



Victoria Government Gazette

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Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Proposed Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2015

Notice is given that, in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the proposed Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2015.

The proposed Regulations, to be made under the **Electricity Safety Act 1998**, will replace the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010 which expire on 29 June 2015.

The objectives of the proposed Regulations are to prescribe various matters relating to electric line clearance, including the Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance (the Code) and management procedures for standards and practices for tree cutting or removal in the vicinity of electric lines and to minimise the danger of electric lines causing fire or electrocution.

The key changes made by the proposed Regulations include adopting the latest Australian standard (AS 4373-2007) for the pruning of trees, introducing an application and approval process to allow the use of alternative mechanisms for compliance with the Code, introducing risk-based exceptions to the minimum clearance space requirement in low bushfire risk areas, expanding the range of electric cables to which a smaller minimum clearance space applies, and strengthening notification, consultation and dispute resolution processes.

The RIS assesses the costs and benefits of the proposed regulations and possible alternatives. The RIS concludes that the proposed Regulations represent the preferred approach, as they are considered the most effective method of providing greater flexibility in compliance whilst also better protecting the amenity value of trees. The RIS invites stakeholder comment on the proposed Regulations and the alternative options.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed Regulations may be obtained by visiting the Energy Safe Victoria website at <http://www.esv.vic.gov.au> or by telephoning Energy Safe Victoria on (03) 9203 9788.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and the proposed Regulations. Comments must be in writing and should be marked 'Electric Line Clearance RIS'. Comments must be received at either of the following addresses by no later than 5.00 pm on 13 January 2015.

By post to: Corporate Solicitor, Energy Safe Victoria, PO Box 262 Collins Street West, Victoria 8007.

By email to: submissionris@esv.vic.gov.au

HON. RUSSELL NORTHE
Minister for Energy and Resources

SPECIAL

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