



Energy  
Networks  
Australia

# Vegetation Risk Management for Overhead Electricity Networks – Guideline

**ENA DOC 038-2018**

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ISBN-13: 978-1-925871-03-6  
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# Documents of Energy Networks Australia

## History of Energy Networks Australia

Energy Networks Australia is the peak national body representing gas distribution and electricity transmission and distribution businesses throughout Australia. It began trading under this name on 10 November 2016, but commenced operations as the Energy Networks Association (ENA) in January 2004.

It replaced the Australian Gas Associations Network Operators Committee and the Electricity Supply Association of Australia's Distribution Directorate, and assumed the representational functions of these two associations on energy network issues.

## Documents

Part of the role of Energy Networks Australia is the development and management of support material such as codes, specifications, guidelines and handbooks to support the energy industry and members of the public in the interpretation and application of legislation and standards. All documents are written in collaboration with the industry through reference groups and general consultation with the Members of Energy Networks Australia.

This guideline is just one document in a framework of information designed to support the energy sector.

This guideline does not contain mandatory information. It should be noted, legislation and standards may alter between editions of Energy Networks Australia documents, and they will always take precedent. As such all document users must be aware of the current regulatory environment.

## Preface

This Guideline is advisory only and does not substitute for, or override, any legislation, regulation or safety rules implemented by jurisdictional regulators or network operators.

Users of this guideline are encouraged to seek independent advice when adopting suggested considerations, to determine suitability for their needs.

Energy Networks Australia will monitor the use and impact of this Guideline and, consequently, may seek to review and amend it, as may be appropriate from time to time. Feedback is welcome and can be sent to [info@energynetworks.com.au](mailto:info@energynetworks.com.au).

## Definitions and Abbreviations

This guideline includes terminology that could appear unfamiliar to some sectors of the electricity supply industry; as such a full glossary relative to utility vegetation management is being developed separately to this guideline.

For all other non-vegetation related terminology, Energy Networks Australia documents utilise a single definition list located on the Energy Networks Australia website. This is to ensure all documents use consistent definitions across Energy Networks Australia documents. This is not an attempt to define all terms in the energy industry and organisations may use different definitions.

## Objective

The objective of this guideline is to assist electricity network services providers in developing appropriate and fit for purpose risk management solutions to be applied to vegetation management, specifically to:

- » develop a clear understanding of vegetation-related risks;
- » manage vegetation-related risk effectively and in a manner that is integrated with other risks across the organisation;
- » make well informed decisions associated with vegetation-related risks;
- » develop vegetation management strategies in a manner that is integrated with an organisation's Asset Management System; and
- » provide consistent terminology and conceptual frameworks for considering vegetation, vegetation-related risks and the management thereof.

This document is intended to complement, but not substitute or override, a number of regulations and Australian Standards. The aim is to provide additional information to guide the development of appropriate, fit for purpose and consistent risk management solutions for vegetation management.

## Application

This document is relevant to members of the industry engaged in vegetation management. It can also be relevant to members of the public and other parties associated with the management of vegetation in proximity to overhead electrical networks.

## Scope

The document provides a basic overview of vegetation risk management associated with overhead electrical networks. This document covers vegetation risk management at a management system level; it does not consider specific risk management scenarios associated with vegetation management.

## Referenced Documents

The following documents are referred to in this document:

Document Code	Title
ENA (2016)	Electricity Network Service Provider Vegetation Management Variability Report
ENA (2017)	Australian Utility Vegetation Management Glossary [draft]
ESV (2010)	EnergySafe Victoria - Powerline Bushfire Safety Taskforce - Final report
Standards Australia (2009)	AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk management - Principles and Guidelines
Standards Australia (2013)	AS 5577:2013 Electricity network safety management systems.
ISO (2014)	ISO 55001:2014 Asset Management - Management Systems - Requirements
ISO (2015)	ISO 14001:2015 Environmental management systems - Requirements with guidance for use
VBRC (2010)	Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission - Volume 2, Chapter 4 - Electricity-caused fire

## Key Information

Document Category	Guideline
Functional Domain	Vegetation Management
Designation	ENA DOC 038-2018
Version No	1.0
Title	Vegetation Risk Management for Overhead Electricity Networks - Guideline
Scope of Revision	New document
Reason for review	Identified need by Energy Networks Australia members
Material changes	New document
Review Leader	Heath Frewin
Revision Working Group	Ty Christopher (Sponsor), Stephen Martin (chair) and other nominated representatives
Work leading up to revision	GHD assisted with preparation of draft material for Energy Networks Australia to review.
Supersedes	Nil.
Filing Details	SAI Global
Review Period	January 2023

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