 (n) A description of the measures that must be used to assess the performance of the responsible person under the management plan

V/Line use the following broad measures to deliver the objectives outlined in this plan:

1. Completion of annual ELC inspections in designated HBRA and LBRA – the key output of the inspection process is a database identifying trees that are within or anticipated to encroach on the minimum clearances space as per the Regulations

- The database clearly identifies the species and location of the tree, its location in a declared urban area, its inclusion in a designated HBRA or LBRA, and whether the tree is within the minimum clearance space

2. Non-compliant trees are managed as per the Regulations and the processes for environment and heritage approvals and notifications contained in this plan. Additionally:

- Programming of works is largely determined by opportunities to safely access the rail reserve, however priority given to ensure the completion of works in HBRA before the declared Fire Danger Period
- Non-compliant trees, or trees likely to become non-complaint within the 12-month window before commencement of the next inspection program (identified as Priority 2 are to be actioned within 90 days of inspection or by December 1 or the declaration of the Fire Danger Period annually (for spans within HBRA)
- Contractor progress reports are delivered and reviewed by the ELC Program Manager to assess compliance and satisfactory progress of the inspection and cutting programs; additional in-field validation and quality inspections are used to determine that works have been completed to the standards in the relevant legislation and in this plan

Continual monitoring of historical workload indicators will take place utilising the below KPIs, which are reviewed annually to refine the benchmarks for intervention of non-compliance:

Table 9 – Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Objective	KPI	Measurement/Evidence
Achieve compliance with the regulations and the code	No. trees actioned per block per annual program reduces year on year • Number of trees requiring urgent cutting due to regrowth reduces year on year • Use of suitably qualified arborists and assessors	• ELC corrective works program/work orders record no. of trees/block/program and no. urgent cutting trees • Hammertech registration records • Contractors are inducted to the ELC Program • HSE inspections • 100% of contractors have required training and competencies

Objective	KPI	Measurement/Evidence
Maintain electrical safety and reliability of electricity supply, and public and property safety	P1 trees (contacting line) actioned within stated response timeframe	• ELC corrective works program/work orders record no. of trees/block/program and no. urgent cutting trees
The ELC program Supports V/Line's fire management program objectives, including minimising fire starts	Trees in HBRA spans are clear of the minimum clearance space prior to December 1 or Fire Danger Period	• ELC corrective works program/work orders record no. of trees/block/program and no. urgent cutting trees • Inspection reports
Maintain workplace safety	Plant and equipment maintained in safe working order Pre-start and JSAs	• Incident reports • Inspection reports • Plant and equipment logs audited during onsite inspections
Maximise environmental values and protection of areas of important vegetation	Cutting is in accordance with AS4373 (excluding situations in which it is not practicable to comply with AS4373)	• Reports from onsite technical audits • No instances of cutting not in accordance with AS4373 (excluding situations in which it is not practicable to comply with AS4373)
Support community and stakeholder satisfaction with the ELC program.	Number of customer requests for electric line clearance works decreases year on year	• Audit Task Requests system for no. of customer requests compared with previous year.
ELC program complements V/Line's commitment to rail safety and the safe and efficient operation of the network.	Rail Safety Worksite Hazard Assessment (RSWHAs) present for all ELC works	• Audit ELC workorders to confirm RSWHAs

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

Validation of the ELC program completion is achieved through a combination of assurance activities:

- use of Hammertech/RIW (Rail Industry Worker system) to validate contractor training and competencies
- workplace safety and quality inspections by V/Line employees
- works verification inspections by Reserve Maintenance team members
- contractor 360s/performance management
- facilities/station inspection programs
- task requests – internal (driver reports, line of sight requests, etc)
- customer requests
- systems auditing (internal work order/purchasing system).

In addition to the above program management and assurance activities V/Line also delivers an internal audit program in line with ISO 19011:2018 - Guidelines for auditing management systems. The *SAPR-57: Audit Team Competency* procedure defines auditor competency requirements and the process to be undertaken for the appointment and ongoing review of auditors, ensuring that audits are conducted by teams consisting of personnel with appropriate audit and technical knowledge and skills. Auditors of the ELC Program must have prior knowledge of this ELCMP and the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*. A consulting arborist may be used to review audit documentation relating to quality of tree management work (compliance with AS4373-2007) if required.

Inclusion of the ELC activity in V/Line's formal auditing schedule is in line with organisational risk management policy, the Enterprise Risk Management Framework and V/Line's Safety, Security, Health, and Environment Risk Management Process. This process outlines how V/Line eliminates or minimises safety, security, health, and environment risks (as far as is reasonably practicable) to workers, staff, and members of the public.

The HSE Audit plan, approved by the HSSE Committee, is scheduled in the Findings and Actions Management System (FAMS) database annually. FAMS manages the process of an audit through its various stages, including Opened, Assigned, In Progress, Findings Issued and Closed. Findings, learnings, and actions from these audits are captured in FAMS, in which they are prioritised and assigned with appropriate corrective or preventative actions.

Audit records (maintained electronically within FAMS) include:

- audit reports (including audit plans where appropriate)
- opening and closing meeting attendance records
- objective audit evidence and findings
- photos
- corrections and corrective action reports
- nonconformity reports
- follow-up reports

Audit outcomes specifically pertaining to contractor actions are formally communicated to contractors so they may respond and provide details of an appropriate action plan. Audit outcomes relating to V/Line staff are managed in FAMs, where the relevant staff member is assigned an audit action with specific tasks and timeframe to close out.

Auditing of Code compliance, quality (adherence to AS4373-2007) and adherence to environmental controls is included in V/Line's enterprise audit program for 2025/26. The spans audited as part of this sample will be largely drawn from HBRA areas to ensure a risk-based approach to auditing and performance of the plan and to ensure that any identified non-complaint spans in HBRA can be actioned prior to the introduction of the declared Fire Danger Period. Ongoing frequency of the formal audit schedule will be determined by audit outcomes and the level of confidence in the audit findings and will be determined in line with V/Line risk-based auditing framework.

V/Line has also identified a new role of Senior Arborist to be primarily responsible for conducting ELC on-site inspections to validate code compliance, quality and compliance with environmental controls. Pending the confirmation and recruitment of this role, the QICR (Quality, Improvement, Risk & Compliance) team will continue to undertake these inspections.

Formal validation of worksite safety and training and qualifications (for each supplier undertaking ELC works) will be undertaken at least annually between May – October to encompass the cutting program. This validation process is formalised in an annually recurring workorder that outlines the process to review training competencies, including refresher units, are current prior to the commencement of ELC mitigation works.

Additional opportunities for crew onsite/HSE inspections may include site meetings with contractors or site4 safety inspections undertaken by the ELC Program Manager and members of the Reserve Maintenance team familiar with the ELCMP-required training and competencies and V/line's HSE requirements. The objectives of these inspections are to validate compliance with worksite and rail safety (Pre-starts, JSAs, Rail Safety Worksite Hazard Assessment and plant and equipment logs) and contractor training and competencies (as per Hammertech). HSE inspection reports are stored in Hammertech, and any findings or required actions will be communicated to contractors via Hammertech. If inspections or audits find that a contractor is on site without the required training and competencies an incident will be raised and then reviewed by the Health and Safety team and ELC Manager and Contract Manager, and a non-conformance may be issued to the contractor. The incident report is then sent to the contractor (via Hammertech) with the actions required for the contractor to follow to recommence ELC work.

These scheduled audits and inspections do not preclude the occurrence of ad-hoc inspections that may be used as additional assurance of the ELMCP and program.

V/Line's *SAPR-29: Auditing Procedure* provides guidance on audit methodology, including sample size, and is informed by ISO 19011:2018. A nominal sample size of 10% may be adjusted during the audit pre-planning process as informed by the size of the ELC program (number of sites available for audit) and information on program performance from the relevant assurance activities.

10 Qualifications

10.1 (p) The qualifications and experience that the responsible person must require of the persons who carry out the inspections, cutting or removal of trees for the purposes of determining a minimum clearance in accordance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 and the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019.

The Code of Practice defines the minimum qualifications and requirements of persons who carry out the inspection, cutting or removal of trees. The Code defines a “suitably qualified arborist” as an individual having, as a minimum, National Certificate III Arboriculture including the “Perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation” unit of competency, or an equivalent qualification and at least three years’ field experience in assessing trees. The ELC inspection does not need to be carried out by a suitably qualified arborist.

The ELC project profile (on Hammertech) lists the training units required for specific work roles as outlined in V/Line’s ELC Training Matrix (see 0) and records and validate training and competencies of staff and contractors. Contractors undertaking ELC-related roles are drawn from the V/Line Vegetation Management Panel. Contractors must register on Hammertech, choose their specific ELC role and upload evidence of the relevant training units and qualifications. Once registered, V/Line Health and Safety validate that the training evidence demonstrates that the competency was granted by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), and an alert is created to ensure that annual and individual training and competencies (including Cert II ESI Powerline Vegetation Control annual refresher and the High-Risk work license every 5 years) remain valid as long as the contractor remains registered. Following registration, all contractors must complete the online ELCMP induction, which outlines information on rail and worksite safety, the ELC program, training requirements, and the environmental and auditing processes in place.

Cert II ESI Powerline Vegetation Control includes the training units required for specific ELC work roles, contained in 0. The role of suitably qualified arborist must hold the qualification of National Certificate Level III in Horticulture and Arboriculture, including the “Assess Trees” and “Identify Trees” modules, or an equivalent qualification and at least three years of field experience in assessing trees.

The Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019 defines a ‘qualified person’ as a person who holds a current certificate that is approved by Energy Safe Victoria specifying satisfactory completion of a training course in tree clearing. Regulation 616 (2) A qualified person carrying out vegetation management work in the vicinity of a protected aerial line must comply with — (a) the vegetation management rules; and (b) the Blue Book when working on or near high voltage electrical equipment; and (c) the Orange Book when working on or near a railway or tramway supply network. The Regulations (2019) also notes that a qualified person carrying out vegetation management work must comply with the safe approach distances set out in Table 1 and 2 in ESV’s *Electrical Safety Rules for Vegetation Management Work Near Overhead Powerlines, pages 13-14*.

Table 1: Safe Approach Distances (mm) for Vegetation Management Work Near OH lines when working from an insulated EWP

	Insulated LV	Bare or covered LV			HV up to, and including, 22kV			Greater than 22kV up to, and including, 66kV		
	All directions	Under conductor	Beside conductor	Over conductor	Under conductor	Beside conductor	Over conductor	Under conductor	Beside conductor	Over conductor
Worker's Body Clearance	No Contact	300	300	300	1000	1000	Work not permitted	2000	2000	Work not permitted
Uninsulated tool/Equipment	200	300	300	300	1000	1000	Work not permitted	2000	2000	Work not permitted
Insulated tool & Equipment	200	300	300	300	1000	1000	Work not permitted	2000	2000	Work not permitted
Uninsulated Part of EWP	200	1000	1000	1000	2000	2000	Work not permitted	3000	3000	Work not permitted
Insulated Part of EWP	No Contact	No Contact	No Contact	No Contact	1000	1000	Work not permitted	2000	2000	Work not permitted
Vegetation Clearances	No clearance required[4]	No clearance required[4]	No clearance required[4]	1000[1]	300	700	Work not permitted	400	900	Work not permitted

Figure 1 – Safe approach distances for vegetation management work when working from an insulated EWP

Table 2: Safe Approach Distances (mm) for Vegetation Management Work by Ground Worker and Climber working near Overhead Powerlines

	Insulated LV	Bare or covered LV			HV up to, and including, 22kV			Greater than 22kV up to, and including, 66kV		
	All directions	Under conductor	Beside conductor	Over conductor	Under conductor	Beside conductor	Over conductor	Under conductor	Beside conductor	Over conductor
Worker's Body Clearance	200	1000	1000	Work not permitted	1200	1200	Work not permitted	2000	2000	Work not permitted
Uninsulated tool/Equipment	200	300	300	Work not permitted	1000	1000	Work not permitted	2000	2000	Work not permitted
Insulated tool & Equipment	200	300	300	Work not permitted	1000	1000	Work not permitted	2000	2000	Work not permitted
Vegetation Clearances	No clearance required[4]	No clearance required[4]	No clearance required[4]	3000[4]	700	700	Work not permitted	900	900	Work not permitted

Figure 2 – Safe approach distances for vegetation management work by ground worker and climbing worker

In addition to the legislatively required minimum qualifications and requirements (and refreshers) for undertaking corrective works, V/Line additionally require all contractors to have the following:

- First Aid Level 1
- Rail Industry Worker card
- Completion of Train Track Safety Awareness course
- Construction Induction (white card)
- Completion (annually) of online ELCMP induction via Hammertech.

Qualifications and experience are documented as part of the tender and evaluation process for V/Line's Vegetation Management Panel, a three-year contractor panel arrangement from which suitability qualified contractors are engaged to undertake ELC inspections and ELC works. The suppliers on the contractor panel are subject to regular performance monitoring and key performance indicator reporting and engage in quarterly contract review meetings. Only suppliers listed on the panel are eligible to register in Hammertech for the ELC Project.

V/Line use a supplier to undertake network-wide inspections and then engage separate arboriculture suppliers (up to three) to undertake the required corrective works as per the inspection data.

In addition to qualifications, licenses and experience, V/Line also require its ELC staff and contractors to actively engage in V/Line's safe system of work, including risk management process to ensure that the hazards associated with work within safe approach distances or near electrical apparatus are identified, assessed, and controlled, as per the Blue Book (2017). Adherence to the risk management principles contained in the Blue Book may be assessed through internal audit and review of contractor management systems to ensure that the following is in place:

- Appropriate job safety analysis or hazard assessment can be produced in the field and in regular reporting
- First Aid qualifications are current
- Contractor plant, equipment and materials are fit for purpose in good working order, and records of routine testing can be made available upon request
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is fit for purpose, in good condition and is being worn appropriately
- Contractors and staff involved in ELC programs are Fit for Work as per V/Line fit for work, drug, and alcohol policies

11 Notification, Consultation, and Dispute Resolution

11.1 (q) Notification and consultation procedures including the form of the notice to be given

As a responsible person under 84D *Electricity Safety Act 1998*, V/Line is required to provide notification of intention to undertake works for trees on private property, council, or public land, As the rail reserve is classed as public land, V/Line will provide public notice of its intention to undertake works as part of this plan via publication on its website using the website/newspaper publication template found in 0. This publication will provide forward notice of upcoming works scheduled to commence in more than 14 days and due to be completed no later than 60 days from date of publication. This publication schedule is informed by the ELC inspection program schedule (as outlined in 0). This template may be used to provide notification only, or to invite further consultation interested or affected

parties. For all other land, the Notification Letter template (found in 0) is be used for landowners/occupiers of contiguous land and private property. This communication may be emailed, posted, or left at a property.

As per Clause 18 (3) of the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* states that if a tree within the boundary of private property is to be cut V/Line will consult with the occupier of the property by providing notice by posting or leave the notification letter at the address. If a tree within private property is to be removed, V/Line will consult with the owner of the property using the same notification method. V/Line may liaise with the LGA to determine owner/occupier status and owner details (if different to the occupier). Where the details of the owner or occupier of the affected property is not known, V/Line will leave a hardcopy of the notification letter at the address.

Affected persons shall be notified, by giving a minimum of fourteen (14) days' notice and not more than sixty (60) days' notice before the intended cutting or removal is to occur in writing. If 60 days expires and the intended cutting or removal has not taken place, the affected persons shall be re-notified. The form of notice will contain specific detail such as images, sketches and statements as prescribed by clause 16(5) in the Code. The content of the notice will contain details describing the cutting or removal that is planned; and specify the proposed timeframe for works to commence as prescribed in clauses 16(5) of the Code. In compliance with the requirement in the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*, clause 16(3)(c) of the Code, V/line will use the template provided in 0 to notify owners or occupiers of land 'contiguous' to private property if determined that the use of that property may be affected during the cutting or removal of trees subject to these regulations.

All forms of notification of upcoming ELC Program works will be recorded in the ELC Program works schedule to ensure that notification has been given, and that works are completed within the notification timeframe.

11.2 (r) Dispute resolution

V/Line customers and stakeholders are encouraged to seek further information or resolution of a concern in the first instance via the ELC Program Manager:

Katie McKenzie – ELC Program Manager

1800 800 007

katie.mckenzie@vline.com.au

Concerns can also be raised by providing online, written, or verbal feedback via details available at:

https://www.vline.com.au/About-V-Line/Additional-pages/customer-complaints

Once a complaint is submitted, the affected party will be provided with a reference number for future correspondence and V/Line will provide an initial response within three business days for complaints relating to safety and security, and within seven business days for all other complaints.

If a concern cannot be resolved to the affected parties' satisfaction via these approaches, resolution may be sought by escalating a concern or feedback to the Public Transport Ombudsman via:

- By calling 1800 466 865
- By emailing enquiries@ptovic.com.au
- Online at https://www.ptovic.com.au/complaints/complaint-form
- By mailing to PO Box 538 Collins Street West, Melbourne, VIC 8007

- Alternatively, complaints can be escalated to the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria (EWOV):
- By calling 1800 500 509 (weekdays 8:30am to 5pm)
- By submitting online: https://www.ewov.com.au/start-a-complaint
- In writing: Reply Paid 469, Melbourne, VIC 8060

Management of ELC-related disputes between V/Line and other affected parties, such as Councils, are initially managed at the operational level (between the ELC Program Manager and their counterpart) and escalated as appropriate within the relevant organisations. V/Line also uses its position on relevant committees, such as Municipal Fire Management Planning Committees, to create effective networks and alternative channels for ELC consultation and dispute resolution.

12 Plan Publication

A copy of the Electric Line Clearance Management Plan is published on V/Line website by July 1 each year and the superseded plan will be removed from the website.

13 Exemptions and Exceptions

V/Line will not seek exemption under the *Electric Line Clearance Regulations 2020*.

Exceptions exist in the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* and are identified by a suitably qualified arborist and referred for approval through the V/Line ELC Program Manager and identified in the current ELC Management Plan.

4 – Exception to minimum clearance space for structural branches around insulated low voltage electric lines.

No exceptions under the Code of Practice, Part 2 Division 1 (4) of the *Electrical Safety (Electric Line Clearance) regulations 2020* have been identified in this plan.

5 – Exception to minimum clearance space for small branches around insulated low voltage electric lines.

V/Line has not applied for any exceptions under the Code of Practice, Part 2 Division 1 (5) of the *Electrical Safety (Electric Line Clearance) regulations 2020* in this plan.

6 – Exception to minimum clearance space for small branches around uninsulated low voltage electric lines in low bushfire risk areas.

V/Line has not applied for any exceptions under Part 2, Division 1 (6) of the *Electrical Safety (Electric Line Clearance) regulations 2020* in this plan.

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

V/Line has not applied for any exceptions under Part 2, Division 1 (7) of the *Electrical Safety (Electric Line Clearance) regulations 2020* in this plan.

