

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments on the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) and the RIS (Draft 2020)
Date: Thursday, 27 February 2020 6:15:24 PM

RIS Submission
Risk, Regulatory Planning and Policy
Energy Safe Victoria

Please find below my comments re the Draft 2020 Regulations.

As a member of the ELCCC my concerns have always been about the way Amenity trees are pruned near low voltage (LV) powerlines in LBRA in the small rural communities across Victoria.

There is a huge difference in how trees are pruned in rural communities when compared to urban and city streets. It is always a challenge to balance safety and amenity but the risk is much less with LV powerlines in LBRA. I have been a member of the CFA for over 50 YRS and have occupied all positions including Captain and have attended many fires, but have never been to a fire caused by LV lines in LBRA.

At a time when Climate Change is at the forefront of our concerns it is important to embrace the concept of an urban forest whether that be in large cities or small country communities. It has been my observation that some of the Power Distribution Companies show little regard for the amenity provided by trees in our communities despite the changes made in the current code where they are required to prune to the Australian Standard 4373.

Many of their workers have no idea what AS4373 is. They have a policy of cutting to previous cuts which does not allow for any improvement in amenity. I do not believe changes to be included in the 2020 regulations will change this practice.

I have read the submissions of the Municipal Association of Victoria and that of [REDACTED] of Special Projects Active Group. I believe these are excellent submissions and address all of my concerns.

Yours Sincerely

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