



# Victoria Government Gazette

No. S 156 Thursday 18 June 2015  
By Authority of Victorian Government Printer

## Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

### NOTICE OF DECISION

#### Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2015

I, Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy and Resources, and Minister responsible for administering the **Electricity Safety Act 1998**, give notice under section 12 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994** as follows:

A Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) was prepared in relation to the proposed Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2015. The RIS was advertised to invite public comment on 13 October 2014. Twenty-six submissions were received and considered.

I have decided that the proposed Regulations be made with the following amendments:

The commencement date has been changed to 28 June 2015, which is the day before the current regulations expire. This will provide a streamlined transition to the new regulations.

An exception to the minimum clearance requirements for light foliage has been reintroduced into the Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance (the Code) in response to submissions from stakeholders. A similar exception was contained in the 2005 Code but was omitted in 2010.

Some minor changes have been made to notification procedures before the cutting or removal of trees, in response to stakeholder comments.

The scope of the duty of distribution companies and railway and tramway network owners and operators to assist councils in relation to the safety of cutting and removal of trees near power lines has been modified to providing advice on these matters, in response to stakeholder comments. It was considered that the initial approach excessively redistributed risk and responsibility away from councils to electricity distributors and network owners and operators.

The 'near the pole' provisions, which allow for smaller clearance spaces for trees and vegetation in certain circumstances have been reinstated. Energy Safe Victoria received strong stakeholder feedback that the removal of these provisions would lead to significantly more clearance activity around trees and higher cost to industry.

There have also been some minor formatting and typographical changes.

HON. LILY D'AMBROSIO MP  
Minister for Energy and Resources

**SPECIAL**

**bluestar\*PRINT**

The *Victoria Government Gazette* is published by Blue Star Print with the authority of the Government Printer for the State of Victoria

© State of Victoria 2015

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act.

Address all enquiries to the Government Printer for the State of Victoria

Level 2, 1 Macarthur Street

Melbourne 3002

Victoria Australia

**How To Order****Retail &  
Mail Sales****Victoria Government Gazette**

Level 5, 460 Bourke Street  
Melbourne 3000

PO Box 1957 Melbourne 3001

DX 106 Melbourne

**Telephone**

(03) 8523 4601

**Fax**

(03) 9600 0478

**email**

[gazette@bluestargroup.com.au](mailto:gazette@bluestargroup.com.au)

**Price Code A**