14 Managing Hazard Trees

14.1 Managing hazard trees

Schedule 1 (9) to the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulation 2020 outlines the scenarios in which a responsible person may cut or remove a hazard tree:

(a) Assess the tree having regard to foreseeable local conditions:

Where V/Line has a responsibility for a hazard tree that is likely to fall, or otherwise contact, a V/Line electric line, a risk assessment by a suitably qualified arborist will be undertaken, considering the foreseeable local weather and ground conditions, to recommend priority actions to comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice and remedy an unsafe situation.

If the tree is additionally assessed as being significant from a cultural, heritage or environmental viewpoint, V/Line will follow the environment and heritage checks outlined in this plan to ensure that the tree is addressed with minimal impacts on these values.

This process is as per the V/Line internal Inspection and Assessment Right of Way Procedure that informs V/Line's hazard tree inspection and corrective works program. The procedure outlines the definitions, identification, risk ratings, rectification timeframes, and detail relating to tree tagging, reporting, risk reduction and monitoring of hazard trees.

(b) Advise the responsible person that the tree or part of the tree, is likely to fall onto, or otherwise contact, an electric line

Where the hazard tree is identified as being the responsibility of an LGA, V/Line will notify the LGA to request the tree is addressed or to consult the LGA on V/Line's preference, for rail safety and access reasons, to manage the tree internally.

Where appropriate for an LGA to carry out tree pruning or removals as part of the V/Line ELC Program, V/Line will advise the LGA of the safe approach limits to electric lines and the safe methods for cutting or removing trees, as per the ESV Electrical Safety Rules for Vegetation Management near Overhead Powerlines (safe approach distances referenced in section 9 (4)(p) of this plan) and the ESV The Blue Book – Code of Practice on electrical safety for the work on or near high voltage electrical apparatus'.

Where a hazard tree requiring urgent cutting is identified on private land, V/Line will send notification of works to the owner or occupier of the property as soon as practicable after urgent cutting works have been undertaken as per Clause 19 (2) of the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*. Where a non-urgent hazard tree is identified on private property, V/Line will consult with the owner (if tree is proposed to be removed) or occupier (if tree is proposed to be pruned) of the property through prior written notification of works as per Clause 18 (3) of the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*.

15 Urgent Cutting of Trees

V/Line have multiple surveillance activities in place for identifying where assets or vegetation poses a safety risk and requires corrective maintenance, including hazard identification requests from train drivers and members of the public, non-technical asset inspections, the annual works plan inspection program, and the hazard tree inspection program and post-storm event patrols that could identify a tree in the following situations:

1. Where a tree is identified within the minimum clearance space in HBRA after declaration of the Fire Danger Period
2. Where a tree is identified (outside of the annual inspection program) as encroaching the asset or minimum clearance space due to unanticipated growth

3. Where a tree is falling or has become damaged so that it requires cutting or removal to maintain the minimum clearance space
4. Where a tree has been assessed by a suitably qualified arborist and, having regard to foreseeable local conditions, deemed to have an imminent likelihood of contacting the electric lines

Once identified, urgent corrective maintenance can be actioned according to the below procedure, pending safe access to the rail reserve.

Trees in the above scenarios 1 and 2 will be actioned as per response timeframes for P1 trees. Trees in above scenarios 3 and 4 will be actioned as per V/Line's internal hazard tree procedure, and immediately made safe so there is no risk of the tree contacting an electric line or impacting rail safety.

For all urgent cutting scenarios, notifications to the ELC Program Manager may come from multiple sources, such as internal requests or incident reports or external stakeholder requests. When notification is received of a tree that requires urgent cutting, the ELC Program Manager will arrange for a suitably qualified arborist to assess the tree and provide recommendations to mitigate the risk. As per Clause 14 (2) of the Code of Practice, a tree must not be cut further than 1m from the minimum clearance space, unless it has been assessed by a suitably qualified arborist and deemed to pose an imminent fall risk that would result in the tree contacting the electric line.

Notification of urgent cutting is not required prior to cutting of urgent trees however notification must be provided as soon as practicable after works are completed and include the below information:

- Where and when the cutting/removal was undertaken
- Why the cutting/removal was required
- The date the tree that was cut/removed was last inspected prior to identifying that urgent cutting/removal was required. This communication is provided to affected landowners/occupiers via a letter either emailed or mailed (if contact details available or left at the property (if no contact details available). The urgent cutting notification letter template can be found in 0.

16 Review and Continuous Improvement

16.1 Review and Approval

As per the 9 (2) of *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* this plan is to be prepared by 31 March each year for application to the following financial year, and, if requested, submitted to Energy Safe Victoria within 14 days of the request.

Annual preparation of the plan for the next financial year will commence in January each year to ensure the update includes confirming the currency of legislation, regulations and standards, fire risk and declared urban area mapping, and contact details internal and external stakeholders.

This plan references risk-based timeframes for the completion of corrective works identified during an annual inspection process. These timeframes have been proposed to support V/Line's risk mitigation approach to electric line vegetation management and are subject to the availability of safe access to the rail reserve and safe working conditions for staff and contractors. Organisational timeframes for corrective works will be informed by an internal risk assessment of the ELC activity and be formalised prior to publication of this plan.

17 Reference Documents

This plan should be read and applied in conjunction with the following documents:

17.1 V/Line Documents

Table 10 – V/Line Documents

Document ID	Title	Relationship
LEST-2	Enterprise Risk Management Framework	Peer
LEST-3	Enterprise Risk Management Risk Assessment Standard Ratings Criteria	Peer
NIMG-2760	Fire Management Summary Information	Peer
NIMG-2760.1	Fuel Management Program Summary	Peer
NIST-2662	Right of Way	Peer
NIST-2711	Inspection and Assessment of the Permanent Right of Way	Peer
SAMG-3	HSE Audit Frameworks	Peer
SAMG-32	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - Northern Corridor	Peer
SAMG-33	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - North Eastern Corridor	Peer
SAMG-34	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - South Eastern Corridor	Peer
SAMG-35	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - South Western Corridor	Peer
SAMG-36	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - Western Corridor	Peer
SAMG-37	Vegetation and Wildlife (Biosite) Register - North Western Corridor	Peer
SAMG-7	V/Line's Significant Environmental Aspects & Impacts	Peer
SAPR-29	Auditing Procedure	Peer
SAPR-42	Determining Environmental Aspects and Impacts	Peer
SAPR-57	Audit Team Competency	Peer
SAPR-74	Managing Heritage Values within the Rail Reserve	Peer
SAPR-87	Vegetation Disturbance and Removal - Victoria	Peer
SAPR-9	Safety, Security, Health & Environment Risk Management Process	Peer

17.2 Other Documents and Standards

Table 11 – Other Documents and Standards

Reference	Title
	Regional Infrastructure Lease (RIL)
25/1998	Electricity Safety Act 1998
50/2020	Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020
C2022C00214	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
data.vic.gov.au	Victorian Government Open Data
ISO 14001	Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with Guidance for Use
47/1988	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
AS 4373—2007	Pruning of Amenity Trees
ISO 19011:2018	Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems

18 Document History

Table 12 – Document History

Rev	Prepared/Revised by	Date	MoC
1	Katie McKenzie, Fire and Fuels Manager	20/06/2023	N/A
	Change description: Document drafted in collaboration with ESV to meet the requirements of the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020		
2	Katie McKenzie, Fire and Fuels Manager	22/03/2024	N/A
	Change description: Document reviewed as per ESV requirements to review Plan annually by 31 March. Changes include: Year and Plan title updated to reflect 2024-2025 year Audit information pertaining to 2022/2023 updated in 10.2 (o) LBRA mapping information updated at 6.2 (g) Updated V/Line LBRA Overview Map using LBRA mapping updated 18/01/2024 in Appendix C		
3	Katie McKenzie, Fire and Fuels Manager	20/03/2025	N/A
	Change description: Document reviewed for currency of information and update to any processes - Updated details of Responsible Person to Warwick Horsely A/CEO - Updated LBRA/Declared Area mapping - Updated ELC Program Manager to Katie McKenzie - Updated Section 9 Details of the audit process to remove references to previous year audits, confirm the inclusion of the ELC activity in the PRSS enterprise audit schedule for 25/26, confirm the continuation of the QICR ELC inspection schedule until the commencement of the Senior Arborist role		

Rev	Prepared/Revised by	Date	MoC
	- Added Appendix K and L (electrical emergency procedures for ELC workers and FMC) Validated currency of training units in Appendix J		

Appendix A – V/Line Network Map

Figure 3 – V/Line Network Map

Appendix B – Network Interface with Distribution Businesses

Table 13 – Network Interface with Distribution Businesses

Line	Region
Ausnet Services	
Pakenham - Traralgon	South East (Gippsland)
Traralgon- Bairnsdale	South East (Gippsland)
Donnybrook - Seymour	North East
Seymour - Toolamba	North East
Toolamba - Echuca	North East
Toolamba - Shepparton	North East
Shepparton – Dookie	North East
Shepparton – Tocumwal	North East
PowerCor	
Sydenham - Castlemaine	Northern
Castlemaine - Bendigo	Northern
Bendigo - Eaglehawk	Northern
Eaglehawk - Piangil	Northern
Eaglehawk - Inglewood	Northern
Bendigo - Echuca	Northern
Echuca - Deniliquin	Northern
Barnes - Moulamein	Northern
Korong Vale - Robinvale	Northern
Korong Vale - Kulwin	North West
St Arnaud - Ouyen	North West
Ouyen - Panitya	North West
Ouyen - Yelta	North West
Murtoa - Hopetoun	North West
Dimboola - Yaapeet	North West
Deer Park - Ballarat	North West
Ballarat - Ararat	Western
Gheringhap - Ballarat	Western
Ballarat - Maryborough	Western
Maryborough – St Arnaud	Western
Maryborough – Ararat	Western
Maryborough – Mooloort	Western

