

Wollar to Wellington 330 kV Transmission Line

Statement of Commitments

This document commits TransGrid to undertake environmental protection and control initiatives as set out in the Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP), in the Environmental Assessment, and some additional commitments made in response to submissions and discussions in the course of the approval process. The commitments made by TransGrid for the construction and operation of the Wollar to Wellington 330 kV Transmission Line are listed in the following table. It is understood that compliance with these commitments will be audited by the Department of Planning.

Commitments that are TransGrid's normal practices, and not specific to this project, are controlled by TransGrid's independently audited Quality Management and Environmental Management Systems and are not necessarily set out in detail in this Statement of Commitments.

Within the table the following abbreviations are used:

CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
DEC	NSW Department of Environment and Conservation
DLWC	The former NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation, now part of DNR.
DNR	NSW Department of Natural Resources
DOP	NSW Department of Planning
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
EA	Environmental Assessment
EEC	Endangered Ecological Community listed under the EPBC Act and/or under the TSC Act.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement (which for this Project is deemed to be an EA)
EMR	Environmental Management Representative
OEMP	Operation Environmental Management Plan
PEMP	Project Environmental Management Plan
The Project	The establishment of the Wollar to Wellington 330 kV Transmission Line as described in the EIS submitted by R Byrnes of International Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd on 15 August 2005.

Statement of Commitments

Issue	Commitment	Relevant Organisation	Implementation Timing
The Project as a Whole			
1. Project	The Project will be carried out consistently with the procedures, safeguards and mitigation measures identified in the EIS and PEMP, as modified by the Submissions Report and its attachments, and this Statement of Commitments.	DOP	Ongoing for the life of the Project.
2. Obligations	The commitments made in this document do not relieve TransGrid of any applicable legal obligations.	Various	Ongoing for the life of the Project.
Compliance			
3. Notification	TransGrid will notify in writing the Director-General, Mid Western Regional Council, and Wellington Council of the start of the construction and operation.	DOP, Mid Western Regional Council, Wellington Council	Prior to construction and prior to operation
4. Responsibility	TransGrid is responsible for ensuring compliance with these commitments.	TransGrid	Ongoing for the life of the Project.
5. Further Assessment	TransGrid will bring to the attention of the Director-General any matters that may require further assessment by the Director-General.	DOP	Ongoing for the life of the Project.
6. Reporting	TransGrid's EMR will produce six monthly Construction Compliance Reports for the duration of construction to demonstrate compliance with the CEMP and the Conditions of Approval.	DOP, Mid Western Regional Council, Wellington Council	Six monthly during construction
7. Environmental Impact Audit	TransGrid will engage an external environmental auditor to conduct an independent environmental audit of the impact of the construction activities, within three months after practical completion of construction works, to verify the environmental impacts against those predicted in the EIS and Submissions Report and to identify any residual impacts arising from non-compliance with the PEMP and the contractor's CEMP. The relevant organisations will be consulted by the auditor to identify any specific areas of concern to those organisations.	DOP, DNR, DEC, Mid Western Regional Council, Wellington Council	On completion of construction.

Issue	Commitment	Relevant Organisation	Implementation Timing
Environmental Management			
8. Project Environmental Management	TransGrid will update the Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) contained in the EIS with additional relevant material set out in the Submissions Report and its Indigenous Heritage Management Plan and additional commitments made in this Statement of Commitments, and will implement the PEMP.		• Update prior to commencing construction. • Implement during construction.
9. Operation Environmental Management	(a) TransGrid will prepare and implement an Operations Environmental Management Plan. (b) The OEMP shall be updated in the light of the external environmental auditor's report (commitment 7) and shall incorporate measures to correct any practically remediable impacts that are reported by the auditor as excessive.		• Prepared prior to operational service. • Within 3 months of receipt of the external environmental auditor's report
10. Environmental Management Representative (EMR)	TransGrid will seek the Director General's approval for the appointment of an EMR at least 8 weeks before construction commences. The EMR will be an appropriately qualified and experienced person appointed by TransGrid for the project. The EMR shall have the responsibilities and powers set out in the Conditions of Approval and PEMP.	DOP	Appointed prior to commencement of construction.
Communication and Consultation			
11. Advice of Construction Activities	Before Construction commences, and then at 3 monthly intervals maximum, TransGrid will advise in relevant newspapers the nature of the works proposed for the next 3 months; areas in which these works are proposed and a contact telephone number.	Mudgee Guardian Wellington Times	Prior to and during construction.
12. Consult Property Owners	TransGrid will consult property owners about implementing mitigation measures that effect their property and shall record and implement commitments made.	Property owner or manager	Prior to construction on the property concerned.
13. Complaints Management	TransGrid will develop a <i>Construction Complaints Management System</i> before construction commences and will implement and maintain the System for the duration of construction. The <i>Construction Complaints Management System</i> will be consistent with AS 4269 "Complaints Handling".		Prior to and during construction.

