

Trees, Power Lines and You

Generally, trees are a wonderful asset for everyone to enjoy, but sometimes there is a problem if they are too close to power lines.

Tree trimming & Power Lines

Northpower appreciates public co-operation in keeping trees away from power lines. Northpower's primary role is to supply a safe and continuous supply of electricity. However, trees and broken branches may contact or fall onto power lines and cause power cuts, or even worse represent a danger to life. Northpower may have to schedule shut downs to enable them to trim trees that have grown too close to power lines. Not only is this inconvenient to you but power lines that have been damaged or broken can also represent a danger to life. Trees should be trimmed to discourage growth towards power lines. The best policy is not to plant large growing trees close to power lines.

What you can do to help keep a continuous electricity supply

Maintain a regular check of trees on your property. Remove dead or frail branches, which can safely be removed, never attempt to trim trees that are close to or over hanging power lines. It could be dangerous and expensive if you brought down a branch or tree across the lines. Contact Northpower if you consider the trees are too close or are in actual contact with the lines. Northpower has staff who are able to trim the trees safely.

Northpower realises that customers may become concerned when beautiful trees need to be trimmed because of their proximity to power lines, but a prime concern is the safety of yourself and children.

As we all know, children love to climb trees and are unaware of many potential dangers.

Trimming a tree may lessen the chance of a serious accident.

Your vigilance and co-operation could help prevent a serious injury.

What to do if power lines are down

During a storm, fallen trees or broken branches may have brought down power lines.

Stay clear of all wires that may have been brought down, contact Northpower and keep others away from the area until a repair crew arrives.

Planting Trees

Take into account what may be in the ground near to where you are considering planting a tree, there could be underground cables or even drainage systems that could be affected by the tree roots.

Please think before you plant. Plant suitable trees in such positions that they will not be hazardous to life and property.

Shelter Belts

Shelter belts, if left uncontrolled, could cause you and your neighbours to lose power. Help maintain the power supply by keeping shelter belts appropriately trimmed, lost power at a crucial time could be devastating.

Contact Northpower and talk about the best way you can help. We appreciate your co-operation.

Untrimmed Trees

Untrimmed trees can cause loss of supply to hundreds of other customers. A tree with wet bark which is in contact with high voltage power lines may be a hazard to people or animals touching it.

Branches in contact with power lines can cause the lines to touch each other and cause sparks which could start a fire.

A power line that has been brought down by a fallen branch or tree can also in some situations cause sparks and start a fire.

Our aim is always to enhance public safety and minimise power shortages. If you have or know of tree problems call:

Northpower Tree Officer PH 09 430 1803

Northpower