Line	Region
Dunolly - Inglewood	Western
Inglewood – Korong Vale	Western
Jemena	
Sunshine – Manor Junction	Metropolitan
Newport - Sunshine	Metropolitan
CitiPower	
Clarkefield, Riddells Creek, Gisborne	Northern
Southern Cross - Sunshine	Metropolitan

Appendix C – V/Line LBRA Overview Map

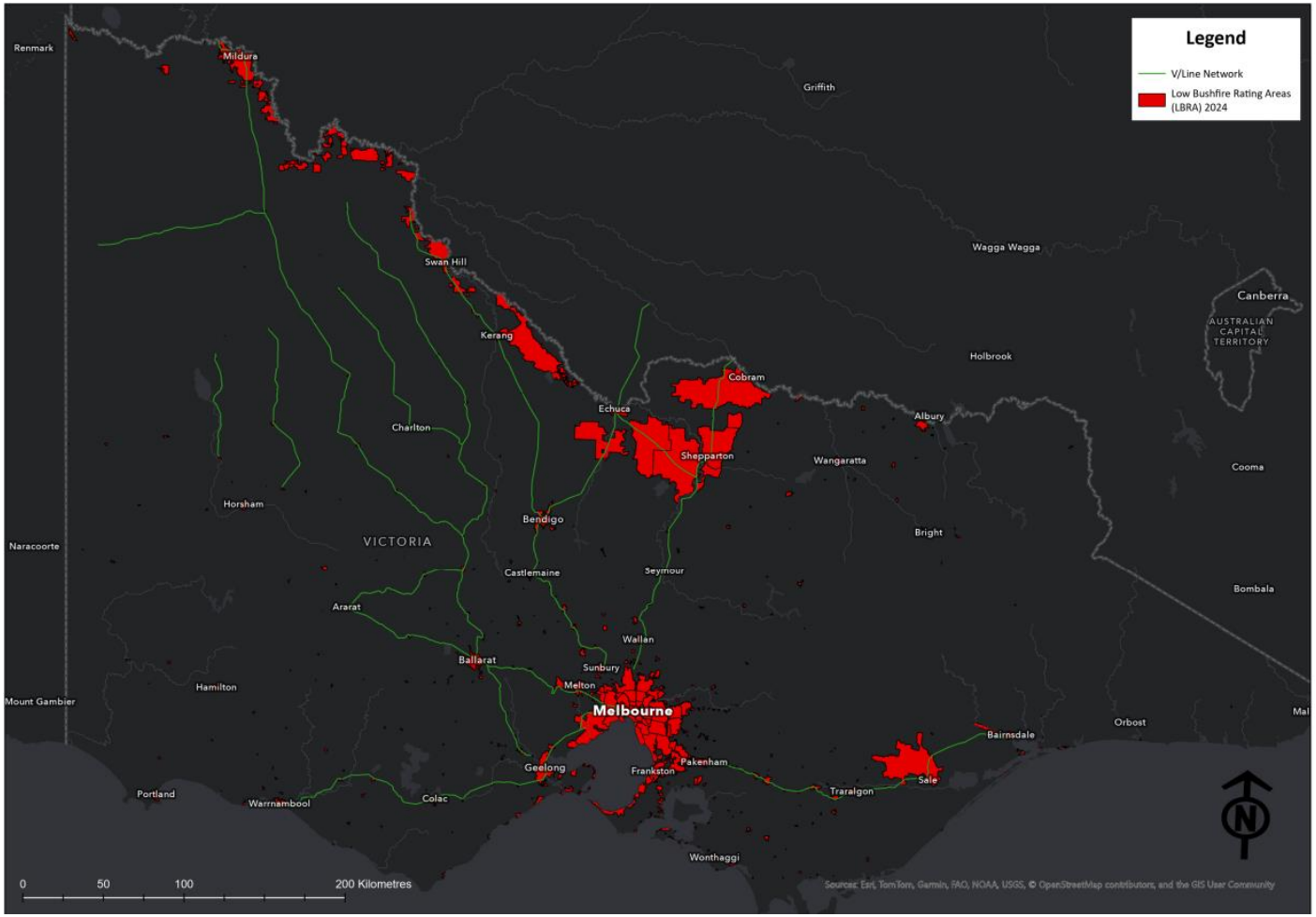


Figure 4 – V/Line LBRA Overview Map

Appendix D – Declared Areas Overview Map

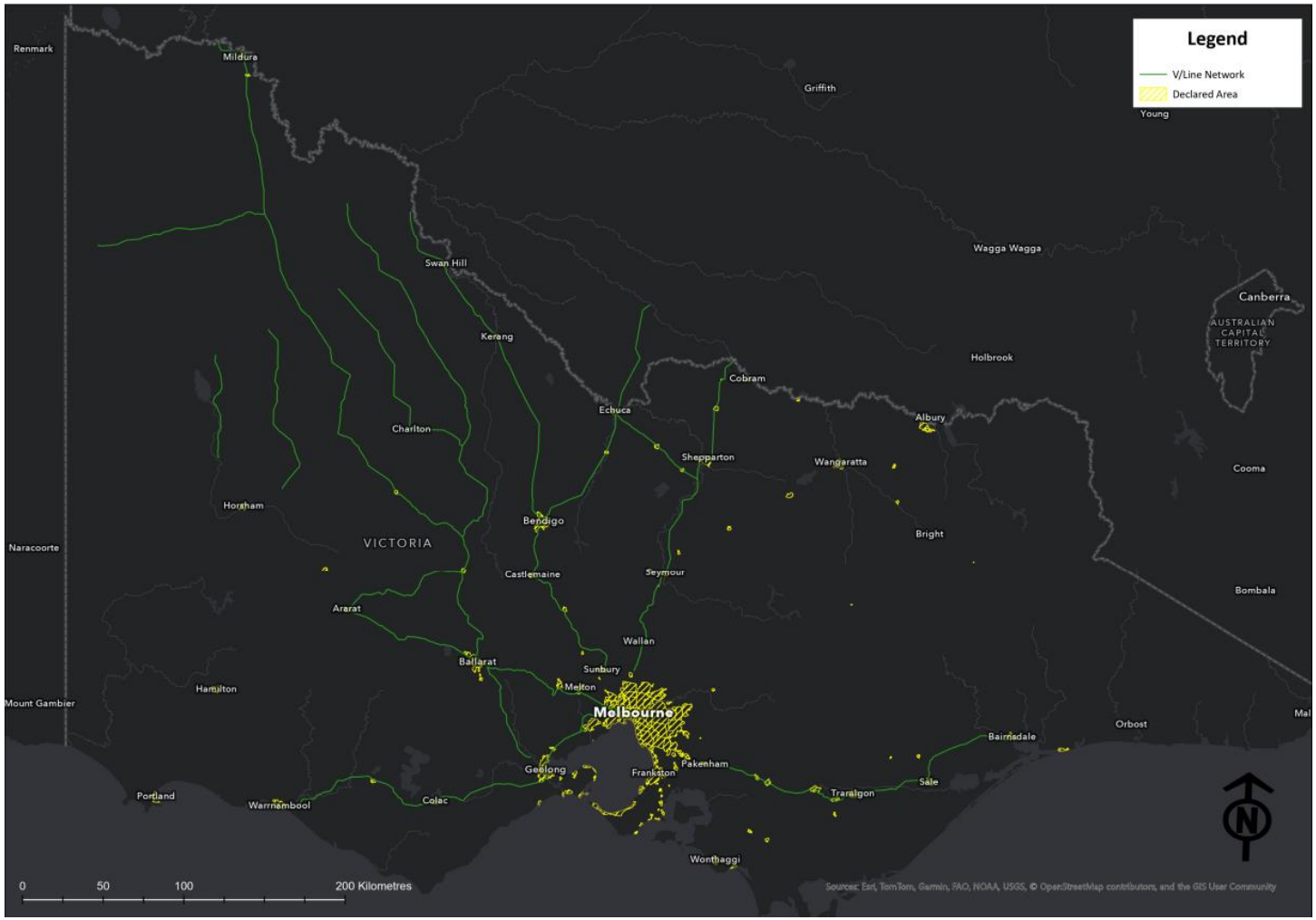


Figure 5 – Declared Areas Overview Map

Appendix E – Outline Work Program

ELC Inspection Program outline					
March		**April**		**May**	
Region	**Corridor**	**Region**	**Corridor**	**Region**	**Corridor**
North West Northern	Ouyen to Yelta	**Western North East**	Deer Park to Ballarat	**South West CBD South East**	Warrnambool to Dennington
	Ouyen to Panitya		Ballarat to Ararat		Werribee to Geelong
	St Arnaud to Ouyen		Dunolly to St Arnaud		Geelong to Warrnambool
	Korong Vale to Kulwin		Dunolly to Inglewood		Sth Cross P15/16 to Sunshine
	Korong Vale to Robinvale		Maryborough to Dunolly		Southern Cross to Albion J
	Murtoa to Hopetoun		Maryborough to Ararat		Sth Cross P1-8 to Spion Kop J
	Dimboola to Yaapeet		Nth Ballarat J to Maryborough		Deer Park to Manor Junction
	Nth Bendigo Junction to Echuca		Moolort to Maryborough		Pakenham to Traralgon
	Sydenham to Bendigo		Inglewood to Korong Vale		Traralgon to Bairnsdale
	Echuca to Deniliquin		Gheringhap to Ballarat		
	Bendigo to Swan Hill		Toolamba to Echuca		
	Swan Hill to Piangil		Shepparton to Tocumwal		
	Eaglehawk to Inglewood		Shepparton to Dookie		
	Barnes to Moulamein		Seymour to Shepparton		
			Donnybrook to Seymour		
			Mangalore to Albury		