Issue	Commitment	Relevant Organisation	Implementation Timing
Flora, Fauna and Vegetation Management			
14. Flora and Fauna Management	Flora and Fauna issues will be managed in accordance with the strategies and management measures outlined in the PEMP incorporating the supplementary detail included in the <i>Submissions Report</i> and this <i>Statement of Commitments</i> . Relevant organisations will be consulted about any variations or changes.	DEC, DNR	Prior to and during construction
15. Hollow Bearing Trees	The Hollow Bearing Tree Management Protocol is applicable to those areas nominated for restricted and selective clearing (not throughout the transmission line route) and will be applied to those areas (see commitment 19).		Prior to and during construction
16. Pre-Clearing Searches	TransGrid will engage an ecologist to identify areas for implementation of protocols detailed in the PEMP, to undertake pre-clearing searches for arboreal fauna and to manage the impacts of the clearing on fauna resident in the cleared vegetation in accordance with the PEMP.		Prior to commencement of clearing works
17. Bioregion Native Vegetation Offsets	TransGrid commits \$90,000 additional funding as an extension of the GreenGrid project, being undertaken in partnership with Greening Australia, to compensate for clearing of native vegetation for the project, the funds to be applied to compensatory plantings of native vegetation predominantly within the NSW South West Slopes Bioregion.	Greening Australia	FY 2006/07 and FY 2007/08
18. EEC Compensatory Reservation Offset	TransGrid agrees to purchase a property of approximately 130 hectares of land contiguous with the Wollemi National Park, that is predominantly vegetated with grassy woodland EEC communities, or such alternative lands as may be agreed with DEC, for transfer to the National Parks Estate.	DEC	Prior to practical completion of the transmission line construction
19. Restricted and Selective Clearing	TransGrid commits to applying restricted and selective clearing practices as defined in the updated PEMP (in Section 5.3.6) to sections of the following spans: near structure 91 to protect habitat of <i>Goodenia macbarronii</i> , span 172-173, span 174-175, at least 150m in spans 175-177, span 177-178, span 196A – 197, span 200-201, spans 206-208 including protection of the habitat of the <i>stripe-faced dunnart</i> , span 210-211, span 217A-218, span 224-225, span 226-227, span 266-267 and in due course at future fauna corridors established in association with Excel Coal Ltd's Wilpinjong Coal project.	Wilpinjong Coal Ltd	During the line construction period and maintained ongoing

