



# SCREENING YOUR HOME FROM POWERLINES

A guide for planting trees and shrubs  
outside of easements to screen powerlines

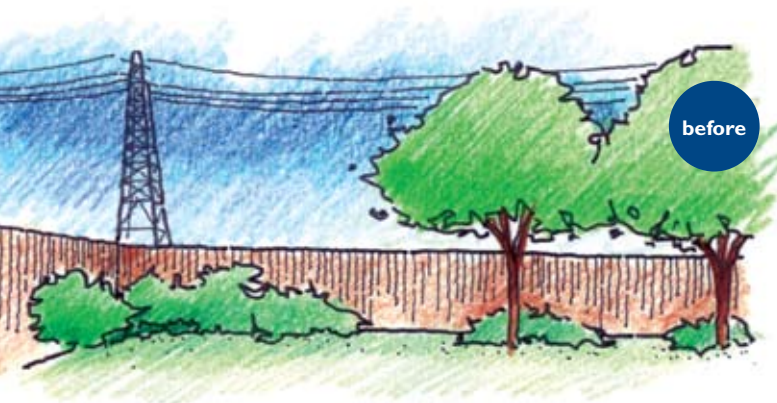


Electricity is essential for most of our everyday household and working tasks. However, most of us find that the powerlines and structures used to distribute electricity are not attractive. Large trees can be a good way to screen transmission lines from view, but they can be dangerous near those lines and should not be planted within easements. Small trees appropriately located can achieve effective screening of powerlines.

The visual effect of powerlines can be reduced by imaginative landscape treatments located outside of easements in streets and private gardens, in conjunction with existing vegetation.

Powerlink Queensland has prepared this brochure to illustrate how this can be achieved.

Through the correct choice of plants and their location in the garden, you can effectively and safely screen powerlines and at the same time improve the visual quality of the environment in which you live.



## How to improve the environment you live in

Screening is most effective when planting is carried out close to the viewer or, alternatively, close to the object being screened. If the object to be screened is too large to be effectively screened by large trees, or (as in the case of transmission lines) it is unsafe to do so, then screening close to the viewer is the best option. In addition, planting should not be undertaken within power easements. This means carrying out screen planting in your street or in your garden, which has the added advantage of ecologically and visually improving your living environment.

We have listed five groups of plants (see back page), which offer a range of screening functions to deal with most situations.

When choosing from these groups, consider where planting will work best to screen the transmission lines. Also consider the amount of space available to allow for natural plant growth, the distance of the planting from the transmission lines, outside of the easement, and the landscape effect that you want to create. Before planting on council property it is also important to contact your local Council.

Placing smaller trees and shrubs, Groups 4 and 5 (opp. page), close to the viewing location will create a "visual wall" that can often be more effective than placing larger trees, Groups 1 or 2, closer to the transmission line (Fig. 1 and 2). However, if the transmission lines are too tall to screen even with taller trees planted adjacent to the easement, a "visual ceiling" can be created by using canopy trees, Group 1, or climbers on frames and pergolas, Group 3 (Fig. 1 and 3).

Screening should be designed from critical viewing areas such as an outdoor patio or indoors from a lounge room window. For instance, if the view on either side of your backyard from the patio is less attractive and the view directly behind is good, you can simply screen the unwanted views using trees from Groups 2 and 5 so that the eye is focused towards the good view in the centre (Fig. 1).

Each situation will vary, however, screening is generally most effective when a combination of planting groups is used.

# Successful Planting Tips

SOIL CONDITIONS AND CLIMATE VARY CONSIDERABLY THROUGHOUT QUEENSLAND. THEREFORE, SELECTION OF PLANT SPECIES, PREPARATION FOR PLANTING AND CONTINUED MAINTENANCE ARE CRITICAL. THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES WILL HELP YOU.

- Soil should be easy to work, well drained, but still retain moisture.
- Add organic matter (compost or animal manure) to improve soil.
- Apply gypsum or dolomite to improve clay soils.
- Determine the most appropriate species and the best location for each plant.
- Consider the maximum height/width the plant will grow.
- Dig a hole at least the width and slightly deeper than the plant container and break up the soil in the bottom of the hole.
- Sprinkle slow-release organic fertiliser into the hole and mix thoroughly with the soil.
- Remove the plant from the container and place it in the centre of the whole; backfill with topsoil, compressing it to ensure the plant is firmly in place.
- Thoroughly water until the air bubbles stop rising to the soil surface.
- Stake and tie trees in windy, exposed situations; placing the stake on the upwind side of the plant.
- Provide loom of mulch to base of tree. When in grass, this ring should be one metre in diameter.
- Regularly remove weed and grass growth from base of tree.
- Ensure healthy plant growth by regular watering, fertilising and controlling disease and insect damage.

