



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Simeon Brown	<b>Portfolio</b>	Energy
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Amendments to the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003	<b>Date to be published</b>	28 August 2024

<b>List of documents that have been proactively released</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
May 2024	Amendments to the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003	Office of Energy Minister
8 May 2024	Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003: Proposed Amendments ECO-24-MIN-0071 Minute	Cabinet Office
13 May 2024	Regulatory Impact Statement: Amendments to the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003	MBIE

### **Information redacted**

**YES**

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.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of constitution conventions, confidential advice to government and free and frank opinions.



# Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003: Proposed Amendments

Portfolio                      Energy

On 8 May 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1        **noted** that:
  - 1.1      the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations) set out the rights and responsibilities of vegetation owners and electrical works owners, where trees and electrical lines share space;
  - 1.2      consultation was undertaken in early 2023 on proposed improvements to the Regulations [CAB-23-MIN-0050];
- 2        **agreed** that Growth Limit Zones be required to be ‘clear to the sky’;
- 3        **noted** that the cost of removing vegetation to achieve ‘clear to the sky’ Growth Limit Zones will be determined by rules in the Regulations, and is likely to be shared between lines and tree owners;
- 4        **noted** that an appropriate transition period is proposed to allow line and tree owners time to adjust to the new Growth Limit Zones;
- 5        **agreed** to extend the notice zone in the Regulations (for vegetation that risks encroaching the Growth Limit Zone) by one metre;
- 6        **noted** that the Minister for Energy proposes to consult with stakeholders about further amendments to the Regulations to allow lines owners to address the risk of treefall from outside of the Growth Limit Zones;
- 7        **invited** the Minister for Energy to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Council Office to give effect to the above policy decisions;
- 8        **authorised** the Minister for Energy to approve and release a draft of the proposed amendments to the Regulations for targeted consultation;

- 9 **authorised** the Minister for Energy to make further decisions consistent with the above paragraphs on any issues that arise during the drafting and on minor or technical amendments as required.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)  
Hon David Seymour  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Mark Mitchell  
Hon Matt Doocey  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Melissa Lee  
Hon Penny Simmonds  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Mark Patterson  
Simon Court MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of Hon Simon Watts  
Officials Committee for ECO