

Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd

**2016-20 Electricity Distribution Price Review
Regulatory Proposal**

Revocation and substitution submission

Attachment 8-5 Select Solutions - Letter on JEN
vegetation growth rates

Public

6 January 2016





8/12/2015

To Johan Esterhuizen

RE: Jemena Electricity Network (Vic) Ltd vegetation growth rates

As Jemena’s vegetation management contractors it is our belief that the likelihood of a new structural branch entering the clearance space (as defined by the 2010 Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations) within a two year clearance cycle is unlikely. This supposition is founded from several years of monitoring different types of vegetation growing at different site locations within the JEN area. In that time, we cannot recall any instances of this type of growth.

Trees produce structural branches in their juvenile years; yet there are several species of trees which can generate substantial growth in response to lost canopy mass at any stage in their lifetime. These fast growing branches (referred to by arborists as epicormic growth) typically do not have the characteristics of ‘structural branches’ as defined in the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) 2015 Regulations.

The likelihood of any branch growing to 130mm or greater at the point it enters the clearance space within a 2 year pruning cycle is highly unlikely, even considering the types of epicormic growth described above.

Kind Regards

Shane O’Keeffe
Dip Hort(Arbiculture) NMIT



Select Solutions Group Pty Ltd ABN 73 097 962 395
Ground Floor, 110 Chifley Drive, Preston VIC 3072 Australia | PO Box 415, Preston VIC 3072 Australia
Tel: 1300 SELECT Fax: 61 3 8480 2558 www.select-solutions.com.au