

## You are responsible for:

- arranging for a licensed electrical contractor to carry out periodic safety checks of your electrical wiring in your premises
- arranging an annual inspection (in bushfire prone areas) before the start of the bushfire danger season (usually 1 October) – checking for defects on your private powerlines and poles
- keeping trees well clear of your powerlines – arranging for an authorised tree trimmer to trim vegetation that is too close to your private powerlines
- regularly organising a detailed inspection of your private powerlines and poles (including below ground pole inspection and treatment) by qualified persons
- promptly repairing any identified defects (such as broken wires or damaged insulators) using a licensed electrical contractor of your choice
- using only qualified people to undertake inspections, repairs, installations or tree trimming near powerlines.

**In instances where no action has been taken to address an identified bushfire risk, EnergyAustralia may need to disconnect supply for safety reasons.**

## Recognise the risk

**If your powerlines or poles cause injury or damage to property, you may be held legally responsible.**

Bushfires pose a risk to life, property and the environment in rural and urban areas throughout New South Wales.

They can be caused by incidents like lightning strikes, sparks from farm machinery and electrical incidents such as fallen powerlines.

Overhead powerlines that aren't inspected and properly maintained can become a bushfire or safety risk. Broken poles and fittings as well as powerlines brought down by strong winds, trees and branches, can all be serious risks to safety.

Just as EnergyAustralia maintains the powerlines and poles that it owns, customers with privately owned powerlines are required to do the same.

**As our customer, you have a legal obligation to ensure all your powerlines and poles are free from any defects that may cause a fire or other hazard. This might include frayed wires, damaged poles or trees too close to powerlines.**

**EnergyAustralia has provided this brochure to help you to identify and assess the condition of your powerlines and poles.**

## EnergyAustralia is responsible for:

- providing detailed information to customers on electrical safety and bushfire risk management (via brochures, customer notifications, our website and our Tree Safety Management Plan)
- notifying landowners/occupiers of defects EnergyAustralia knows about on their private powerlines (the ultimate responsibility however, remains with the landowner/occupier)
- maintaining safe distances between EnergyAustralia powerlines and trees on public property in our distribution area (through tree trimming and vegetation management programs)
- assisting customers in identifying their private powerlines and poles.

## For further information:

For detailed safety information, including a comprehensive list of companies which employ qualified pole inspectors or authorised tree trimmers, or if you have any other questions, visit [www.energy.com.au/bushfireprevention](http://www.energy.com.au/bushfireprevention) or call us on 13 15 35.

For a list of licensed electrical contractors who can inspect or repair your powerlines, look under 'Electrical Contractors' in the *Yellow Pages*, or visit [www.yellowpages.com.au](http://www.yellowpages.com.au).

To check the currency of licences, contact the Office of Fair Trading on 13 32 20.

For advice on bushfire prevention, contact the NSW Rural Fire Service on 1800 654 443 or 02 8741 5555, or visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).

# YOUR POWERLINES: SAFETY AND BUSHFIRE PREVENTION

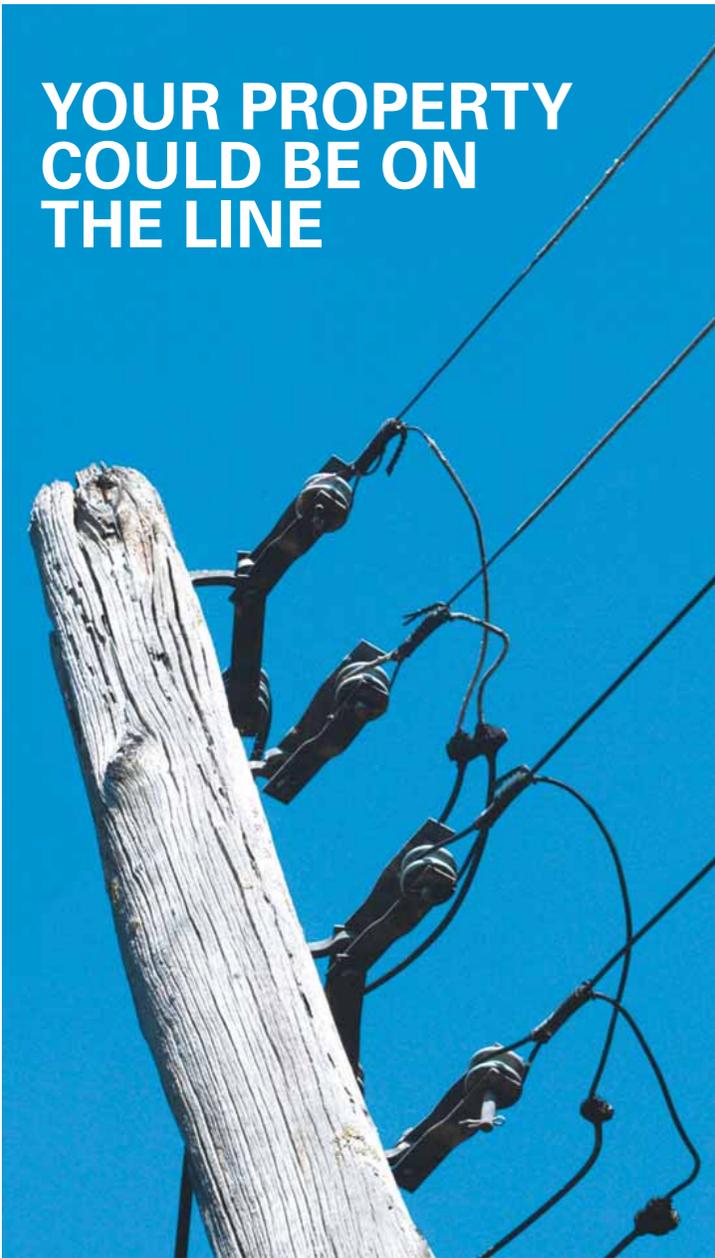


Understanding your responsibilities

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 **EnergyAustralia™**  
We're on it

