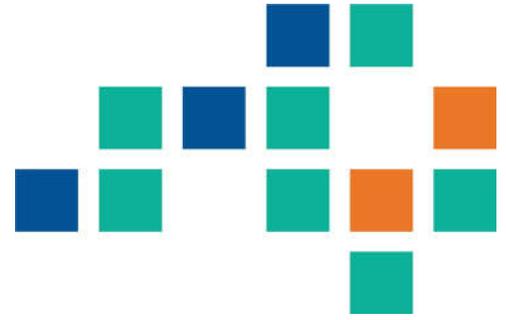


INTERNAL



Biodiversity Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Stage 1 45860-HSE-PL-D-0006

| REV | DATE | GENERAL DESCRIPTION | PREPARED | REVIEWED | VERIFIED | VERIFIED | APPROVED |
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| Revision History | |
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| Rev. | Detailed Description |
| A | Issued for internal review |
| B | Issued for Transgrid review |
| C | Updated following Transgrid review and draft Infrastructure Approval |
| D | Updated following Transgrid review and to address the Infrastructure Approval |
| E | Updated following receipt of BCD comments and Transgrid review |
| F | Updated following receipt of BCD and ER comments |
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| Key Document Stakeholders |
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| To be communicated with during reviews and revisions of this document |
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Abbreviations

| Acronym | Definition |
|--|--|
| Amendment Report | <i>EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Amendment Report</i> |
| BAM | <i>Biodiversity Assessment Method 2017</i> |
| BC Act | <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> |
| BCS | Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment |
| BMP | Biodiversity Management Plan |
| BOS | Biodiversity Offset Scheme |
| CCS | Community Communication Strategy |
| CEMP | Construction Environmental Management Plan |
| CSSI | Critical State significant infrastructure |
| Cth | Commonwealth |
| DPIE or Department | NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment |
| EEC | Endangered Ecological Communities |
| EIS | <i>EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Environmental Impact Statement</i> |
| EP&A Act | <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> |
| EPBC Act | <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> |
| ER | Environmental Representative |
| Final BDAR | <i>Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (August, 2021)</i> |
| GDE | Groundwater dependent ecosystem |
| IBRA | Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia |
| LGA | Local government area |
| LLS | Local Land Services |
| MNES | Matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| PCT | Plant community type |
| PESCP | Progressive Erosion and Sediment Control Plan |
| Planning Secretary | Planning Secretary under the EP&A Act, or nominee |
| project, the | EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) |
| Project study area | The study area for the EIS, which comprises a one kilometre wide corridor between the SA/NSW border near Chowilla and Buronga and a 200m wide corridor between Buronga and the NSW/Victoria border at Monak, near Red Cliffs. |
| Response to DPIE Request for Information | The 'additional information letter dated 10 August 2021' in the definition section of the Infrastructure Approval; document is also titled <i>EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Response to DPIE Request for Information – 7 May 2021 and subsequent discussions</i> |
| RMM | Revised mitigation measures |
| SA | South Australia |
| SAP | Sensitive area plans |
| SecureEnergy | Elecnor and Clough Projects Australia Pty Ltd have formed the SecureEnergy Joint Venture (SecureEnergy). SecureEnergy is the contractor who will be carrying out the project on behalf of Transgrid. |
| Submissions Report | <i>EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Submissions Report</i> |

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| Acronym | Definition |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| WONS | Weeds of National Significance |
| WMS | Work method statement |

1 Introduction

1.1 Context

This Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP or this plan) forms part of the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) for Stage 1 of EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section).

This plan has been prepared to address the relevant requirements of the Infrastructure Approval (SSI 10040), the *EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*, the *EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Submissions Report* (Submissions Report), the *EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Amendment Report* (Amendment Report) and the additional information letter dated 10 August 2021 (Response to DPIE Request for Information).

1.2 Background

On 29 August 2019 the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces declared EnergyConnect critical State significant infrastructure (CSSI) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) on the basis that it is critical to the State for environmental, economic or social reasons. Within NSW, EnergyConnect is therefore subject to assessment under Part 5, Division 5.2 of the EP&A Act.

Transgrid have two environmental planning approval applications for the sections within NSW:

- EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) – SA/NSW border to Buronga and Buronga to the NSW/Victorian border (the project); and
- EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) – Buronga to Wagga Wagga.

A referral under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) was submitted on 27 May 2020. The Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) determined the project to be a controlled action on 26 June 2020 and thus, it would be assessed using the bilateral assessment process. As such, the project also requires approval from the Australian Minister for the Environment under the EPBC Act.

The EIS was prepared for the project in October 2020 and was placed on public exhibition from 30 October 2020 to 10 December 2020. A total of 20 submissions were received, with 15 from government agencies, three from organisations and two from the public.

The Submissions Report was prepared for the project in response to the submissions and was finalised on 14 April 2021.

Transgrid also prepared a separate Amendment Report to document design changes and additional environmental assessment undertaken since exhibition of the EIS. The Amendment Report describes the updated project for which approval has been sought and was also finalised on 14 April 2021.

On 7 May 2021, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) requested additional information (*EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) (SSI-10040) Request for Additional Information*) to assist with the assessment of the project. In response Transgrid prepared and provided the Response to DPIE Request for Information, which included revised mitigation measures (RMMs) in Appendix G which are to be applied. The Response to DPIE Request for Information was dated 10 August 2021.

Approval for the project under the EP&A Act was granted by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (Infrastructure Approval SSI 10040). Approval for the project under the EPBC was granted by the Australian Minister for the Environment.