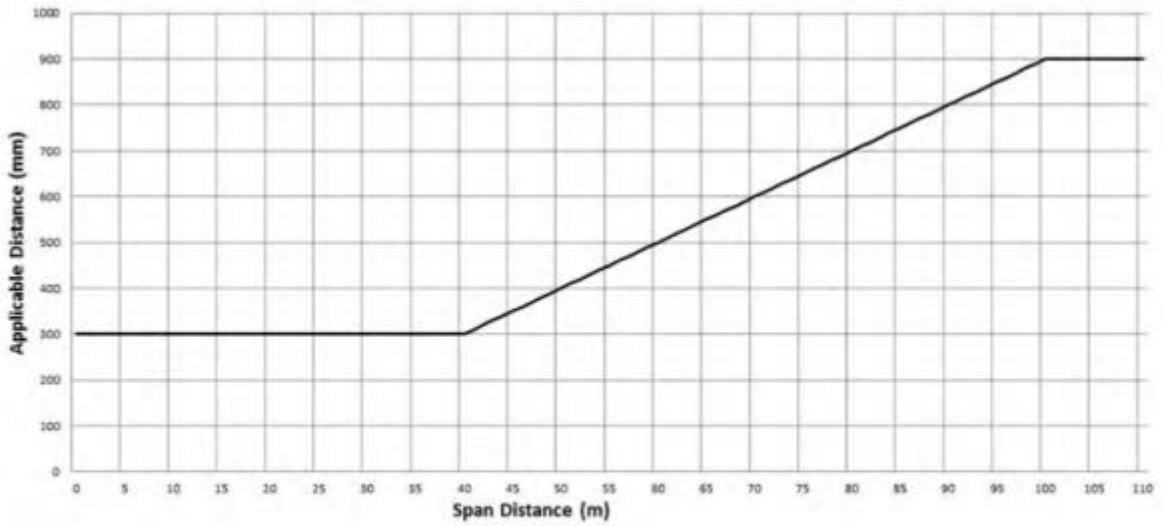
Figure 6 – Outline Work Program

Appendix F – Minimum Clearance Space Graphs and Figures

Extracts from: Schedule 2 – Applicable distance for middle two thirds of a span of an electric line in the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*.

GRAPH 1 — INSULATED ELECTRIC LINES IN ALL AREAS

Clauses 3 and 24



Notes to Graph 1:

(1) The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the cable.

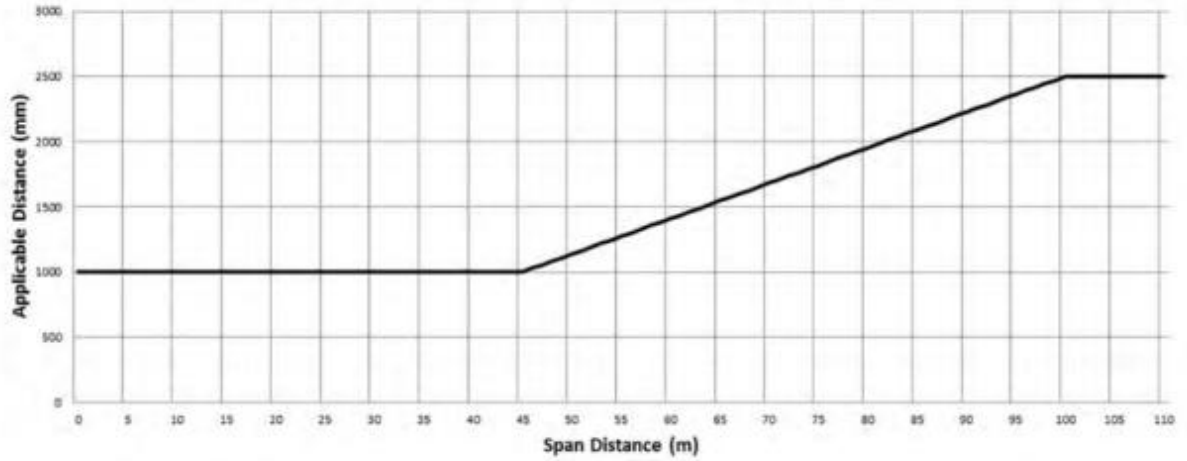
(2) The minimum clearance space for a span of an electric line to which this Graph and clause 24 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 3.

(3) The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of a span of an electric line to which clause 24 applies is 300 millimetres.

Figure 7 – Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, Schedule 2 | Extract 1

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

Clauses 3 and 25



Notes to Graph 2:

(1) The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the cable for a span up to and including 100 metres in length.

(2) For a span longer than 100 metres, the applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the cable. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 25(2)(b)).

(3) A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network or a tramway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance that allows for sag and sway of the cable (see clause 21(2)).

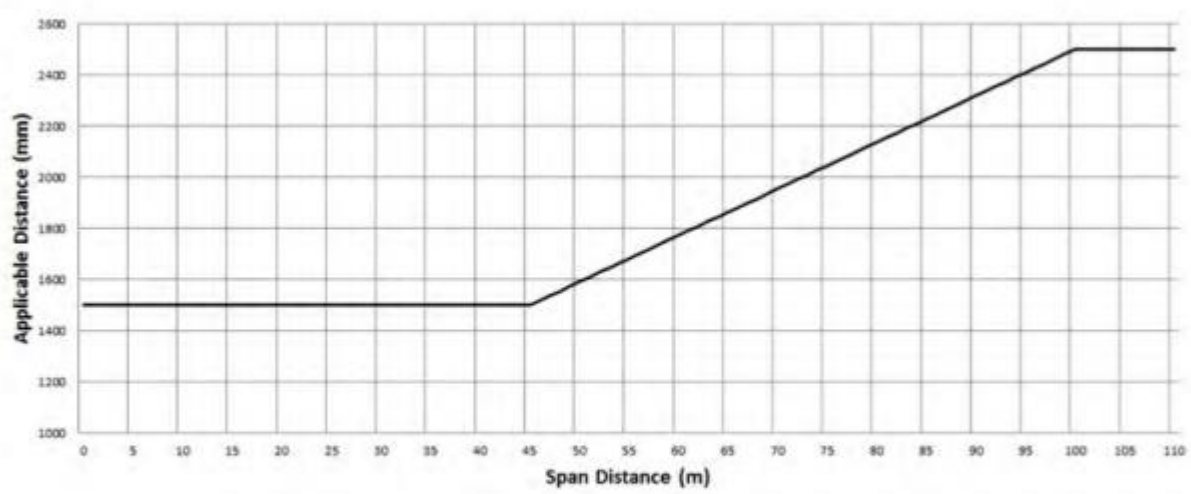
(4) The minimum clearance space for a span of an electric line to which this Graph and clause 25 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 4.

(5) The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of a span of an electric line to which clause 25 applies is 1000 millimetres.

Figure 8 – Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, Schedule 2 | Extract 2

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

Clauses 3 and 26



Notes to Graph 3:

(1) The applicable distance includes allowances for sag and sway of the cable for a span up to and including 100 metres in length.

(2) For a span longer than 100 metres, the applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the cable. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 26(2)(b)).

(3) A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network or a tramway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance (see clause 21(2)).

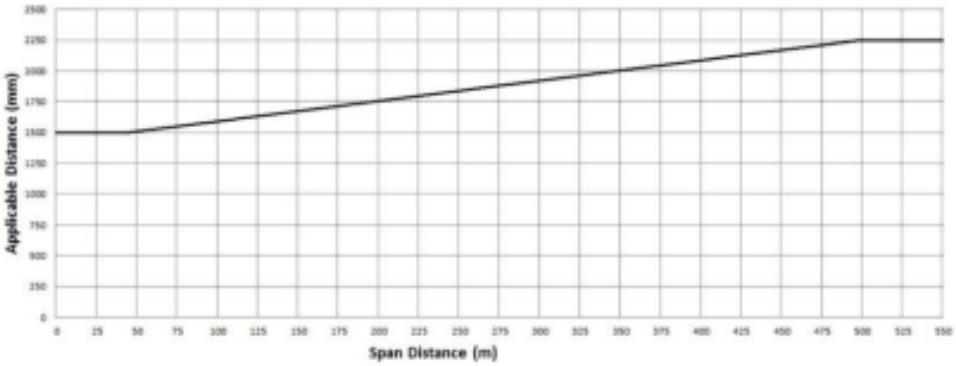
(4) The minimum clearance space for a span of an electric line to which this Graph and clause 26 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 3.

(5) The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of a span of an electric line to which clause 26 applies is 1500 millimetres.

Figure 9 – Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, Schedule 2 | Extract 3

GRAPH 5—UNINSULATED LOW VOLTAGE AND HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINE (OTHER THAN A 66 000 VOLT ELECTRIC LINE) IN HAZARDOUS BUSHFIRE RISK AREA

Clauses 3 and 28



Graph 5 Formula

The formula by which the applicable distance for the middle 2 thirds of an electric line span to which clause 28 applies is calculated as follows:

For $0 < SD \leq 45$, AD = 1500 mm

For $45 < SD \leq 500$, AD = 1500 +((SD - 45) × (500 ÷ 303))

For $500 < SD$, AD = 2250 mm

Where:

SD = Span Distance

AD = Applicable Distance

Notes to Graph 5

(1) The applicable distance must be extended by an additional distance to allow for sag and sway of the conductor. This is done by adding that distance to the applicable distance (see clause 28(2)(a)).

(2) A distribution company, or an owner or operator of a railway supply network or a tramway supply network, must assist a Council, if requested, by determining the additional distance (see clause 21(2)).

(3) The minimum clearance space for an electric line span to which this Graph and clause 28 apply is partially illustrated in Figures 1 and 5.

(4) The applicable distance for the first and last sixths of an electric line span to which clause 28 applies is 1500 millimetres.

Figure 10 – Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, Schedule 2 | Extract 4

FIGURE 1 — PLAN VIEW OF ELECTRIC LINES IN ALL AREAS

Clauses 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29, Graphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

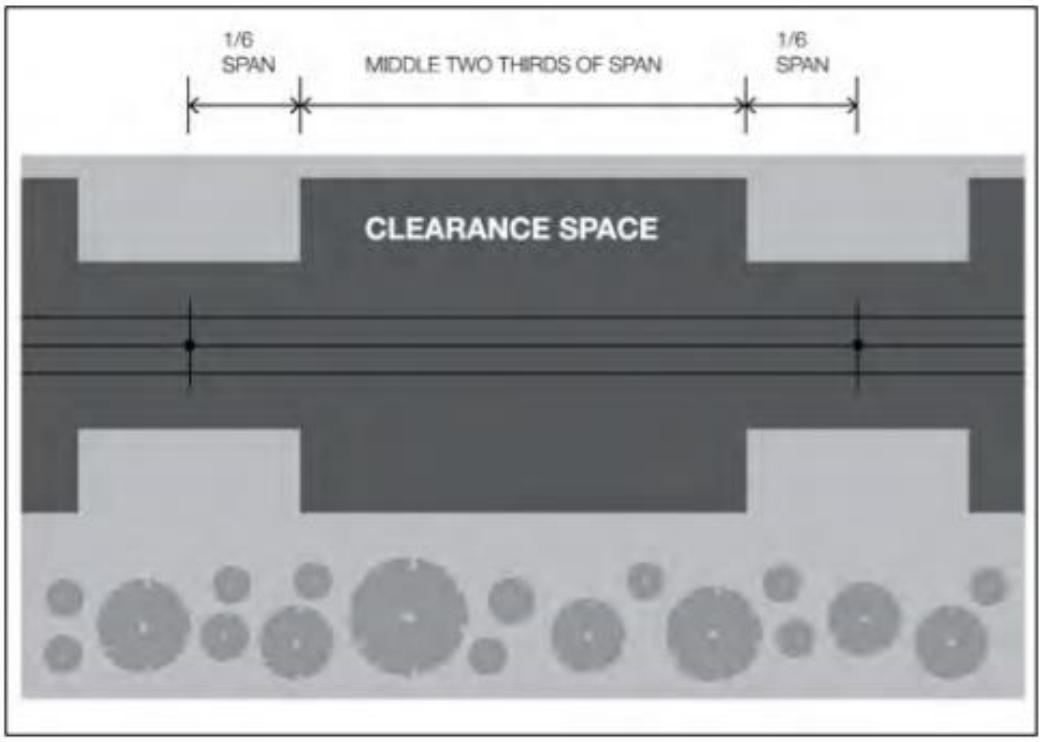
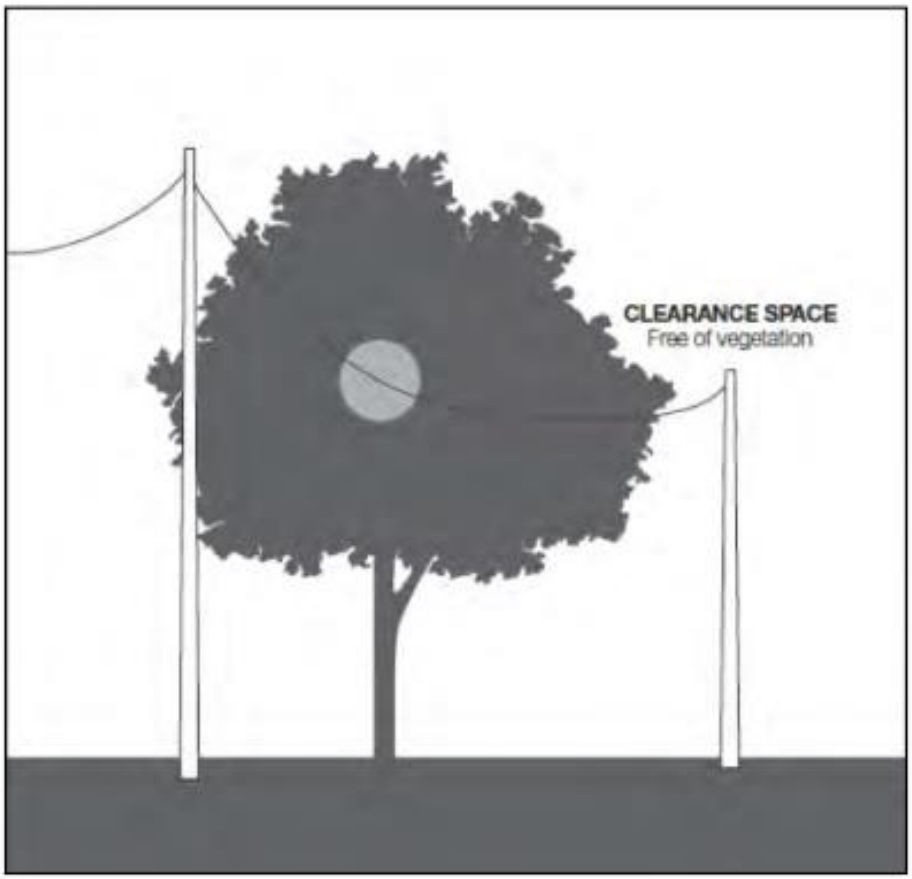


Figure 11 – Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, Schedule 2 | Extract 5

FIGURE 2 — INSULATED ELECTRIC LINES IN ALL AREAS

Clause 24, Graph 1

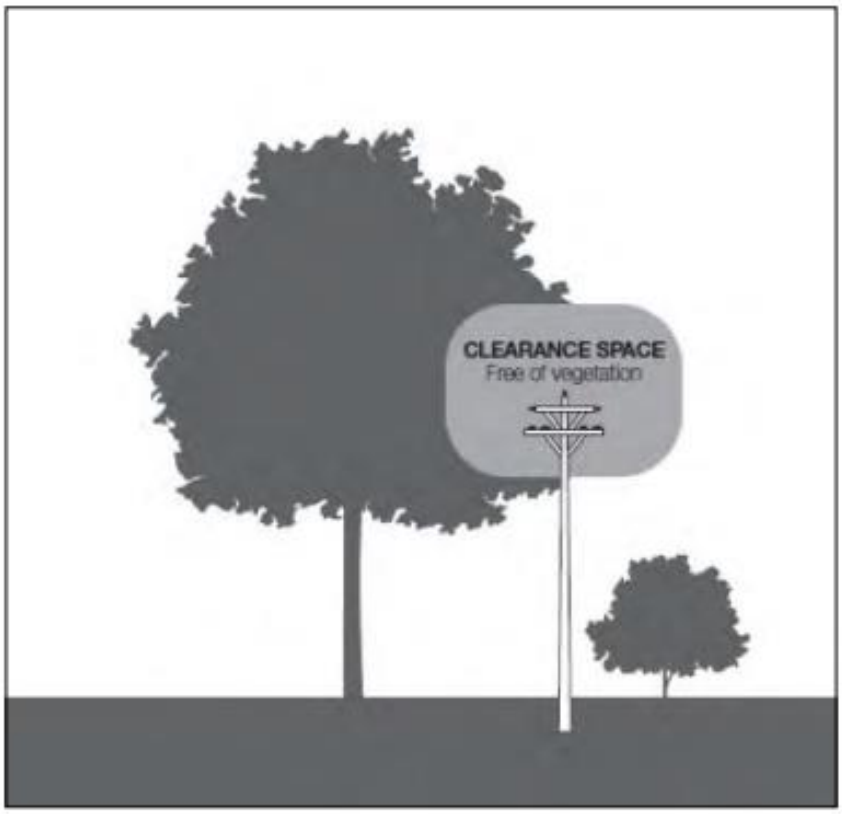


Not to Scale

Figure 12 – Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, Schedule 2 | Extract 6

