



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Simeon Brown	Portfolio	Energy
Title of Cabinet paper	Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Amendment Regulations 2026	Date to be published	By 4 August 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
June 2026	Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Amendment Regulations 2026	Office of the Minister for Energy
18 June 2026	Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Amendment Regulations 2026 LEG-26-MIN-0119 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

NO

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Amendment Regulations 2026

Portfolio **Energy**

On 18 June 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that, in April 2025 the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee agreed:
 - 1.1 to give lines owners the power to require a tree owner to remove a tree if:
 - 1.1.1 the tree is within 24 metres of either side of the Growth Limit Zone (GLZ);
 - 1.1.2 the tree is within fall distance of the line;
 - 1.1.3 the lines owner has assessed the tree as being a high treefall hazard or a moderate treefall hazard; and
 - 1.1.4 the lines owner has issued a treefall hazard notice to the tree owner;
 - 1.2 that trees or vegetation planted within 24 metres either side of a line on land in non-urban areas, that is not already forest land, must have an expected mature height lower than the distance from the line to the tree or vegetation;
 - 1.3 that lines with a voltage of 11kV or less that have spans of less than or equal to 150 metres in non-urban areas become subject to the “clear to the sky” extension to the GLZ;
 - 1.4 to remove the following requirements for lines owners (and the associated offence for failing to comply):
 - 1.4.1 to provide required information to each consumer who is provided with line function services by the lines owner through written notice; and
 - 1.4.2 to publish required information in the news sections of two separate editions of each newspaper that is widely read by consumers provided with lines function services by that lines owner;

[EXP-25-MIN-0043]

- 2 **noted** that the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Amendment Regulations 2026 will give effect to the decisions referred to in paragraph 1 above;

- 3 **noted** that Cabinet authorised the Minister for Energy (the Minister) to make decisions consistent with the decisions above on any issues arising during drafting and on minor or technical issues as required;
- 4 **noted** that, in line with that delegated authority, the Minister has made decisions to:
- 4.1 clarify that Transpower will only have to assess the likelihood of treefall for transmission lines;
 - 4.2 increase the arbitration window from 5 to 10 working days;
 - 4.3 add exposure to high winds as a factor for risk assessments;
 - 4.4 confirm that a lines owner is not obliged to pay for the first cut and trim if a tree is planted in contravention of the Low Height Planting Zone (LHPZ) rules;
 - 4.5 confirm that a lines owner is not obliged to pay for a first cut and trim or removal of a tree under the Treefall Hazard Notice proposal if the tree is self-sown and growing in contravention of LHPZ rules;
 - 4.6 clarify that the definition of tree removal under the Treefall Hazard Notice proposal does not include the removal of tree roots;
- 5 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28194/10.0];
- 6 **noted** that the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Amendment Regulations 2026 will come into force on 23 July 2026.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Cameron Brewer
Hon Mike Butterick
Hon Andrew Hoggard

Officials present from:

Office of Hon Chris Bishop
Office of Hon Tama Potaka
Officials Committee for LEG