The sooner your plant is established, the sooner it will start screening unwanted views.

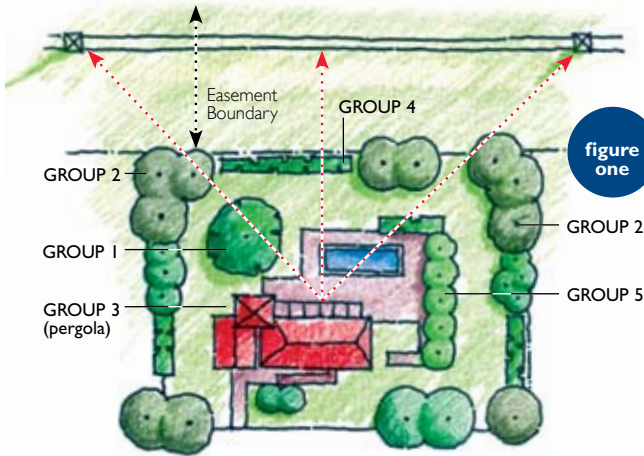


figure one

Views of the transmission towers are screened while still allowing views through other parts of backyards.

Trees **must not** be planted within easements as they could become a safety hazard. Even large trees do not always effectively screen the view especially when located some distance from a house.

Smaller trees and shrubs can be very effective in screening views when located near a house. (See plant Groups 4 and 5 for suitable species)

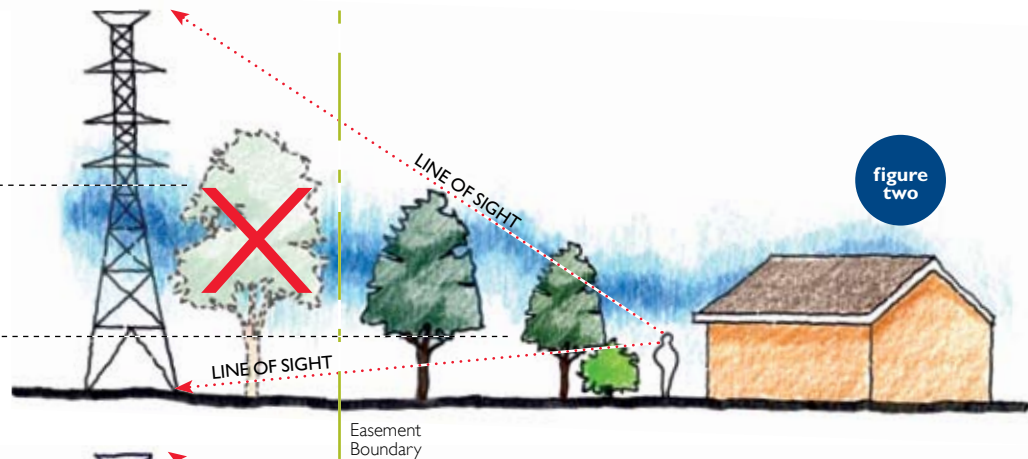


figure two

This broad canopy tree and the pergola create a visual "ceiling" and effectively screen the transmission tower from view. (see plant Groups 1-5 on back page for suitable species)

