

Avoid building too close to or blocking access to poles and powerlines

Electricity Infrastructure Easement

An electricity infrastructure easement is an area of land reserved for electricity assets. Easements exist along the route of powerlines and other electricity assets to ensure the infrastructure can be accessed for maintenance and other work.

TasNetworks hold three types of electricity infrastructure easements – registered, unregistered and statutory easements. Registered easements are registered on your land title documents. Unregistered easements are easements that were created by agreement with the landowners at the time the easements were acquired but have not been registered on the land title documents. Statutory easements have been created for all TasNetworks owned electricity infrastructure erected before 6 November 1996.

It is very important to be aware that the owner and/ or developer will be responsible for any charges which relate to the relocation of assets or to remove buildings or structures within the easement that have been built without prior approval by TasNetworks.

Is building within the clearance zones ever permitted?

If any construction is proposed to take place within the minimum safety clearance of the powerline, please contact TasNetworks for advice, as it may still be allowed under special circumstances. If your proposal is acceptable, we will clearly identify any conditions required for approval.

In some cases, it may be necessary to relocate the powerlines before construction begins to ensure that safety requirements are met. The cost of the relocation or alteration work, or any other costs involved, may be at the developer's cost. Please call TasNetworks on 1300 13 7008 if you need advice on determining the requirements for your installation.



Contact details

Website: www.tasnetworks.com.au

Building near powerlines advice: 1300 137 008

Faults and emergencies: 132 004

Postal address: PO BOX 606 Moonah TAS 7009

Building near powerlines

your responsibilities as a land owner/occupier



Developing your property? Contact TasNetworks before you start work to ensure you keep your family safe and to avoid having to move a structure or pay for the relocation of a powerline.

Building near electricity assets

Electricity should always be treated with respect, especially when undertaking any construction work near powerlines, such as building or extending. Remember, you don't have to touch the lines for fatal results. Electricity can arc or jump across a gap. To protect people and equipment, minimum safe clearances have been established.

These are legal requirements and they are there to protect lives. Overlooking or ignoring these requirements could result in building delays or even cost you your life.

Your responsibility

Did you know that as a landowner you are responsible for ensuring that all structures on your property are built outside powerline clearance zones? You are required to make sure that your architects, builders, landscapers and developers provide safe clearance distances and access to TasNetworks' assets.

The restrictions on building clearance zones near powerlines apply in addition to Council approval – so don't start building until you have checked that these requirements have been met. Failure to do so may result in the removal or relocation of your structure, or the relocation of the electricity assets at your expense.

Please see the section 'Powerline Clearance Zones' for help in determining the requirements of your site. If you are still unsure how this applies to your proposed structure please call TasNetworks on 1300 13 7008 for advice before starting any construction work.

TasNetworks can help

TasNetworks provides advice on safe approach limits to powerlines for people and construction equipment, access requirements to our electricity equipment, and on the clearance zones around our equipment. Gathering this information early can prevent you from making a costly mistake.



Powerline clearance zones

Overhead distribution powerlines

The minimum safe clearance between distribution powerlines and structures is six metres horizontally from the centre of the pole line (see diagram below).

Overhead transmission powerlines

Please contact TasNetworks directly regarding safe clearances for transmission powerlines and towers. These clearances are much greater than distribution powerlines and are assessed via site specific criteria.

When measuring the clearance distance it is important that you only measure it at ground level. At no stage should you put any part of your body or an object within three metres of the overhead line.



Measure the distance horizontally at ground level



These clearances should be considered when planning the following activities:

- change or alteration to any structure (i.e. buildings, decks, awnings, building sign, flag pole, pergola);
- altering the ground level;
- erecting a fence higher than two metres; and
- installation of any type of swimming pool.

It is unsafe to locate a swimming pool under any powerline.

Please note: the clearance restrictions explained above are for powerlines near completed structures. They are not safe working distances while building or operating machinery.

Underground powerlines

Since the mid-1970s the majority of new powerlines in new housing developments have been placed underground. You should contact both TasNetworks and Dial Before You Dig on www.1100.com.au before starting any excavation. The minimum safe clearance for underground powerlines is two metres either side. If your property is supplied from a turret (green box), you must not construct or place anything next to or over it – including fences, retaining walls and large rocks – which may prevent safe access.

If you require underground powerlines or any equipment owned by TasNetworks to be relocated, these requirements and any associated costs should be agreed with us well in advance of the commencement of any site works.