

Review of the Hazards from Trees Regulations

National | May 2023

What are the Hazards from Trees Regulations?

MBIE was seeking feedback on a review of the Hazards from Trees Regulations (2003). These regulations cover the trimming of trees and rules limiting where growth of trees can occur near powerlines infrastructure. The regulations also set out guidance for who is responsible for covering costs of tree trimming and removal.

HortNZ Submission Key Points

- Any increases to the growth limit zone will have a negative economic impact on a growers' property.
- HortNZ can find no examples of horticultural tree crops or shelterbelt trees falling onto lines infrastructure and has asked for a risk-based approach to assessing properties with lines infrastructure rather than across the board increases to growth limit zones.
 - There is a tension between the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land and the proposals in the Trees Regulations which need to be considered.
 - Works owners should continue to be responsible for the 'first-cut' costs associated with tree maintenance and lines infrastructure. Any changes to cost attribution or reductions in productive area will result in increased costs or loss of income for growers.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Strengthening the 'Tree Regulations' to improve resilience of electricity supply | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment \(mbie.govt.nz\)](#)
- Keep an eye on [HortNZ's website](#)
- HortNZ contact: Leanne.roberts@hortnz.co.nz