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

Clauses 24 and 26, Graphs 1 and 3

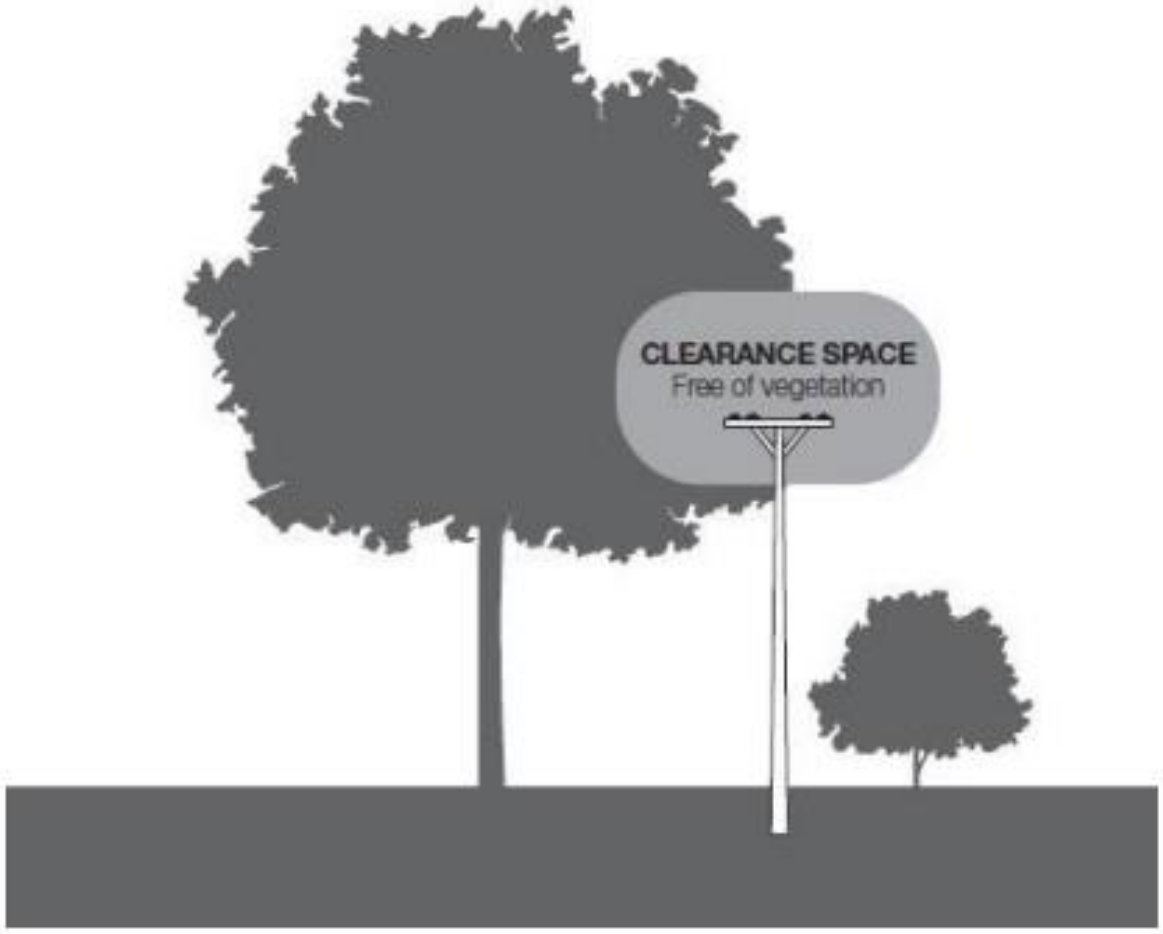


Not to Scale

Figure 13 – Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, Schedule 2 | Extract 7

FIGURE 4—UNINSULATED LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINE IN A LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA

Clause 25, Graph 2

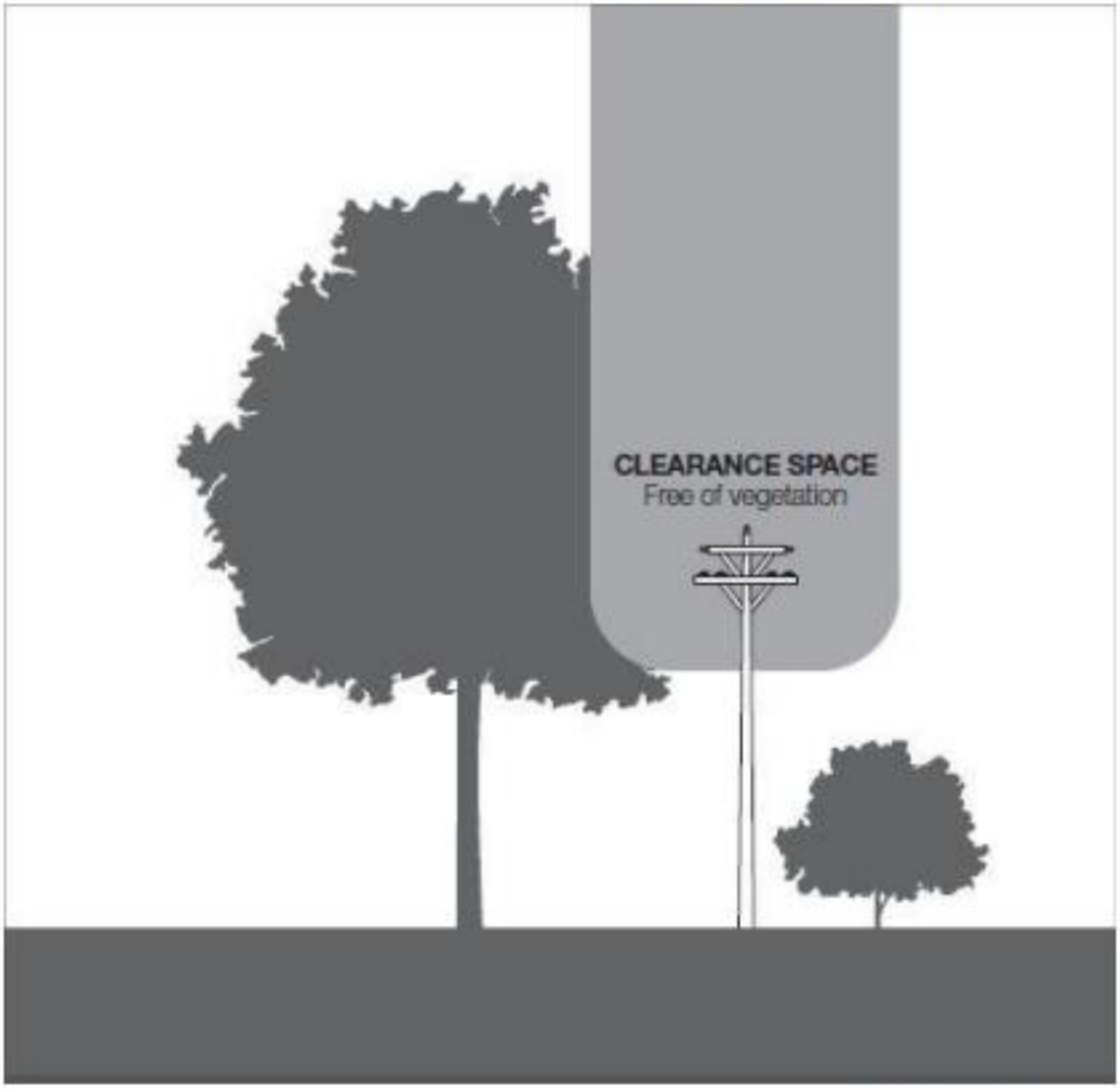


NOT TO SCALE

Figure 14 – Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, Schedule 2 | Extract 8

FIGURE 5—UNINSULATED 66 000 VOLT ELECTRIC LINE IN A LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA AND UNINSULATED ELECTRIC LINE IN A HAZARDOUS BUSHFIRE RISK AREA

Clauses 27, 28 and 29, Graphs 4, 5 and 6



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 15 – Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, Schedule 2 | Extract 9

Appendix G – V/Line Notification Letter Template

Electric Line Clearance – Notification of pruning works

Notice date:

Address:

Dear customer:

☐ Owner/occupier of land affected by affected by V/Line's Electric Line Clearance Program

☐ Owner/occupier of land contiguous to land affected by V/Line's Electric Line Clearance Program

As part of V/Line's responsibilities under the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* to keep powerlines clear of vegetation, pruning works will be completed in 14-60 day's time.

Pruning of trees is undertaken in accordance with best practice methods to maintain tree health, environmental and heritage values and to reduce the risk of the tree affecting the electric line.

Location of works:

V/Line's Electric Line Clearance Management Plan is available to view at www.vline.com.au

For further information, or to submit a concern relating to these works, please make contact within 14 days to:

Katie McKenzie

ELC Program Manager

1800 800 007

Katie.mckenzie@vline.com.au

Information relating to customer requests and concerns can be found via:
https://www.vline.com.au/About-V-Line/Additional-pages/customer-complaints

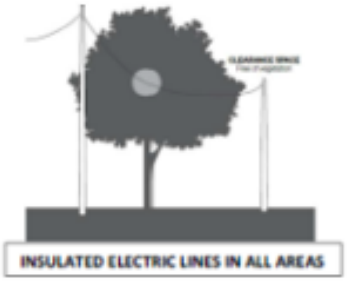
If you're not satisfied with our response or how your feedback was handled, you can escalate your feedback to the Public Transport Ombudsman (PTO) via:

- **Free Call:** 1800 466 865
- **Email:** enquiries@ptovic.com.au
- **Online:** PTO VIC
- **Mail:** PO Box 538 Collins Street West, Melbourne VIC 8007
- **National Relay Service:** TTY users phone 1800 555 677 then ask for 1800 466 865
- **Interpreter Service:** 131 450
- **Fax:** 03 8623 2100

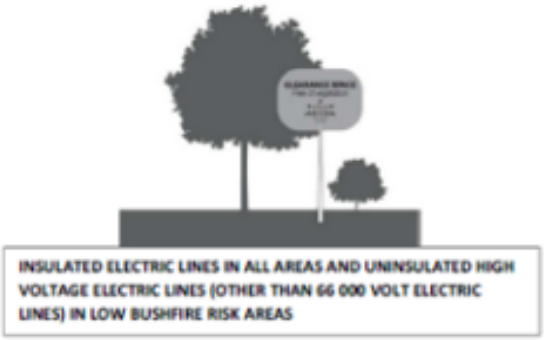
(Further information available overleaf)

Figure 16 – V/Line Notification Letter Template (Sample) – Part A

Depiction of minimum clearance space:



INSULATED ELECTRIC LINES IN ALL AREAS



INSULATED ELECTRIC LINES IN ALL AREAS AND UNINSULATED HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINES (OTHER THAN 66 000 VOLT ELECTRIC LINES) IN LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS

UNINSULATED LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRIC LINE IN A LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA

UNINSULATED 66 000 VOLT ELECTRIC LINE IN A LOW BUSHFIRE RISK AREA AND UNINSULATED ELECTRIC LINE IN A HAZARDOUS BUSHFIRE RISK AREA

If this checkbox is ticked a tree of indigenous, cultural or environmental significance has been identified ☐

V/Line have a process to identify significant trees including undertaking due diligence assessment to ensure compliance with State and Federal environment and heritage legislation.

