

TREES & POWERLINES

Trees, shrubs and other vegetation enhance our lifestyles. They provide shade, shelter, privacy and beautify our homes, and offer a habitat for birds and wild life. However, vegetation touching powerlines is a proven risk to public safety, the environment and one of the main causes of power supply problems. In short, powerlines and trees simply don't mix.

SAFETY

Fiji is subject to extreme weather conditions ranging from droughts to cyclones. Dry conditions inflate the risk of fire. Strong winds and a waterlogged ground can result in trees falling across and bringing down powerlines. This will be an extremely dangerous situation especially if you have young children playing in your front yard. Fallen power lines are dangerous; it could kill.

WHAT TREES CAN YOU PLANT NEAR POWERLINES?

Effective management of vegetation around powerlines is essential for preservation of public safety, the environment and reliability of electricity supply. This can be best achieved through planting of appropriate species near powerlines and progressive replacement of vegetation that currently endangers public safety and the reliability of electricity supply.

Before you plant, look up. If powerlines are immediately above, consider how high the plant will be when it's fully grown. If it is to grow more than a few metres and likely to reach the height of the power lines, plant it 30 meters away from the powerlines.

We recommend that you plant low height trees if you are looking at planting trees near powerlines. It's a good idea to consult your local nursery about suitable trees to plant in your property.

FEA maintains a fairly large electrical distribution system which consists of some 7000 kilometres of poles and wires.

Therefore you may appreciate fea's investment in keeping vegetation clear of powerlines is immense.

It is therefore fea's intention to achieve a balance between our environmental responsibilities and ensuring a safe, reliable and economical electricity supply to our customers.

CUTTING TREES

Cutting trees that threaten powerlines ensures that you have a safe and continuous power supply. If trees near or on your property are hindering powerlines, contact us for tree cutting, before you organize to cut them. Clause 37 ~ (1) (b) of the Electricity Act permits the fea to cut and remove from any Crown, Native or Private land any trees or any branch, bough or other parts of a tree growing on such lands within 30 metres of any main or sub-main used for conducting energy and which may in any way affect or interfere with the works. In an effort to improve the reliability of your power supply the fea will be embarking on a campaign to identify and remove trees that are within 30m of our power lines. Please be assured that you will be consulted and advised prior to cutting any trees in your property. For any queries on this matter please contact numbers at the back of this brochure.

UNDERGROUND POWER CABLES

Fiji Electricity Authority has underground services, which could be severely damaged by tree roots, resulting in interference with your power.

Also be extremely careful where you dig. FEA has high voltage underground cables which could cause serious injury or death. Before planting a tree outside your boundary, consult fea to ensure that there are no underground power cables in the area.