# YOUR PROPERTY COULD BE ON THE LINE



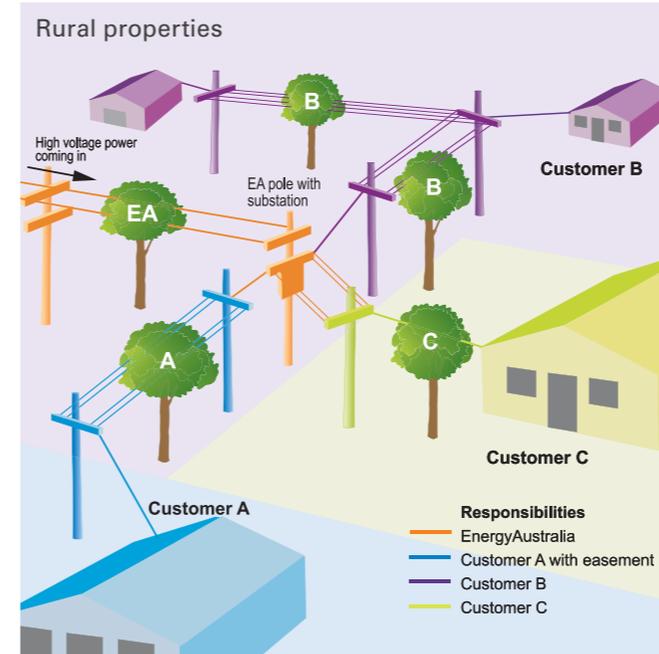
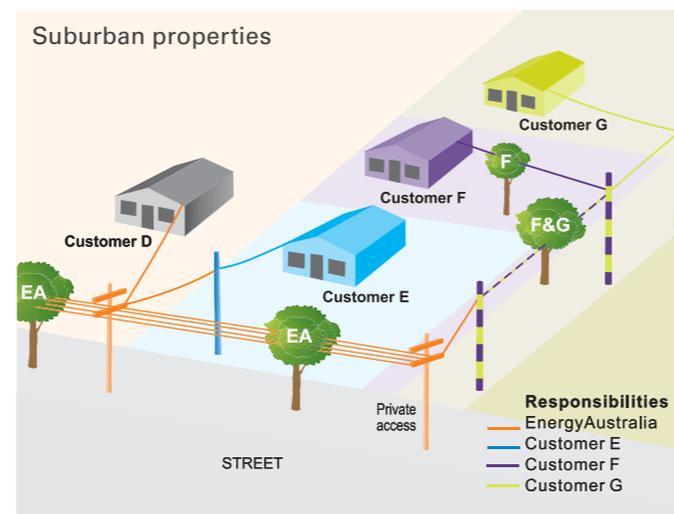
## Do you have a 'private' powerline?

Some customers in EnergyAustralia's network area have private powerlines. If you have a private powerline **you must ensure** it is not a bushfire or safety risk.

## Identifying private powerlines

Your private powerline usually starts at, and includes, the first low voltage pole on private property. All the wires, poles, fittings and attachments beyond this are considered 'private' – including those between different buildings and structures on the same property (eg, between the house and a shed or a pump).

Typical arrangements are shown in the diagrams.



## Is your property bushfire prone?

Your local council can tell you if your property has been classified as bushfire prone.

For more information contact the NSW Rural Fire Service on 1800 654 443 or 02 8741 5555 or visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).

## What to look for:

### Clashing wires

Avoid uninsulated wires clashing in windy weather. Fitting 'spreaders' (which keep the wires separated) is one solution. Ensure only a licensed electrical contractor undertakes this work.

### Slack wires

If one wire hangs lower than others, or the wires are slack, they are more likely to clash. You will need to engage a licensed electrical contractor to repair these wires.

### Damaged wires

If the insulation which protects some wires is missing or damaged, the exposed wire may be live. Contact with this could be fatal, and vegetation touching the wire in this area is more likely to start a fire. Insulated wires should be replaced, not repaired, and only by a licensed electrical contractor.

### Trees near powerlines

Trees and other vegetation too close to powerlines may cause fires or other safety risks such as fallen live wires. Trees need to be trimmed to provide a safety clearance from powerlines (in bushfire prone areas, 2.5 metres around uninsulated wires and one metre around insulated wires), as well as allowing for regrowth. All overhanging limbs and branches should also be removed in bushfire prone areas. Tree trimming near live powerlines must only be done by an authorised tree trimmer.

### Termites and wood rot

Termites and wood rot can cause serious structural damage to your private poles. All termite infested poles must be treated by a registered pest controller. Unsafe poles must be replaced by a licensed electrical contractor.