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Trees to get chop

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Energex is trimming trees from its entire urban network this month in anticipation of a fierce summer storm season.

Severe storms battered south-east Queensland in early February this year, causing widespread blackouts and destruction.



This strip of land near powerlines in southern Capalaba was denuded of trees by Energex to prevent power outages during storms.

In the Redlands, power to two-thirds of homes and businesses were affected.

Energex hopes the early vegetation management will prevent any power outages from occurring during the storm season in 2004/2005.

At the same stage last year, only 30 per cent of the network had been trimmed.

Several kilometres of trees near major power transmission lines in southern Capalaba have already been removed.

The 20m-wide strip of trees stretched from Ney Road to Korawal Place in Capalaba near the Redlands IndigiScapes centre.

The area was identified as one of the worst-affected during storms in February.

An Energex spokesman said the work was to improve reliability of the network.

"It's to ensure that trees and branches are cleared from within the vicinity of powerlines and the purpose of these works sure power supplies aren't disrupted during storms or high winds, or by trees falling onto them," he said.

"The work is performed subject to established criteria and guidelines.

"You can't do tree trimming works without cutting trees down or cutting branches off the trees. The purpose is to make powerlines clear of vegetation. If that means removing vegetation that's what happens."

Energex is working with local councils to remove problem trees.