Transgrid have engaged SecureEnergy, a joint venture between Elecnor and Clough Projects Australia Pty Ltd to design and construct their portion of the EnergyConnect project.

1.3 Staging

Condition E2 allows preparation of plans on a staged basis, with the approval of the Planning Secretary. Where a plan is staged, the scope of works can be carried out without addressing particular requirements of conditions of approval that are not applicable to the particular stage. This BMP is staged in accordance with condition E2.

The conditions of the Infrastructure Approval, and the RMMs identified in Appendix G of the Response to DPIE Request for Information, that are relevant to the construction phase biodiversity requirements are included in Table 2.1 and Table 2.2, respectively. The applicability of each requirement to this BMP is also addressed in the identified tables.

Stage 1 of construction (covered by this BMP) is proposed to occur ahead of the main transmission line works in order to expedite the overall delivery program for EnergyConnect.

The Buronga substation is located on Arumpo Road in Buronga. The existing 220kV substation will be upgraded and expanded to a new 330kV substation on a land parcel adjacent to the existing 220kV substation. Refer to Figure 1.1 for the indicative disturbance area of Stage 1 of construction.

The key project components of Stage 1 of construction include, but are not limited to, the activities provided in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 - Key project components of Stage 1 of construction

| Key activity | Description of key activity |
|---|--|
| Environmental investigations, including biodiversity and heritage protection, salvage and recordings | These key activities nominated in this stage will have already commenced as part of the pre-construction minor works permitted in accordance with the Infrastructure Approval. The definition of 'construction' within the Infrastructure Approval excludes these activities. They will therefore not be subject to the Stage 1 CEMP and CEMP sub-plans. |
| Other survey work, such as road dilapidation surveys, and surveys of the general alignment and existing utilities | |
| Site establishment at Buronga substation upgrade and expansion site | The main site establishment activities that would be undertaken at Buronga substation upgrade and expansion site include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearing of vegetation within the disturbance area (including scrub, undergrowth and ground vegetation); clearing and removal of topsoils. Topsoil would be stockpiled on site for later reuse; establishing crushing and screening plants (if required), ancillary facilities, including but not limited to offices and amenities, and internal roads; and installing fencing (including fencing around the site where required), signage and security measures as well as any necessary construction environmental management measures such as erosion and sediment controls. |
| Bulk earthworks at Buronga substation upgrade and expansion site | Bulk earthworks to form the Buronga substation pad which includes placement of around 350,000 cubic metres of rock/gravel/soil from the earthworks material site to allow for the construction of the substation pad in preparation for concrete foundations. Crushing and screening activities may be required in order to meet the engineering requirements. Existing soil that does not meet engineering requirements for the substation pad will be temporary stockpiled. |
| Site establishment of the Buronga accommodation camp | The main activities that would be undertaken at Buronga construction compound and accommodation camp includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearing of vegetation within the disturbance area (including scrub, undergrowth and ground vegetation); clearing and removal of topsoils. Topsoil would be stockpiled on site for later reuse; establishing the accommodation camp and associated facilities, including but not limited to site offices, amenities, wastewater treatment plant, power generators, hazardous material and fuel storage area and internal roads; |

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| Key activity | Description of key activity |
|---|---|
| Site establishment and operation of the Buronga construction compound | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishing and operating site offices, and other ancillary facilities, including but not limited to amenities, and internal roads; connections and pre-commissioning of on-site utilities (wastewater treatment plant, electrical power, lighting and etc.) for the construction compound and accommodation camps; and installing temporary fencing, signage and security measures as well as any necessary construction environmental management measures such as erosion and sediment controls, where required. |
| Access points | <p>The establishment of access points would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishing vehicle access and egress points including adjustment of roads to ensure safe vehicle movements; and establishing truck wheel wash or rumble grids. <p>The definition of construction within the Infrastructure Approval does not include road upgrades (which includes access points). Road upgrade works are, however, incorporated within the Traffic and Transport Management Plan as required by condition D40 b).</p> |
| Water supply points – establishment and/or use | <p>A series of water supply points have been identified as suitable connection points to existing water supply pipelines. The proposed water supply points which are to be established and / or used include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcheringa Drive, Buronga; and Modica Crescent, Buronga. |
| Utility works, adjustments and protection | <p>General utility works, adjustment and protection, including internal and external drainage, to allow for the Buronga substation expansion and upgrades works to occur, the establishment of the accommodation camp and the establishment and operation of the construction compound.</p> |

The Stage 1 works will involve clearing the indicative disturbance area identified within Figure 1.1. Further detail in relation to the impacts associated with Stage 1 are identified within Section 4.2 of this plan.

Some activities nominated in this stage will have already commenced as part of the pre-construction minor works permitted in accordance with the Infrastructure Approval. These works will remain excluded from the definition of ‘construction’ and will therefore not be subject to the Stage 1 CEMP and this BMP.