Issue	Commitment	Relevant Organisation	Implementation Timing
20. Nesting Boxes	TransGrid will install 64 natural or fabricated hardwood nest boxes targeted to alleviate transitional impacts on threatened species at suitable woodland patches along the route as set out in Table 5.1 of the updated PEMP.		During the line construction period
21. Replanting and Rehabilitation	Replanting and rehabilitation will be carried out in accordance with the Flora and Fauna Management Strategy contained in the PEMP. Local seeds and tube stock will be used subject to availability at reasonable prices.		During the line construction period
Weeds			
22. Weed Management	A Weed Management Plan will be developed in accordance with the strategies outlined in the PEMP augmented by details and variations for individual properties determined by TransGrid in the light of consultations with property owners and the relevant organisations. The Weed Management Plan shall be kept up-to-date until the OEMP is submitted for approval and will be subject to ongoing review by the EMR during the construction period.	DOP, DNR, Mid Western Regional Council, Wellington Council.	Prior to and during construction.
Heritage			
23. Indigenous Heritage Management	Indigenous Heritage will be managed in accordance with the strategies outlined in the updated PEMP.		Prior to and during construction.
24. Supplementary Heritage Surveys	TransGrid will arrange for the archaeologist, assisted by the representatives of the relevant Indigenous groups, to survey from towers 59 to 63, 181 to 190 and 234 to 242 (approximately 9% of the route) that was not surveyed for the EIS and will develop management strategies for any finds, that are consistent with the strategies developed for the sites identified in the EIS and PEMP. TransGrid will consult with DEC and the participating Indigenous groups concerning the management strategies before incorporating them into the Indigenous Heritage Management Plan.	DEC, MGATSIC, MLALC, GAC, Warrabinga.	Prior to construction
25. Care and Control of Relics	Subject to DEC consent, TransGrid will ensure any relics collected are described and kept secure in interim storage pending advice from DEC as to the appropriate final care and control arrangements.	DEC, MGATSIC, MLALC, GAC, Warrabinga.	During construction

Issue	Commitment	Relevant Organisation	Implementation Timing
Noise and Vibration			
26. Construction Noise and Vibration	Construction Noise and Vibration, including Blasting, will be managed in accordance with the Noise and Vibration Management Strategy included in the PEMP. Relevant organisations will be consulted by the environmental auditor.	DEC, Mid Western Regional Council, Wellington Council.	Prior to and during construction.
27. Construction Hours	Construction will be restricted to between the hours of 7:00 am and 6:00 pm (Monday to Saturday) and at no time on Sundays and public holidays, except for the delivery of materials required outside these hours by the Police, RTA or other authorities for safety reasons or with the agreement of the property owner where the work will not cause a noise nuisance at any nearby residential property, or where it is required in an emergency to avoid the loss of life, damage to property and/or to prevent environmental harm.		During Construction.
28. Construction Noise Exceedances	The Construction noise goals are to manage noise from Construction activities so they do not exceed, at any residential receiver during the day, the adopted Rating Background Level of 30 dB(A), and the Short Term $L_{A10,15min}$ of 50 dB(A), Medium Term $L_{A10,15min}$ of 40 dB(A), and Long Term $L_{A10,15min}$ of 35 dB(A). Recognising that the goals are not always achievable, TransGrid will seek to mitigate the impact by minimising the duration of noise exceedances and ensuring that affected properties are adequately forewarned of the prospective noisy days. In the event of any complaint about construction noise, noise monitoring shall be undertaken where such monitoring could assist the management of future works so as to avoid any similar impact during subsequent works.		During Construction.
29. Vibration Criteria	Vibration caused by construction will be limited to 115 dBLin for air-blast overpressure and 5 mm/sec ground vibration in accordance with DEC guidelines. In the event of any complaint about vibration, monitoring shall be undertaken where such monitoring could assist the management of future works so as to avoid any similar impact during subsequent works.		During Construction
30. Blasting	(a) Blasting will generally be undertaken between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday to Saturday. (b) The vibration level due to blasting will meet the requirements of the DEC		During construction.

Issue	Commitment	Relevant Organisation	Implementation Timing
	Environmental Noise Control Manual and Industrial Noise Policy. (c) If blasting is required, TransGrid will undertake blasting trials and monitoring of noise and vibration to enable site-specific blast designs to be developed that will ensure that the performance criteria are satisfied. (d) TransGrid will make all reasonable attempts to advise occupants of residences located within 400 m of a blast of intended blasting. The advice will be provided at least 48 hours before a blast and will include a schedule of blast times and a telephone number and contact name.		
Soil and Water Management			
31. Soil and Water Management	TransGrid will implement the Soil and Water Strategy included in the PEMP in consultation with relevant organisations.	DOP, DEC, DNR, Mid Western Regional Council, Wellington Council.	Construction phase and ongoing.
32. Inspections	The EMR will undertake periodic inspections of temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control devices during the construction period, to ensure that the most appropriate controls are being implemented, and to check that controls are being maintained in an effective condition.		During Construction.
33. Creek Crossings	The impacts at crossings of named and unnamed creeks will be limited to those arising from the works described in Table 3.3 of the updated PEMP.		During construction and ongoing
34. Towers Within 40m of Creeks	Proposed works within 40 m of protected waters or 20 m of prescribed streams will be reviewed with the local representative of DNR including 10 towers close to named creeks and a larger number (approximately 20) close to unnamed creeks.	DNR	Prior to the relevant construction works
35. Liaison with Fisheries	TransGrid will liaise with NSW DPI Division of Agriculture and Fisheries in respect of the four new concrete causeways and four locations requiring causeway and/or track upgrading at a creek crossing as listed in Table 3.3 of the updated PEMP.	DPI Fisheries Division	Prior to the relevant construction works

