Government of South Australia

Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

POWERLINE CLEARANCE DECLARATION GUIDE

This brochure provides summary information on clearances from powerlines and tips on when it's OK to sign the declaration form.

To protect people and property, minimum safe clearances from powerlines have been established in the *Regulations under the Electricity Act 1996*. The declaration form requires applicants to confirm that their development will meet these safe clearances.

The vast majority of applications will not have any powerline issues as normal residential setbacks often cause the building to comply with the clearance distances prescribed by the Electricity Act.

Particular care needs, however, to be taken for developments on major roads, commercial/ industrial developments and in other cases where higher voltage powerlines exist.

Even if the proposed location of your building is closer than the clearances outlined in this brochure, it may still be compliant with the *Regulations under the Electricity Act 1996*. Please see our brochure ***'Building Safely Near Powerlines'*** for more details or contact the Office of the Technical Regulator. You may be required to obtain additional information from the Electricity Supplier for a nominal fee, including the maximum worst case swing and sag of the powerline.

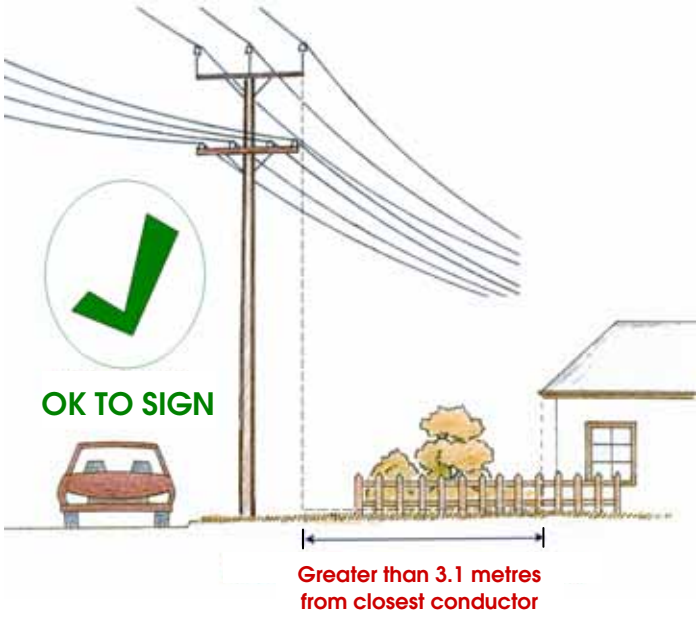
Swimming pools are considered to be structures and are not permitted within the clearance zone. **It is unsafe to locate a swimming pool under any powerline.**

These legislated clearance distances are not the same as electricity distribution or transmission company easements for access to the powerlines.

If there is an easement for electricity supply purposes registered on your Certificate of Title you must ensure that the proposed location of your building does not encroach on the easement area. If your proposal will encroach on the easement area you will also need to approach ETSA Utilities or ElectraNet to seek approval for your proposal.

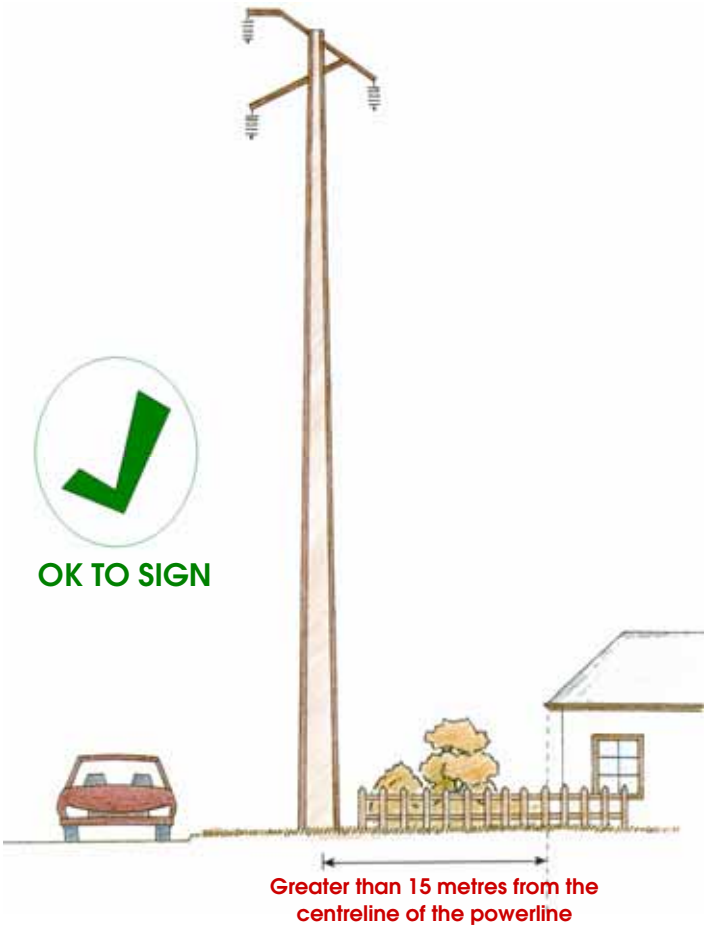
Overhead Powerlines

The minimum safe clearance between powerlines and buildings depends on the voltage of the powerline and the type of conductor. The different types of powerlines can usually be recognised from their construction, however, check with ETSA Utilities if you are not sure what the powerline voltage is. The Technical Regulator website contains a list of personnel at ETSA Utilities who can be contacted for voltage identification.



Low Voltage and 11 000 volts

Most metropolitan streets contain **only low voltage, or low voltage and 11 000 volt** powerlines. In these cases, if your development will be more than 3.1 metres horizontally away it is OK to sign the declaration form.



19 000, 33 000, 66 000 or 132 000 volts on a stobie pole

In rural areas, a SWER (single wire earth return) powerline is commonly used, and this has a voltage of 19 000 volts. Due to the long span lengths (distance between poles) of SWER lines, it is necessary to include additional clearance distances. If there is a SWER line near your proposed development and your building will be more than 15 metres away from the powerline, then it is OK to sign the declaration form.

Some higher voltage (e.g. 66 000 volts and 132 000 volts) powerlines are on very tall stobie poles—around 15 metres or higher. If you are near one of these powerlines and your building will be more than 15 metres away from the centreline of the poles, then it is OK to sign the declaration form.

132 000 or 275 000 volts on a tower

Transmission lines are very high voltage powerlines that carry electricity from power stations to major substations, or between major substations. These are normally seen in country areas or on the outskirts of towns.

If there are transmission towers near your proposed development and your building will be more than 25 metres away from the centreline of the powerline, then it is OK to sign the declaration form.

Underground Powerlines

If you are planning to build in an area where there are underground powerlines, you should contact ***Dial Before You Dig*** on telephone 1100 before starting any excavation.

It is a requirement that underground powerlines are more than 3 metres away from buildings. This does not include underground powerline lines directly supplying power to the building. Unless your building is right on the front boundary of your property or there is an electricity easement on your property, it is probably OK to sign the declaration form.

For further information refer to the brochure ***Building Safely Near Powerlines,*** available from:

www.technicalregulator.sa.gov.au

Or call the **Office of the Technical Regulator** on **(08) 8226 5500**

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