Details of the impact of the proposed pruning:

Figure 17 – V/Line Notification Letter Template (Sample) – Part B

Appendix H – Website/Newspaper Publication

Notification of upcoming Electric Line Clearance works

As part of our obligation to keep powerlines clear of vegetation as per the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* we have identified trees that require pruning or removal in <insert location>.

These works are proposed to take placed within 14-60 days of the date of this date, but no later than 60 days of this notice.

For further information relating to Electric Line Clearance please contact Katie McKenzie, ELC Program Manager on 1800 800 007 or via katie.mckenzie@vline.com.au

Figure 18 – Website/Newspaper Publication (Sample)

Appendix I – Notification of Urgent Cutting Works

Electric Line Clearance – notification of urgent cutting works

Date:

Dear customer

In carrying out its obligations to keep powerlines clear of vegetation as per *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020* we have undertaken urgent cutting/removal at <insert location>

The cutting/pruning was undertaken on <insert date> and was required as the vegetation was encroaching on the minimum clearance space required for electric lines and deemed a risk to electric line safety.

The tree was last assessed on <insert date> at which time it was assessed as being outside of the minimum clearance space, and did not pose a risk to encroaching on the clearance space.

For further information please contact Katie McKenzie, ELC Program Manager on 1800 800 007 or via katie.mckenzie@vline.com.au

Figure 19 – Notification of Urgent Cutting Works (Sample)

Appendix J – ELC Training Matrix

Training Matrix Electric Line Clearance 2025/26		Roles					
Qualifications	**Unit number**	**Suitably qualified arborist***	**Assessor**	**Cutter working from EWP and Safety Observer**	**Ground Crew**	**Specialised Plant Operator and Safety Observer**	**Tree Climber and Safety Observer**
Certificate II in ESI - Powerline Vegetation Control	UET20319		M	M	M	M	M
Certificate II in ESI - Powerline Vegetation Control - annual refresher relevant units	UET20319		M	M	M	M	M
Safe Approach Distances			M	M	M	M	M
Perform CPR	HLTAID009		M	M	M	M	M
Provide First Aid in an ESI environment	HLTAID011		M	M	M	M	M
Provide EWP controlled descent escape	HLTAID009			M			
Perform EWP rescue	UETDRMP005			M			
Perform rescue from within a tree in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus	UETDRVC010						M
Certificate III in Horticulture and Arboriculture	AHC30722	M					
Perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation	AHCARB408	M					
At lest three years of field experience in assessing trees		M					
Licences							
High Risk Work Licence - Boom-type Elevating Work Platform (WP)				M			
High Risk Work Licence - Boom-type Elevating Work Platform (WP) - 5 yearly refresher				M			
Core competency							
Operate and maintain chainsaws	AHCMOM213	M	M	M	M	M	M
Comply with environmental requirements	UETDREL002	M	M	M	M	M	M
Work safely in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus as a non-electrical worker	UETDREL006	M	M	M	M	M	M
Apply work health and safety requirements for powerline vegetation control	UETDRVC001	M	M	M	M	M	M
Monitor vegetation control work in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus	UETDRVC009	M	M	M	M	M	M
Elective competency							
Recognise plants	AHCPCM204		M				
Assess vegetation in an electricity supply industry environment	UETDRVC002		M				
Access trees for inspection	AHCARB322						M
Operate machinery and equipment	AHCMOM304			M	M	M	M
Licence to operate a boom-type elevating work platform (boom length 11 metres or more)	TLILIC0005			M			
Maintain safety at an incident scene	PUAWHS002	M	M	M	M	M	M
Control vegetation in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus from within the tree	UETDRVC006						M
Control vegetation in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus from an elevated work platform	UETDRVC004			M			
Control vegetation using pruning techniques	UETDRVC007			M	M	M	M
Use specialised plant to cut vegetation above ground in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus	UETDRVC011					M	
Operate a mobile chipper/mulcher	FWPHAR2208						
Control vegetation in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus from ground level	UETDRVC005			M	M	M	M
Fell small trees	AHCPCM205				M	M	
Apply chemicals under supervision	AHCCHM201			M	M	M	M
Perform rescue from within a tree in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus	UETDRVC010						M
Additional requirements							
Rail Industry Worker Card	All roles	M	M	M	M	M	M
Provide First Aid (HLTAID001) and three yearly refresher	All roles	M	M	M	M	M	M
ELC online induction and annuall refresher	All roles	M	M	M	M	M	M
Construction Induction (white card)	All roles	M	M	M	M	M	M
Completion of train track safety awareness course	All roles	M	M	M	M	M	M

Figure 20 – ELC Training Matrix

Appendix K – Electrical Emergency Procedure

An electrical emergency may include situations in which electrical conductors or electrical apparatus have fallen or where persons are otherwise within safe approach distances[1] of electrical apparatus.

In the event of an electrical emergency:

1. **Create an exclusion zone of 6 metres** (where practicable) if there is a risk of an electric shock and burns to persons from electrical conductors or electrical apparatus (for example, a fallen conductor)
2. **Do not enter the exclusion zone** – if people, plant, equipment or conductive objects/trees are in contact with electrical conductors, electrical apparatus, or within safe approach distances, of electrical apparatus:
    a. **Do not** attempt to perform a rescue of an injured person(s)
    b. **Do not** approach electrical apparatus or electrically conductive objects.
3. **Make emergency calls and notifications**

a. Call **000** if a person or persons has been injured

b. Call Centrol 9619 1077 to advise of any potential impacts to train operations or and for general awareness of the incident

c. Call Fault Management Centre 9957 1166 to notify of the incident and advise what corridor the incident has occurred in. Fault Management Centre will call the relevant power company emergency/fault contact number and arrange for attendance by V/Line staff to maintain the exclusion zone if required.

An authorised representative from the power company must confirm as a minimum that the conductors are de energised with the preference being that the conductors are isolated and earthed (i.e. made safe) before any approach can be made.

[1] Safe Approach Distance (detailed in Figures 1 and 2 of this plan) means the minimum distance in air from exposed conductors that shall be maintained by a person, vehicle or mobile plant (including its load, controlling ropes and any other accessories) when approaching electrical apparatus other than for work in accordance with an access authority

Appendix L – Electrical Emergency Procedure for Fault Management Centre

The Fault Management Centre (FMC) will be contacted by V/Line ELC workers (externally contracted suppliers) to advise of an electrical emergency.

An electrical emergency may include situations in which electrical conductors or electrical apparatus have fallen or where persons are otherwise within safe approach distances of electrical apparatus.

In the event of an electrical emergency:

1. ELC workers will call FMC on **9957 1166** and provide details of the incident and location

2. FMC to call the relevant power distribution business fault/emergency contact number to advise of the incident (using attached contact list)

3. The power distribution company business will advise an estimated time to attend site and may advise further actions required by V/Line to maintain the safety of the site

4. Based on estimated time to attend the site by the power distribution business, FMC will arrange attendance by V/Line staff to maintain the exclusion zone until the power distribution business arrives: a. V/Line staff to remain onsite to provide verbal updates to oncoming services

b. V/Line staff to identify the incident site with flashing beacons/flagging tape/hazard tape/witches hats etc to prevent pedestrian or vehicle access through the site

5. FMC to contact ELC worker to advise of actions and estimated time the ELC worker can leave the site

Network Interface with Distribution Businesses

Distribution Business	Line	V/Line region
Ausnet Services		
131 799	Pakenham - Traralgon	South East (Gippsland)
	Traralgon- Bairnsdale	South East (Gippsland)
	Donnybrook - Seymour	North East
	Seymour - Toolamba	North East
	Toolamba - Echuca	North East
	Toolamba - Shepparton	North East
	Shepparton – Dookie	North East
	Shepparton – Tocumwal	North East
PowerCor		
13 24 12	Sydenham - Castlemaine	Northern
	Castlemaine - Bendigo	Northern
	Bendigo - Eaglehawk	Northern
	Eaglehawk - Piangil	Northern
	Eaglehawk - Inglewood	Northern
	Bendigo - Echuca	Northern
	Echuca - Deniliquin	Northern
	Barnes - Moulamein	Northern
	Korong Vale - Robinvale	Northern
	Korong Vale - Kulwin	North west
	St Arnaud - Ouyen	North west
	Ouyen - Panitya	North west
	Ouyen - Yelta	North west
	Murtoa - Hopetoun	North west
	Dimboola - Yaapeet	North west
	Deer Park - Ballarat	North west
	Ballarat - Ararat	Western
	Gheringhap - Ballarat	Western
	Ballarat - Maryborough	Western
	Maryborough – St Arnaud	Western
	Maryborough – Ararat	Western
	Maryborough – Moolort	Western
	Dunolly - Inglewood	Western
	Inglewood – Korong Vale	Western
Jemena		
131 626	Sunshine – Manor Junction	Metropolitan
	Newport - Sunshine	Metropolitan
CitiPower		
13 24 12	Clarkefield, Riddells Creek, Gisborne	Northern
	Southern Cross - Sunshine	Metropolitan

Figure 21 – Network Interface with Distribution Businesses