

ESV Ref: CM722

4 October 2013

Mr Alistair Parker
General Manager Asset Management
SP AusNet Distribution
Locked Bag 14051
MELBOURNE CITY MAIL CENTRE VIC

Dear Mr Parker *Alistair***DISTRIBUTION NETWORK EXEMPTION APPLICATION ELECTRICITY SAFETY
(ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE) REGULATIONS 2010**

Further to your correspondence of 10 May 2013, requesting an exemption from the requirement to maintain the clearance space in accordance with Table 1 of the Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance, Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) agrees to grant SPI Electricity Pty Ltd (SPI) an exemption, under the conditions outlined in the document attached.

ESV appreciates that SPI has developed a good understanding of the vegetation management issues and has prepared plans incorporating mechanisms to address these issues. ESV looks forward to working with SPI in implementing this exemption as an integral part of the SPI 2013 Electric Line Clearance Management Plan (ELCMP).

ESV will continue to take particular interest in the sensitive management of "trees of interest", as well as looking for evidence of constructive engagement with Councils and the broader community addressing, communication, consultation, dispute resolution and the degree of vegetation removal.

Should you have any queries in regard to this matter, please contact Mike Tshaikiwsky on (03) 9203 9757.

Yours sincerely



Paul Fearon
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY

**EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENT
TO MAINTAIN A CLEARANCE SPACE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH
THE ELECTRICITY SAFETY (ELECTRIC LINE
CLEARANCE) REGULATIONS 2010**

GRANTED TO

SPI Electricity Pty Ltd ABN 91 064 651 118

October 2013

**EXEMPTION UNDER REGULATION 10
OF THE
ELECTRICITY SAFETY (ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE)
REGULATIONS 2010**

1. GRANTING OF EXEMPTION

- 1.1. Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) under regulation 10 of the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010 (the Regulations) hereby grants the following exemption.
- 1.2. SPI Electricity Pty Ltd (SPI) ABN 91 064 651 118, is exempted from the requirement to maintain a clearance space in accordance with Clause 10 of the Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance (the Code) as set out in the Regulations, and Table 1 (Table 1) in the Schedule subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out below.

2. EXTENT OF EXEMPTION

**TABLE 1: MINIMUM CLEARANCE SPACES SURROUNDING A
POWERLINE – ALL AREAS Aerial Bundled Cable or Insulated cable**

SPI is exempted from the requirement to maintain the clearance space specified in Table 1 of the Code, for low voltage powerlines in Low Bushfire Risk Areas, provided that SPI complies with the following:

- 2.1.1. The requirement for clearance space surrounding an aerial bundled cable or insulated cable under Clause 10 of the Regulations can be varied for small branches with a diameter of less than 10 millimetres and leaves if, and at least once a year, the branches and leaves are removed from the clearance space.
- 2.1.2. Branches and leaves are not required to be annually removed, in accordance with section 2.1.1 of this exemption, if the branches and leaves are not likely to abrade the cable before they are next removed in accordance with the Code.
- 2.1.3. Existing branches are not required to be removed annually, in accordance with section 2.1.1 of this exemption, if the existing branches exceed 130 millimetres in diameter and are more than 300 millimetres from the aerial bundled cable or insulated cable.
- 2.1.4. At each annual inspection SPI completes, and maintains a record for 5 years, a risk assessment for each tree, undertaken by an inspector deemed to be suitably competent by ESV.
- 2.1.5. The requirements of the SPI Bushfire Mitigation Plan, and the SPI Vegetation Management Plan as approved by ESV.

3. DURATION OF THE EXEMPTION

The exemption takes effect on the date on which the Director of Energy Safety signs this exemption document, following ESV approval of the SPI 2013 Electric Line Clearance Plan, and expires on the date that the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010 are revoked (unless revoked earlier in accordance with this clause).

- 3.1. SPI may at any time request that the exemption be revoked, in which case the term of the exemption ends on the date agreed between SPI and ESV.
- 3.2. ESV may at any time give at least 20 business days notice of revocation of the exemption if SPI does not comply with -
 - a). any provision of the exemption; or
 - b). an instruction or direction issued by ESV under the Electricity Safety Act 1998 or the Regulations,in which case the term of the exemption ends, subject to clause 3.3, on the expiration of the period of the notice.
- 3.3. The term of the exemption does not end at the expiration of the period of a notice of revocation given under clause 3.2 if, before the expiration of that period, SPI complies with -
 - c). the relevant provision of the exemption; or
 - d). the instruction or direction issued by ESV under the Electricity Safety Act 1998 or the Regulations,and notifies ESV accordingly.

Date: 4 October 2013



Paul Fearon

DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY