

**Motion for submission to the MAV State Council 17 May 2024**

<b>Title</b>
Electric line clearance and metropolitan tree canopies
<b>Motion</b>
That the MAV calls on the Victorian Government: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. to amend the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, as part of the 2025 review, in order to retain trees and tree canopy and acknowledging metropolitan municipalities as a low bush fire area.</li><li>2. for an immediate amnesty to save any alleged non-compliant trees in metropolitan municipalities of Victoria.</li><li>3. consider funding support for bundling or undergrounding of powerlines and cross arm solutions when it plans for its 2024/2025 Victorian Budget.</li></ol>
<b>Rationale for Motion</b>
Why is this a state issue and why should this be endorsed by the MAV? (Maximum 300 words)
<p>The motion should be considered as it seeks to address the mitigate the effects of climate change, by improving urban greening and reducing the heat island effect across metropolitan municipalities of Victoria.</p> <p>While the clearance of trees in high-risk bush fire prone areas is essential, the benefits of such clearance in densely populated and inner urban areas are questionable, while the retention of canopy trees in these areas will improve the cooling and greening of the public realm and improve the health and wellbeing of the community.</p>