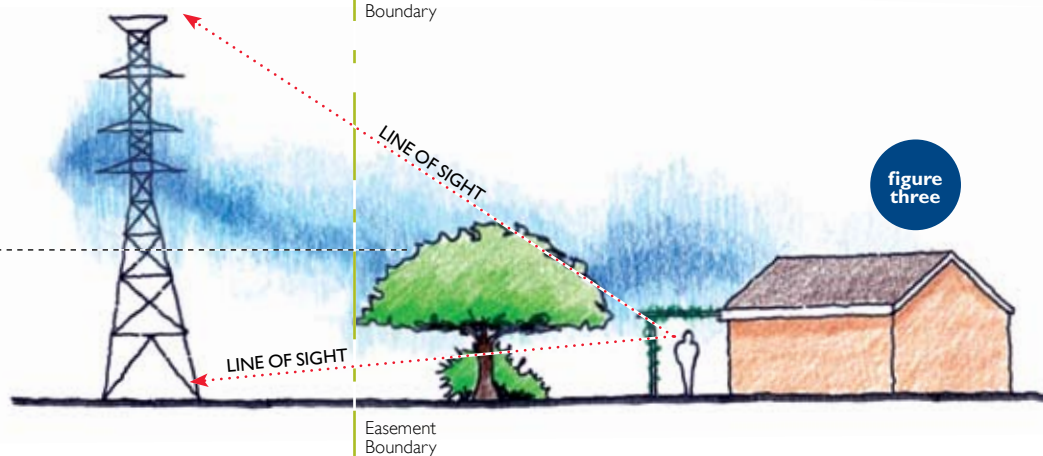


figure three

# Planting Suggestions

POWERLINK ENCOURAGES THE PLANTING OF NATIVE SPECIES. THE FOLLOWING GROUPS OF PLANTS ARE NATIVE TO AUSTRALIA.



## GROUP 1 : CANOPY TREE

Genus/species	Common Name
Peltophorum pterocarpum	Yellow Poinciana
Ficus hillii	Hills Fig
Ficus benjamina	Weeping Fig
Hibiscus tiliaceus	Cotton Tree
Melia azedarach	White Cedar

## GROUP 2 : MEDIUM/TALL TREES

Genus/species	Common Name
Agathis robusta	
Aleurites moluccana	Candle Nut
Araucaria cunninghamii	Hoop Pine
Araucaria heterophylla	Norfolk Island Pine
Corymbia maculata	Spotted Gum
Diploglottis campbellii	Small Leaved Tamarind
Eucalyptus tessellaris	Moreton Bay Ash
Eucalyptus grandis	Flooded Gum
Eucalyptus tereticornis	Forest Red Gum
Elaeocarpus grandis	Blue Quandong
Flindersia australis	Crows Ash
Flindersia schottiana	Bumpy Ash
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak
Lophostemon confertus	Brush Box
Lophostemon suaveolens	Swamp Mahogany
Syzygium francissii	Water Gum
Waterhousia floribunda	Weeping Lilly Pilly

## GROUP 3 : CLIMBERS

Genus/species	Common Name
Pandorea pandorana	Wonga Vine
Pandorea jasminoides	Bower of Beauty
Cissus antarctica	Water Vine



## GROUP 4 : DENSE SHRUBS

Genus/species	Common Name
Acacia fimbriata	Brisbane Wattle
Acacia podalyriifolia	
Baeckea virgata	Wild May
Banksia 'Giant Candles'	
Callistemon 'Captain Cook'	
Callistemon 'Endeavour'	
Cyathea australis	Rough Tree Fern
Cryptocarya triplinervis	Three Veined Cryptocarya
Elaeocarpus reticulatis	Blueberry Ash
Grevillea 'Coconut Ice'	
Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon'	Robyn Gordon
Grevillea 'Honey Gem'	
Grevillea 'Superb'	
Melaleuca armillaris	
Syzygium 'Aussie Southern'	
Syzygium 'Aussie Copper'	
Syzygium luehmannii	Lily Pilly
Pultenaea villosa	Bush Pea
Westringia fruticosa	Coastal Rosemary

## GROUP 5 : SMALL TREES

Genus/species	Common Name
Acmena smithii	
Casuarina glauca	
Cupaniopsis anacardiodes	Tuckeroo
Brachychiton bidwillii	
Backhousia citriodora	Lemon Scented Myrtle
Melaleuca quinquenervia	Tea Tree
Leptospermum flavescens	Snow in Summer
Callistemon salignus	Bottlebrush
Banksia integrifolia	Old Man Banksia
Eucalyptus curtisii	Plunkett Mallee
Eucalyptus ptychocarpa	Swamp Bloodwood
Macadamia integrifolia	Macadamia Nut
Macaranga tanarius	Macaranga
Xanthostemon chrysanthus	Golden Penda



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Powerlink or any other enquiry, call Powerlink's FREECALL information line: **1800 635 369** or send an email to: [website.enquiries@powerlink.com.au](mailto:website.enquiries@powerlink.com.au)

Alternatively, write to: Transmission Environment Branch, Powerlink Queensland, GPO Box 1193, VIRGINIA Queensland 4014 or visit [www.powerlink.com.au](http://www.powerlink.com.au)

These guidelines have been provided for your benefit courtesy of Powerlink.

*This list is by no means complete and some trees may not grow or be available in your area. The information in this brochure is provided as a guide only. It is general in nature and may not apply to particular locations or circumstances. It is not expert landscaping or horticultural advice. Please consult your local member of the Nursery and Garden Industry Australia to help you make the correct choice of plant material for your specific requirements.*