

## ■ When Working Near Ergon Energy Electric Lines

The Queensland Government have in place the Electrical Safety Act 2002 and Electrical Safety Regulation 2013, together with a number of Codes of Practice to reduce the risk of electric shock and contact with electric lines.

The Electrical Safety **Code of Practice 2010 Working Near Overhead and Underground Electric Lines** and **Electrical Entity Requirements document** - Working Near Overhead and Underground Electric Lines, provides practical advice on ways to manage electrical risk when working near electric lines including the exclusion zones that apply. An electronic copy of this Code of Practice as well as, Electrical Safety Act and Regulation is available at the Queensland Government Electrical Safety Office web site at <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/fair-and-safe-work/electrical-safety>. Obtain a copy and read this material, to ensure you fully understand your duties, and prospective means of complying with them.

Examples of work activities where risk of person, plant or equipment coming near or into contact with overhead or underground electric lines include, but are not limited to:

- o Pruning or felling trees or vegetation near overhead electric lines, including the service wire into a building;
- o Carrying out building work, scaffolding or demolition adjacent to overhead electric lines;
- o Painting fascia, replacing roofing, guttering or external cladding near service line point of entry to a building;
- o Operating cranes, tip trucks, cane harvesters, elevated work platforms, fork lifts, grain augers, excavators, irrigators, etc., near overhead electric lines;
- o Erecting or maintaining advertising signs or billboards near overhead electric lines;
- o Dam construction or levee bank earthworks.

Examples of work activities that could involve risk of damage to underground cables or earthing systems include, but are not limited to:

- o Digging holes, excavating, sawing, trenching, under boring, sinking bore holes, earth works or laying cables, pipes, etc., or driving implements into the ground (e.g. star pickets, fence posts) near where underground cables or earthing systems may be located.


Before carrying out any work at a workplace where there is a risk of any person, plant or thing encroaching into the exclusion zone of overhead electric lines, the person, worker or Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that the potential hazards are identified. That a risk assessment is conducted and the necessary control measures implemented (including electricity entity requirements) to minimise electrical safety risks to ensure the safety of all workers and other persons at the workplace. The Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 and Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2010 - Working Near Overhead and Underground Electric Lines detail the Exclusion Zones that must be maintained.

Where a risk assessment has been conducted and control measures implemented (in accordance with requirement of Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2010 - Working Near Overhead and Underground Electric Lines) and has identified that exclusion zones from overhead electric lines cannot be maintained, the person, worker or PCBU is then required to contact Ergon Energy and request written Safety Advice. The person, worker or PCBU shall be required to maintain exclusion zones until such time as Ergon Energy has provided written Safety Advice.

A person, worker or PCBU would not be required to contact Ergon Energy and request written Safety Advice where their risk assessment and implemented control measures ensure that exclusion zones from overhead electric lines will be maintained throughout performance of work to be undertaken at a particular site.

In order to obtain Safety Advice from Ergon Energy, please complete and return (by fax or email) the attached **BS001405F107 Safety Advice Request Form**.

On receipt, Ergon Energy will contact the Applicant to advise a date and time to meet at the site to provide written Safety Advice. Please bring to the meeting your copy of the Electrical Safety **Code of Practice 2010 Working Near Overhead and Underground Electric Lines** (and Dial Before You Dig plan for location of underground assets where required), as reference to this will be necessary during the meeting.

 Provision of written Safety Advice and/or other control measures by Ergon Energy may incur a fee.