

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks
Minister for Sport



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23rd September 2025

Mr Carlo Di Falco MP
Member for Lyons
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
Email: carlo.difalco@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Di Falco

Thank you for raising your question in Parliament on 11 September 2025 on behalf of your constituent, who has an interest in minimum distance requirements for easement widths for electricity infrastructure.

I am advised, the overarching guidelines that determine minimum legal distances are defined in the *Australian Standard 7000 (AS/NZS 7000:2016)*, dealing with Overhead Line Design. The Standards apply to all Australia jurisdictions. As the transmission and distribution provider in Tasmania, it is TasNetworks' responsibility to ensure these standards are met. As part of general electricity infrastructure management, TasNetworks follow a rigorous pole inspection and maintenance program to ensure that poles and wires across the state remain safe, secure and reliable.

The minimum distances required between powerlines and human-made structures vary greatly, based on a range of factors. Those factors include, but are not limited to, whether the powerlines, or 'conductors', are high- or low-voltage, whether they are covered or bare, whether they are insulated with Earth Screen or not, and how accessible to people they are. This last factor includes considerations of details like whether nearby windows can be opened or not.

As an example of the highly site-specific nature of minimum distances, a low-voltage covered conductor is allowed within one metre of covered places such as verandas, balconies and windows which can be opened, whereas high-voltage conductors must be kept at least 13 metres from farms using irrigation. For guidance on specific sites, I would encourage your constituent to contact TasNetworks directly with the specific address of any area of concern. TasNetworks is best placed to advise on specific issues. Alternatively, I would be pleased to investigate on your constituent's behalf if you can provide my office with any locations they are concerned about.

I hope you and your constituent find this information useful. Should either of you have any further questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office, or TasNetworks directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables