



# Irrigators, mobile plant and transmission lines

## Information for equipment operators

**Working near power lines can be very dangerous and it is important that safe distances are maintained. If you are undertaking any work, you need to know the relevant guidelines to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.**

### What must you do before operating an irrigation scheme near transmission lines?

Transmission lines operate up to 220,000 volts. Contact with transmission lines is extremely dangerous and even close proximity can be fatal.

If you are planning to operate irrigation equipment on a property that has electrical transmission lines on it, you need to contact TasNetworks for permission on 1300 137 008.

TasNetworks will determine whether or not there is sufficient clearance between the transmission lines and the irrigator to ensure safe operation of our transmission system. Once we have made our assessment, we will talk to you about what needs to be done so that you can operate your irrigator safely.

TasNetworks requires a safe minimum clearance between the highest point of your irrigator and the lowest point of the overhead transmission line at its maximum operating temperature.

**Do not attempt to directly measure the height of overhead power lines, as this may cause serious injury or death. Let us safely do this for you.**

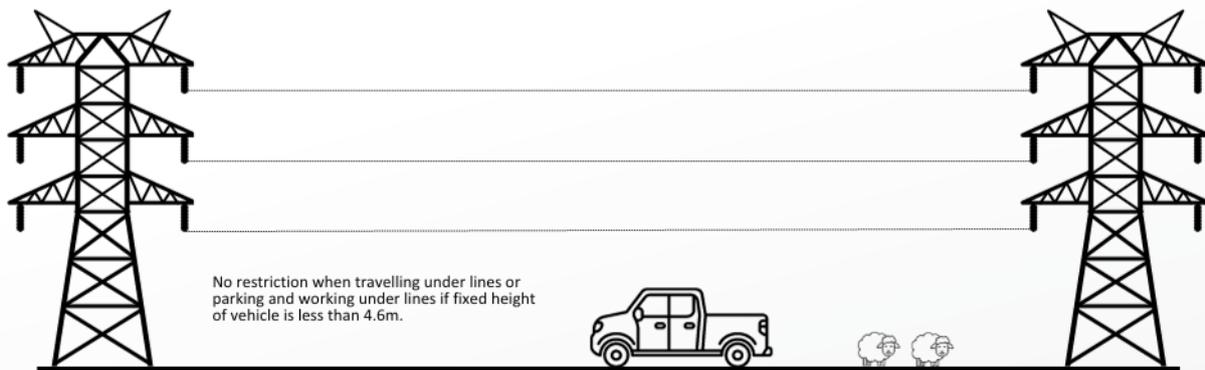
Modifications to transmission lines to accommodate large irrigators are expensive and in most cases, the property owner is responsible for the cost.

## Safe work responsibilities on properties with transmission lines

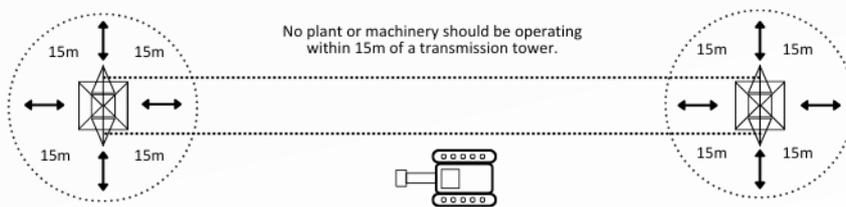
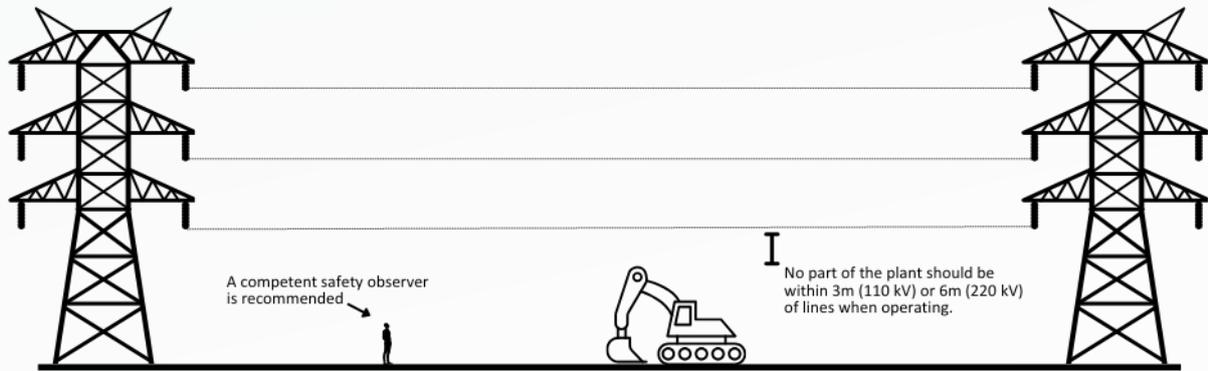
You must implement the following safety practices when working near overhead transmission lines:

- Complete a risk assessment to identify and put in place the appropriate control (measures to prevent any hazards including work practices and procedures) that may have potential to harm you or those around you.
- TasNetworks recommends using a competent safety observer whenever moving or working near overhead electrical infrastructure.
- Only undertake maintenance of irrigators and other large machinery well away from transmission lines and do not park or store them within the transmission line easement. Irrigators should not be parked parallel to the transmission line.
- Machinery measuring over 4.6m in height has a high risk of contact with overhead lines and must be closely monitored to ensure that the required minimum approach distances are maintained at all times. More information about safe approach distances is provided on the following pages.
- Irrigation pipes must always be carried horizontally as they are generally 7-12m in length and when lifted vertically could easily contact power lines.
- Keep irrigator spray to at least three metres below any power lines. As water conducts electricity, the irrigator may become energised if the irrigator spray comes too close to power lines, which could cause electrocution.

