



Lands Stakeholder Relations
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands
Via email: cl.stakeholderrelations@industry.nsw.gov.au

Dear Lands Stakeholder Relations

**EnergyConnect – SA_NSW Electricity Interconnector - Major Project (SSI_10040),
Wentworth Shire Council NSW**

I refer to the email (sent 27 October 2020), requesting comments/input from the Far West Area of the Department of Industry, Planning and Environment– Crown Lands (the department) in relation to the above project.

Given that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) covers a larger area than the Far West Area, the department's comments are focussed on the Western Section of the EnergyConnect project infrastructure, approximately 160 kilometres in length (being that west of Balranald). Comments are as follows:

Crown land

The department notes that the proposed infrastructure will traverse a number of Crown land parcels, including Western Lands Leases (WLLs) and Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs). The proponent will need to identify all Crown land parcels that are proposed to be impacted and undertake appropriate consultation.

Freehold conversion

The proponent should consider that some of the Crown land parcels applicable to this project may also be under application for conversion to freehold title, which may have approval granted prior to construction commencing.

Soil and Groundwater (Section 20.4.1)

The Department notes the potential for soil erosion as a result of the construction works, and the implementation of progressive rehabilitation during the construction work. This will help to reduce exposed and disturbed land which will assist in reducing the impact on groundwater and the potential spreading of saline soils should they be encountered and disrupted. The Salinity Training Manual (DPI, 2014) will be used should high-risk saline soils be encountered.

Construction materials

The department notes that all topsoil, construction materials etc will be stored within project acquired land. However, if topsoil plans to be stored outside of the proposal area, and this area is Crown land, a Crown land licence will need to be obtained.

Furthermore, should extractive material (sand, gravel etc.) for the project need to be sourced from Crown land, a Crown land licence will need to be obtained.

Dust and Water (Section 6.9.2)

Water required for dust suppression and general construction is proposed to be potable water from existing Wentworth Shire Council facilities including storage in water tanks along the easement. Non-potable water, including bores, should be treated with caution that its use will not lead to adverse effects like dryland salinisation.

Native vegetation offsets

Should a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement be required as part of the project, concurrence from the department, prior to seeking approval under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, will be required.

If you have any further queries in regards to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact myself on (02) 6883 3356 or via email pip.sokol@crowland.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Philippa Sokol
Senior Natural Resource Management Officer
Crown Lands - Far West Area

23 November 2019