Issue	Commitment	Relevant Organisation	Implementation Timing
Visual Impacts			
36. Visual Impact Management	The Visual Impact Management Strategy included in the PEMP will be implemented, including tower painting near Slate Gully Road. The strategy will be developed into a site by site plan, including for screening plantings at locations where visual impacts are high as set out in the EIS. Any plantings on private properties will be carried out selectively in consultation with residents who will be expected to water the plants after the initial fortnight from planting.		Prior to Construction.
Traffic, Air Quality and Spills			
37. Construction Traffic Management	TransGrid will require the construction contractor to prepare a Construction Traffic Management Plan in consultation with the RTA and the Mid Western Regional Council and Wellington Council. The Traffic Management Plan must adhere to the requirements of the PEMP.	RTA, Mid Western Regional Council, Wellington Council.	During Construction.
38. Dust Management	TransGrid will prepare and implement the Dust Management Plan as provided in the PEMP.		Prior to Construction.
39. Construction Vehicle Spillage	Construction vehicles using public roads will be maintained to prevent any loss of load, whether dust, liquid or soils. In the event of any spillage, TransGrid will remove the spilled material as soon as practicable within the working day of the spillage.		During construction.
40. Plant and Equipment	All plant and equipment used in the construction of the transmission line will be maintained and operated in a proper and efficient condition.		During construction.
Property Damage and Access			
41. Property Inspections	Subject to landowner agreement, property inspections will be conducted on all structures within 200 m of blasting, or within 50 m of construction activities that generate vibration impacts. Other locations may be nominated by the EMR. Inspections will be in accordance with AS 4349.1.		During construction.
42. Repairs to Property	TransGrid, where responsible, will rectify or compensate for any property damage caused directly or indirectly by the construction or operation of the transmission line at no cost to the property owner.		During construction.

Issue	Commitment	Relevant Organisation	Implementation Timing
43. Property Access	TransGrid will ensure that land owner / occupier access to properties is maintained during construction in accordance with agreements reached.		During construction.
44. Dilapidation Surveys of Council Roads	Prior to commencement of construction, TransGrid will conduct a dilapidation survey of Council roads that will be used by construction traffic. The plan will be forwarded to the relevant Council for comment four weeks prior to commencement of construction works.	Mid Western Regional Council, Wellington Council	Four weeks prior to commencing construction works
45. Restoration of Council Roads	On completion of heavy vehicle construction traffic in each Council area, TransGrid will restore Council roads to a condition equal to or better than the condition existing at the time of the dilapidation survey.	Mid Western Regional Council, Wellington Council	On completion of heavy vehicle construction traffic
Waste			
46. Waste Management	As part of the Construction EMP, TransGrid will require its construction contractor to prepare and implement a Waste Management, Recycling and Re-use Plan.		Prior to Construction.
Utilities and Services			
47. Telstra Facilities	TransGrid will liaise with Telstra and meet its obligations in respect of the management of earth potential rise and low frequency induction in the usual way under the long-standing agreement between Telstra and electricity utilities.	Telstra	Prior to commencement of commissioning of the new transmission line
Hazard and Risk Management			
48. Hazard and Risk Management	As part of the Construction and Operation EMPs, TransGrid will prepare and implement Hazard and Risk Management Plans.		Prior to Construction.