## Operating vehicles and mobile plant in proximity to TasNetworks transmission structures



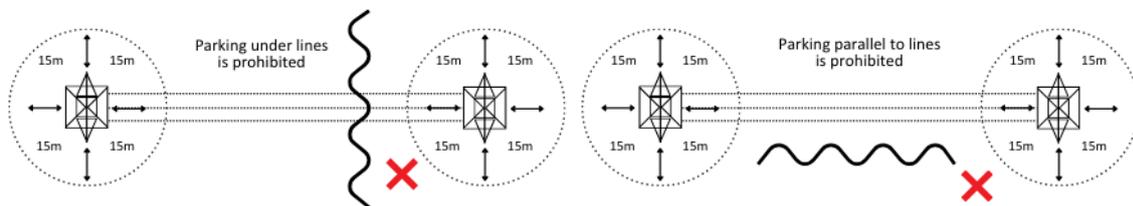
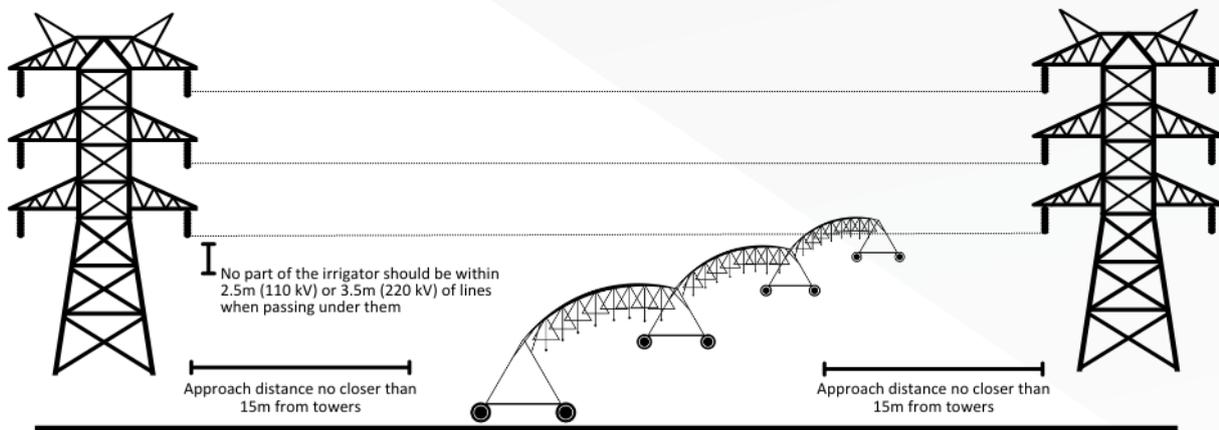
|   | Task                            | 110kV          | 220kV          |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Vehicles with a fixed height of less than 4.6m (utes, tractors, trucks, harvesters) | Travelling under lines          | No restriction | No restriction |
|   | Parking and working under lines | No restriction | No restriction |



|   | Task                                   | 110kV   | 220kV   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Mobile plant with a possible operating height greater than 4.6m (cranes, excavators)</b> | Travelling under lines (not operating) | No restriction if height of plant is less than 4.6m high while travelling | No restriction if height of plant is less than 4.6m high while travelling |
|   | Operating                              | No part of the plant should be within 3m of lines                         | No part of the plant should be within 6m of lines                         |
|   |  | No plant should be operating within 15m of a transmission tower           |   |

For more information on safe approach distances for mobile plant, please contact TasNetworks on 1300 137 008 or visit our website: [www.tasnetworks.com.au](http://www.tasnetworks.com.au)





| Task                            | 110kV   | 220kV   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Fixed Pivot points              | Must be located outside easement  |   |
| Approach distance to structures | No closer than 15m. A physical barrier shall be installed to ensure the irrigator can't physically come within 15m of structure |   |
| Passing under                   | No part of the irrigator should be within 2.5m of lines   | No part of the irrigator should be within 3.5m of lines |
| End gun water jet               | Minimum 3m below the conductors   |   |
| Parking under lines             | Prohibited  | Prohibited  |
| Parking parallel to lines       | Prohibited  | Prohibited  |

| Task                            | 110kV                           | 220kV          |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Travelling under lines          | No restriction                  | No restriction |
| Parking and working under lines | No restriction                  | No restriction |
| Gun water jet                   | Minimum 3m below the conductors |                |

## Further information

To obtain permission from TasNetworks to operate irrigation equipment within a TasNetworks easement, please contact us on 1300 137 008.

This fact sheet is designed for individuals without training in overhead line electrical hazards. Accredited personnel, who have completed an approved electrical hazards training course, can find additional information and guidance on the TasNetworks website: [www.tasnetworks.com.au](http://www.tasnetworks.com.au)

**See Safe Work Australia's Agricultural work near overhead electric lines, Information Sheet for further advice on managing risk when working near overhead power lines.**

[www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/system/files/documents/1703/agricultural-work-near-ohel-information-sheet.pdf](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/system/files/documents/1703/agricultural-work-near-ohel-information-sheet.pdf)