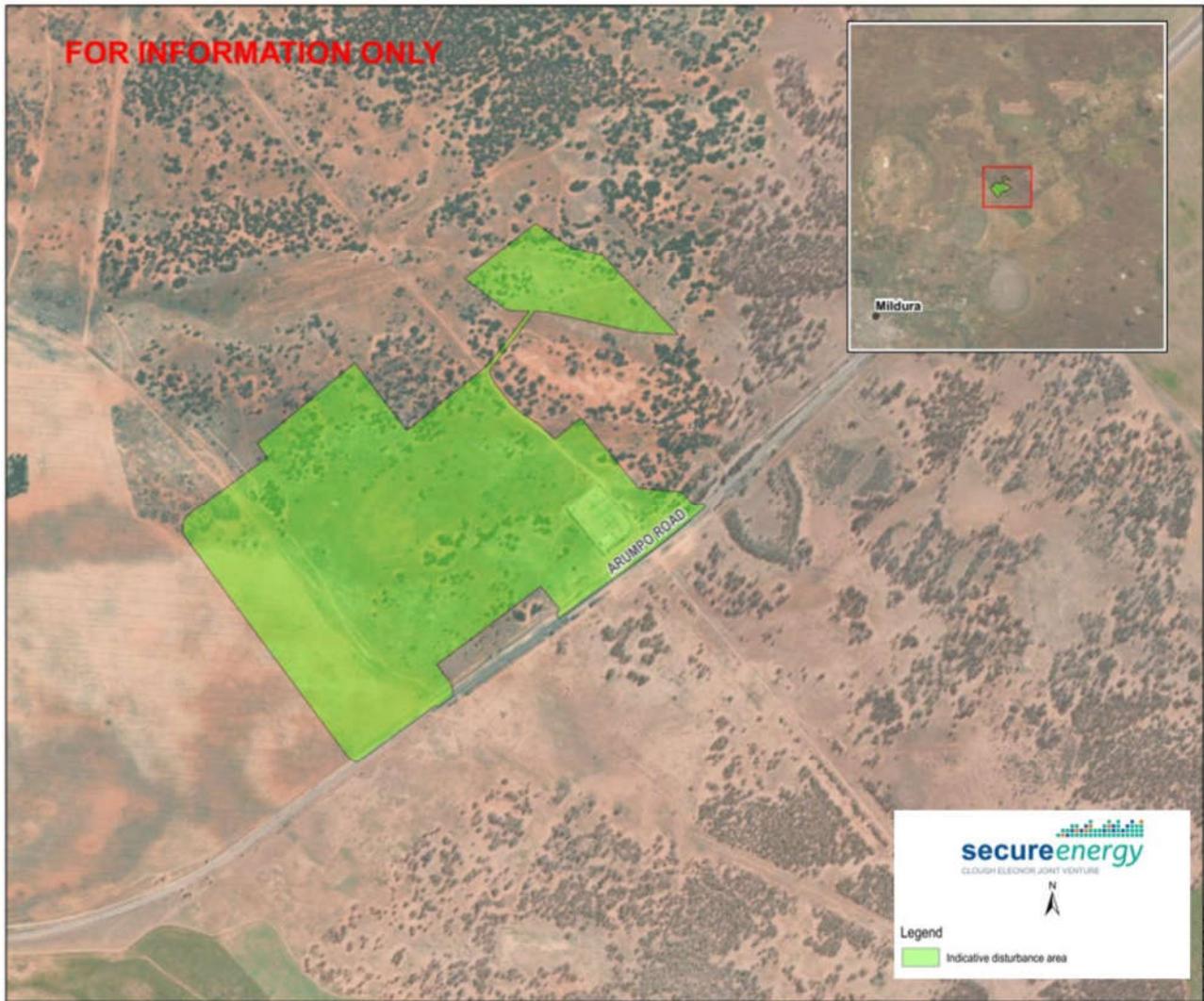


Figure 1.1 - Indicative disturbance area of Stage 1 of construction

1.4 Environmental management system

The overall environmental management system for the project is described in Section 4 of the CEMP. This BMP is a sub-plan that forms part of the CEMP and is also part of the environmental management framework for the project, as described in the CEMP. Figure 1.2 shows the CEMP framework for the project.

Management measures identified in this plan will be incorporated into relevant site-based documents including, but not limited to, site or activity specific work packs or work method statements (WMSs), sensitive area plans (SAPs) or training and awareness material.

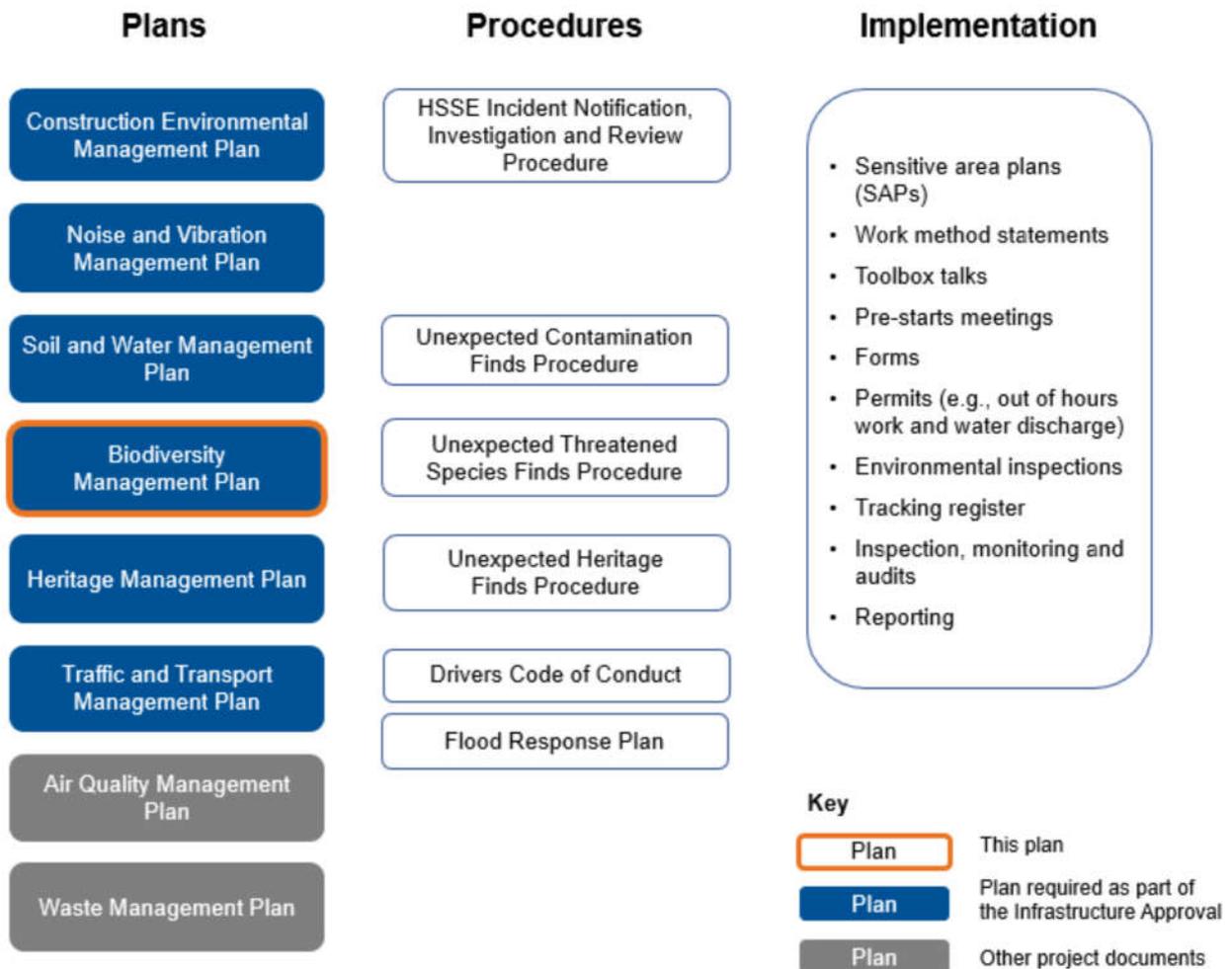


Figure 1.2 - CEMP framework

1.5 Purpose and objective

The purpose of this BMP is to describe the approach to manage biodiversity impacts that will be adopted during construction of the project.

The key objective of this plan is to detail management measures and inform site procedures so that biodiversity impacts are minimised and managed within the scope permitted by the Infrastructure Approval. To achieve this, the following will be undertaken:

- implement appropriate measures to address the requirements outlined in the Infrastructure Approval, EIS, Amendment Report, Response to DPIE Request for Information and Final BDAR;
- implement appropriate measures during construction to minimise biodiversity impacts; and
- implement appropriate measures to comply with all relevant legislative requirements as described in Section 2.1 of this plan.

As a means of assessing environmental performance, environmental objectives (performance measures), targets (criteria) and performance indicators have been established for the project and are provided within Section 4.2 of the CEMP. The performance measures and indicators relevant to biodiversity management are detailed within Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 - Environmental objectives, targets and performance indicators relevant to biodiversity

| Aspects | Objectives (performance measures) | Targets (criteria) | Performance indicators |
|--------------|---|---|--|
| Biodiversity | Minimise and manage the impacts of the project on biodiversity. | No exceedance to clearing values of known biodiversity including flora and fauna species as specified in condition D25. | Total area as recorded on clearing register. |

1.6 Preparation of this plan

In accordance with condition B6 of the Infrastructure Approval, this plan has been prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons. This plan was prepared by:

- Laurene Coetzee; and
- Rebecca Walker-Edwards.

1.7 Consultation

1.7.1 Development of this plan

In accordance with condition B2 of the Infrastructure Approval, this plan has been prepared in consultation with:

- Biodiversity and Conservation Services (BCS); and
- Wentworth Shire Council (council).

The plan was issued to relevant stakeholders for review and comment. Following review, Wentworth Shire Council confirmed that they had no comments in relation to the plan. Comments from BCS have been incorporated into this plan where appropriate. Details of all consultation with BCS and Wentworth Shire Council will be submitted to DPIE along with the submission of this management plan.

1.7.2 Ongoing communication and consultation

SecureEnergy will use a range of tools in accordance with the *Community Communication Strategy* (CCS) (45860-CM-PL-G-1001) to facilitate ongoing consultation and communication with the community and stakeholders regarding the project. Communication tools include, but are not limited to, stakeholder briefings, project website, community drop-in sessions via the project's mobile van, door knocks and project factsheets. Notifications will be issued for, but not limited to following, commencement of construction, significant milestones and changes to the scope of work. Refer to the CCS for further information.

In accordance with condition E12 a) of the Infrastructure Approval, project documents including the EIS, approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of approval and independent reports will be publicly available on the project website. The project website is <https://www.projectenergyconnect.com.au>. A 24-hour toll-free telephone number (1800 560 577) is also available for any project enquiries.

1.7.3 Complaints

Complaints will be managed by the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Team with the use of Consultation Manager database. Complaints will be received via phone calls, emails and letters. Any complaint received is regarded as a high priority and will be recorded, tracked and responded to in accordance with the CCS. Complaints will be investigated and dealt with impartially. The key principles of the complaint management process include:

- acknowledge - SecureEnergy staff should respect the communities' right to voice their concerns. All complaints received should be acknowledged to the complainant either by telephone or in writing;
- resolve - SecureEnergy staff should aim at first contact, resolution for all community concerns. SecureEnergy staff should investigate community concerns in detail before negotiating a resolution. All SecureEnergy staff should use their relevant discretions to achieve a mutually acceptable resolution to complaints;
- escalate - all SecureEnergy staff should aim to escalate the complaint if the community member remains dissatisfied with the investigation and/or resolution offered by their first point of contact at SecureEnergy. All complaints where community request to speak to a higher-level representative, should also be escalated;
- record – SecureEnergy staff should aim through the Engagement Team at recording all relevant information, on the community account in Consultation Manager System, regarding customer concerns along with details of all discussions had with the community member in the process of investigating and/resolving the complaint. Detailed information on the resolutions offered to address community concerns should also be clearly recorded;
- communicate – SecureEnergy staff should remain in constant touch with the community member while their concerns are being investigated. The community member should be informed of all steps of the investigation and the resulting outcome at appropriate times;
- report – SecureEnergy should report on all complaints received to the SecureEnergy Management Team and Transgrid. The reporting should include information on the number as well as type of complaints being received, the status of these complaints from time to time and the resulting outcomes or resolutions offered to close them;
- feedback – the SecureEnergy Engagement Team should aim at regular and intensive reviews to identify possible trends in the complaints being received. These reviews should be aimed at highlighting improvements required to avoid complaints being repeated;
- action - SecureEnergy should aim at effective implementation of improvements suggested directly by the community or highlighted by complaint trends.

Wherever possible, complaints will be resolved directly between SecureEnergy and the stakeholder. If a complaints management process has been followed and the issue cannot be resolved, dispute resolution will be undertaken in accordance with the CCS. DPIE may request the Environmental Representative (ER) to assist in dispute resolution of community complaints.

All complaints will be provided to the ER and a summary of complaints received, such as a complaints register, will be updated monthly on the project website.

1.8 Submission and approval

Prior to submission to DPIE, the BMP will be reviewed by the ER to ensure that the plan is consistent with the requirements of the Infrastructure Approval. A written statement to this effect will be prepared and submitted to DPIE. This review will be undertaken in accordance with condition A19 of the Infrastructure Approval.

The BMP will be submitted to DPIE for review and approval by the Planning Secretary prior to commencing Stage 1 construction.

Stage 1 of construction will not commence until the CEMP and all sub-plans required under condition B2 that are relevant to the stage have been approved by the Planning Secretary. The approved BMP will then be implemented for Stage 1 construction activities.

1.9 Periodic review

This BMP will be reviewed at least annually and updated if required, in accordance with Section 1.10 of the CEMP. Any updates to the BMP will be approved by the Environmental Representative or Planning Secretary as described in Section 1.10 of the CEMP.

2 Environmental requirements

2.1 Legislation

Legislation relevant to the management of biodiversity includes:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act);
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act);
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*;
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994*; and
- *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

Relevant provisions of the above legislation are detailed within the register of legal and other requirements included in Appendix A1 of the CEMP. The legislation relevant to biodiversity is replicated in Appendix F of this BMP.

2.2 Conditions of Approval

The conditions of the Infrastructure Approval relevant to biodiversity are presented in Table 2.1. A cross reference is also included to indicate where the condition is addressed within this plan or other project management documents.

Table 2.1 - Conditions of Approval relevant to biodiversity

| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|-----|--------------|-------------|--|--|
| B1 | Prior to commencing construction, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) must be prepared to detail how the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures specified in the EIS will be implemented and achieved during construction to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. | Section 2.3 Section 5 The CEMP | The CEMP has been prepared and will be implemented during construction. The CEMP incorporates and responds to all relevant conditions of the Infrastructure Approval and RMMs identified in the EIS, Submissions Report, Amendment Report and Response to DPIE Request for Information. Section 2.3 and Section 5 of this BMP describe how the commitments of the EIS relevant to biodiversity will be implemented. | | | | | | |
| B2 | The following CEMP Sub-plans must be prepared in consultation with the relevant government agencies identified for each CEMP Sub-plan in Table 1. Table 1: CEMP Sub-plans | Section 1.7 | This BMP was provided to BCS and Wentworth Shire Council for consultation. The outcomes of consultation have been incorporated throughout the BMP. | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Required CEMP Sub-plan</th> <th>Relevant government agencies and stakeholders to be consulted for each CEMP Sub-plan</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(c)</td> <td>Biodiversity</td> <td>BCS Council</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Required CEMP Sub-plan | Relevant government agencies and stakeholders to be consulted for each CEMP Sub-plan | (c) | Biodiversity | BCS Council | | |
| | Required CEMP Sub-plan | Relevant government agencies and stakeholders to be consulted for each CEMP Sub-plan | | | | | | | |
| (c) | Biodiversity | BCS Council | | | | | | | |

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| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed |
|---------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| B3 | Details of all information requested by an agency to be included in a CEMP Sub-plan as a result of consultation must be provided with the relevant CEMP Sub-Plan. | Section 1.7 | This BMP has been developed in consultation with BCS and Wentworth Shire Council. Details of all consultation with BCS and Wentworth Shire Council will be submitted to DPIE along with the submission of this BMP. |
| B4 | Any of the CEMP Sub-plans may be submitted along with, or subsequent to, the submission of the CEMP but in any event prior to commencing construction. | Section 1.8 | This BMP will be submitted as a CEMP Sub-Plan to DPIE for review and approval by the Planning Secretary prior to commencing Stage 1 of construction. |
| B5 | Construction must not commence until the CEMP and all CEMP Sub-plans have been approved by the Planning Secretary. The CEMP and CEMP Sub-plans, as approved by the Planning Secretary, must be implemented for the duration of construction. Where construction of the development is staged, construction of a stage must not commence until the CEMP and sub-plans for that stage have been approved by the Planning Secretary. | Section 1.8 | Stage 1 of construction will not commence until the CEMP and all CEMP Sub-plans (including this BMP), or where staging is proposed and the plans required for that stage, have been approved by the Planning Secretary. The CEMP and CEMP Sub-plans (including this BMP) will be implemented for the duration of construction for Stage 1. |
| B6 | The CEMP and CEMP Sub-plans required under this approval must be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons in accordance with relevant guidelines, and include where relevant: | Title page Section 1.6 | This BMP has been jointly prepared by suitably qualified and experienced people and in accordance with relevant guidelines. |
| | a) a summary of relevant background or baseline data; | Section 3 | The biodiversity values of the Stage 1 disturbance area is outlined in Section 3. |
| | b) details of: (i) the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval or licence conditions); | Section 2 Appendix C | The relevant legislation, conditions, RMMs and guidelines applicable to biodiversity are outlined in Section 2. Appendix F provides further detail on the relevant legislation applicable to biodiversity. |

| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| | (ii) any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; and | Section 1.5 Section 4.2 of the CEMP – Objectives and targets | The objectives (performance measures) and targets (criteria) relevant to biodiversity management are outlined in Section 1.5. The CEMP also provides project-wide environmental objectives (performance measures) and targets (criteria). |
| | (iii) the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures; | Section 1.5 Section 4.2 of the CEMP – Objectives and targets | The performance indicators relevant to biodiversity management are outlined in Section 1.5 of this BMP. The CEMP also provides project-wide performance indicators. |
| | c) any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the EIS; | Section 2.3 | Relevant biodiversity commitments and recommendations identified in the EIS, known as RMMs, have been outlined in Section 2.3. |
| | d) a description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures and criteria; | Section 5 | Specific biodiversity related safeguards and management measures to address potential impacts associated with Stage 1 of construction and comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits and performance measures are outlined in Section 5, and Appendix A to Appendix D. |
| | e) a program to monitor and report on the: | | |
| | (i) impacts and environmental performance of the development (including a table summarising all the monitoring and reporting obligations under the conditions of this approval); and | Section 6, including: Section 6.3 Section 6.4 Section 6.5 Section 6.6 Table 6.1 and Table 6.2 | Monitoring, inspections, auditing and reporting is outlined in Section 6.3 to 6.6 of this BMP. |
| | (ii) effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph d); | Section 6.8 | Monitoring of the effectiveness of the management measures is outlined in Section 6. |

| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| | <p>f) a contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible;</p> | <p>Section 6 Appendix A Section 8 of the CEMP – Incidents and emergencies Section 10 of the CEMP - Reporting Section 11 of the CEMP – Non-conformances, corrective and preventative action</p> | <p>Section 6.8 outlines a contingency plan in the event that unpredicted impacts are identified. In the event of the discovery of any unexpected threatened species find, the Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure (Appendix A) will be followed. The CEMP also provides additional detail regarding incidents and emergencies, reporting, non-compliance, non-conformance, corrective and preventative actions.</p> |
| | <p>g) a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time;</p> | <p>Section 1.9 Section 6 Section 1.9 of the CEMP – Continuous improvement</p> | <p>Section 6 of this BMP outlines procedures for compliance management, including details for monitoring, inspections, auditing and reporting. This BMP will reviewed at least annually as described in Section 1.9 of this BMP and Section 1.9 of the CEMP. The Plan-Do-Check-Act model will be applied to the continuous improvement process, also outlined in Section 1.9 of the CEMP.</p> |
| | <p>h) a protocol for managing and reporting any: (i) incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion and performance criterion;</p> | <p>Section 6.7 Section 6.8 Section 8 of the CEMP – Incidents and emergencies Section 10 of the CEMP – Reporting Section 11 of the CEMP – Non-compliance, non-conformance, corrective and preventative action</p> | <p>Section 6.7 and 6.8 describes the procedures for emergencies, incidents and non-compliances, including those related to biodiversity. Additional detail for managing incidents and emergencies, non-compliances and non-conformances is included in the CEMP. The protocol for reporting of any incidents, non-compliances or non-conformances is included in Section 10 of the CEMP.</p> |

| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed |
|---------------|---|--|--|
| | (ii) complaint; or | Section 1.7.3 Community Communication Strategy Section 7.2 of the CEMP – Complaints management | A summary of the complaints management procedure and reporting of complaints is included in Section 1.7.3 of this BMP. The procedure for managing and reporting any complaints is described in the <i>Enquiries, Complaint and Dispute Resolution Management Procedure</i> provided in the CCS. The procedure includes a complaints management process which outlines how SecureEnergy will respond to complaints related to the project. |
| | (iii) failure to comply with other statutory requirements; | Section 6.7 Section 8 of the CEMP – Incidents and emergencies Section 10 of the CEMP – Reporting Section 11 of the CEMP – Non-compliance, non-conformance, corrective and preventative action | In the event of failure to comply with statutory requirements, the procedures summarised in Section 6.7 of this BMP and described in more detail in the CEMP would be followed |
| | i) set out the procedures that would be implemented to: (i) keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the construction and environmental performance of the development; | Section 1.7.2 Community Communication Strategy | The local community and relevant agencies will be kept informed of construction progress and environmental performance through communication tools such as notifications, the project’s mobile van and the project website as summarised in Section 1.7.2 of this BMP. Detailed information regarding project communication is found in the CCS. |

| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| | (ii) receive, handle, respond to, and record complaints; | Section 1.7.3 Community Communication Strategy | Section 1.7.3 of this BMP summarises the complaints management system, which includes a process to manage complaints including receiving, recording, tracking and responding to complaints within a defined timeframe. The complaints management system is described in detail in the CCS. |
| | (iii) resolve any disputes that may arise; | Community Communication Strategy Section 7.2 of the CEMP – Complaints management | Section 1.7.3 of this BMP describes dispute resolution, which is described in detail in the CCS. Wherever possible, complaints will be resolved directly between SecureEnergy and the stakeholder. |
| | (iv) respond to any non-compliance; | Section 6.7 Section 10.1 of the CEMP – Reporting non-compliances Section 11 of the CEMP – Non-compliance, non-conformance, corrective and preventative action | Section 6.7 of this BMP outlines that where a non-compliance has been identified, corrective actions will be developed as required and implemented to address the non-conformance that occurred (as described in more detail in the CEMP). Reporting of non-compliances will be undertaken as described in the CEMP. |
| | (v) respond to emergencies; and | Section 6.7 Section 8.1 of the CEMP – Emergency preparedness and emergency response | Emergency management and planning including environmental emergencies related to biodiversity will be undertaken in accordance with the Clough management system and relevant procedures as described in Section 6.7 of this BMP. Additional detail regarding emergency management is described in the CEMP. |

| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed |
|---|---|---|--|
| | j) a description of the roles and environmental responsibilities, authority and accountability for all relevant employees, as well as training and awareness; and | Table 5.2 Section 6.1 Section 6.2 Section 4.9 of the CEMP – Roles and responsibilities | Section 6.2 identifies that SecureEnergy’s organisational structure and overall roles and responsibilities are outlined in the CEMP. Specific responsibilities for the implementation of mitigation measures are detailed in Table 5.2 of this BMP. Training and awareness for all site personnel is outlined in Section 6.1. |
| | k) a protocol for periodic review of the CEMP and associated subplans and programs. | Section 1.9 Section 1.10 of the CEMP – Updating the CEMP | This BMP will be reviewed at least annually in accordance with the CEMP. |
| | <i>The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.</i> | Noted | Noted |
| Restrictions on clearing and habitat | | | |
| D25 | <p>Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must:</p> <p>a) ensure that no more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19.6 hectares (ha) of BC Act listed Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW Southwestern Slopes bioregions; 0.04 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species <i>Acacia acanthoclada</i> (Harrow Wattle); 0.32 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed flora species <i>Atriplex infrequens</i> (A saltbush); 1.51 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species <i>Austrostipa nullanulla</i> (A spear-grass); 14 individuals of BC Act listed <i>Santalum murrayanum</i> (Bitter Quandong); and 6.91 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed fauna species <i>Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides</i> (Regent Parrot) (eastern subspecies). <p>is cleared for the development; and</p> <p>b) minimise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees; the impacts of the development on threatened bird and bat populations; and the clearing of native vegetation and key habitat. | Table 5.2 – BD3 and BD4 Section 6.3 Section 6.6 Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure | The mitigation measures identified within Section 5 will be implemented to ensure that clearing for the development minimises impacts to hollow-bearing trees, threatened bird and bat populations, the clearing of native vegetation and key habitat. Clearing will be managed in accordance with the Preclearing and Clearing Procedure located within Appendix B. Progressive monitoring of the clearing quantities will occur to ensure that harm will not exceed the limits prescribed in D25a). Monitoring, inspections and auditing described in Section 6 of this BMP will check the implementation and effectiveness of the management measures identified in Section 5. |

| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Biodiversity Offset Package | | | |
| D26 | Prior to carrying out any development that would impact on biodiversity values, the Proponent must prepare a Biodiversity Offset Package (Package) that is consistent with the EIS, in consultation with BCS and to the satisfaction of the Secretary in writing. The Package must include, but not necessarily be limited to: | Section 5.4 Biodiversity Offset Package | Transgrid will prepare a Biodiversity Offset Package prior to development in consultation with BCS and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. Information relating to the offset package is provided in Section 5.4. |
| | a) details of the specific biodiversity offset measures to be implemented and delivered in accordance with the EIS; | Section 5.4 Biodiversity Offset Package | The Biodiversity Offset Package will include specific offset measures which are to be implemented. |
| | b) the cost for each specific biodiversity offset measure, which would be required to be paid into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund if the relevant measure is not implemented and delivered (as calculated in accordance with Division 6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) and the offsets payment calculator that was established as at 29 July 2021); | Section 5.4 Biodiversity Offset Package | The Biodiversity Offset Package will include the cost for each specific measure which will be required to be paid if the measure is not implemented. |
| | c) the timing and responsibilities for the implementation and delivery of the measures required in the Package; and | Section 5.4 Biodiversity Offset Package | The timing and responsibilities for implementation of the measures will be included in the Package. |
| | d) confirmation that the biodiversity offset measures will have been implemented and delivered no later than 31 December 2023. | Section 5.4 Biodiversity Offset Package | The Package will confirm that measures will be implemented by 31 December 2023. |
| | Following approval, the Proponent must implement and deliver the Biodiversity Offset Package. | Section 5.4 Biodiversity Offset Package | The Package will be implemented following approval. |
| D27 | Prior to carrying out any development that could impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Proponent must establish an escrow account and pay into that account \$48 million, in accordance with the Deed of Agreement with the Planning Secretary executed on 13 September 2021. The Proponent must comply with the terms of the Deed. <i>Note: this condition provides security to the Minister for the performance of the Proponent's obligations under this approval in relation to biodiversity offsets and release funds for payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Trust in the event that the biodiversity offsets (either in whole or part) are not delivered in accordance with the Package by the Proponent.</i> | N/A | Transgrid will establish an escrow account prior to development. |

| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Biodiversity CEMP Sub-Plan | | | |
| D28 | The Biodiversity CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include: a) a description of the measures that would be implemented for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimising the amount of native vegetation clearing within the approved development footprint; | Table 5.2 – BD3, BD4, BD5, BD6, BD7 Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure | The BMP includes measures that would be implemented within Section 5, Section 6 and the Appendices. Vegetation clearing will be minimised through ongoing review of detailed design, construction methodologies and construction impacts to determine opportunities to minimise clearing. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimising the loss of key fauna habitat, including tree hollows; | Section 5.2 Table 5.2 – BD3, BD14 Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure | Impacts to key fauna habitat and tree hollows will be minimised where possible through review of detailed design and temporary design (ie access tracks and laydown locations). |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimising the impacts on fauna on site, including undertaking pre-clearance surveys; | Section 5.1 Table 5.2 – BD6, BD7 Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure Appendix C – Fauna Handling Procedure | Pre-clearing surveys will include inspections for fauna prior to clearing. Identified fauna will be relocated into adjacent suitable habitat. This process is identified within the Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure in Appendix A and the Fauna Handling Procedure in Appendix C. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimising the potential indirect impacts on threatened flora and fauna species, migratory species and 'at risk' species; | Table 5.2 – BD12, BD13, BD14, BD16, BD18, BD19, BD20, BD21 | For Stage 1, indirect impacts to threatened fauna and flora species, migratory species and 'at risk' species may include for example, soil and water runoff impacting the adjoining threatened ecological community (PCT 21 – Slender Cypress Pine). Measures have been incorporated within Table 5.2 in relation to erosion and sedimentation management. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rehabilitating and revegetating disturbance areas; | Section 5.7 Soil and Water Management Plan | There will be no, or limited, rehabilitation done as part of the Stage 1 works. Progressive rehabilitation of the Stage 1 earthworks material site may occur as areas are no longer required. Further detail is provided within Section 5.7. |

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| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protecting native vegetation and key fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance area; | Section 5.1 Section 5.3 Table 5.2 – BD7 Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure | Vegetation and key fauna habitat located outside of the Stage 1 disturbance area will be delineated and identified in accordance with the Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure within Appendix B and the measures within Section 5.1, 5.3 and Table 5.2. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maximising the salvage of resources within the approved disturbance area – including vegetative and soil resources – for beneficial reuse (such as fauna habitat enhancement) during the rehabilitation and revegetation of the site; | Table 5.2 – BD10 Section 5.7 Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure Soil and Water Management Plan | The salvage of resources is included within Table 5.2 and Section 5.7 Rehabilitation. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> collecting and propagating seed (where relevant); | Table 5.2 – BD15 | The ecologist will determine if it is relevant to collect seed. This requirement is incorporated within Table 5.2 and Appendix B – Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> controlling weed; | Appendix D | The Biosecurity Management Plan is included within Appendix D. This includes measures to control the spread of weeds. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> controlling erosion; and | Table 5.2 – BD18, BD19, BD20, BD21 Soil and Water Management Plan | Table 5.2 includes measures for controlling erosion. The Soil and Water Management Plan has also been prepared for Stage 1 to control and minimise erosion and sedimentation impacts. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bushfire management; | Table 5.2 – BD22, BD23, BD24 Emergency Plan | Table 5.2 includes measures for bushfire management. The Emergency Plan has also been prepared to prevent and mitigate the potential for fires, including bushfire. |
| | b) details of the Proponent’s commitment to make a one off \$150,000 funding contribution targeted at further scientific study into the impacts of electric and magnetic fields on birds in Australia; | N/A | Transgrid will make a one off \$150,000 funding contribution targeted at further scientific study into the impact of electric and magnetic fields on birds in Australia at the commencement of operations. |

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| Condition no. | Requirement | Where addressed | How addressed |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| | c) preparation and implementation of a two year bird impact monitoring program at the commencement of operations; and | N/A | Transgrid will prepare and implement a two year bird monitoring program at the commencement of operations |
| | d) a detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures. | Section 6.3 Section 6.4 Section 6.5 Section 6.6 Section 6.8 | Monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of these measures will be undertaken in accordance with Section 6.3 to Section 6.6, and Section 6.8. This will include pre-clearing inspections, clearing inspections, weekly inspections, auditing and reporting. Inspections will assess the effectiveness of the measures being implemented to meet the requirements of the BMP. Monitoring and reporting will focus on clearing monitoring and reporting to track the spatial extent of clearing and inform any final biodiversity offset requirements. |

Rehabilitation

| D54 | <p>Within 6 months of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Proponent must rehabilitate the areas where ancillary facilities, accommodation camps and earthwork material sites are located, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives in Table 3.</p> <p>Table 3: Rehabilitation objectives</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Feature</th> <th>Objective</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ancillary facilities, accommodation camps, earthwork material sites, the existing 220 kV transmission line between Buronga substation and the NSW / Victoria border (Line 0X1), and the temporary bypass transmission line between Tower 1 and Tower 19 of existing transmission line 0X1.</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe, stable and non-polluting Progressively rehabilitate the site as soon as possible following disturbance To be decommissioned and removed, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Land use</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore land capability to pre-existing use </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure public safety at all times </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Feature | Objective | Ancillary facilities, accommodation camps, earthwork material sites, the existing 220 kV transmission line between Buronga substation and the NSW / Victoria border (Line 0X1), and the temporary bypass transmission line between Tower 1 and Tower 19 of existing transmission line 0X1. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe, stable and non-polluting Progressively rehabilitate the site as soon as possible following disturbance To be decommissioned and removed, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise | Land use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore land capability to pre-existing use | Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure public safety at all times | Section 5.7 | <p>There would be no rehabilitation proposed for the Stage 1 disturbance area. Progressive temporary rehabilitation would be proposed if areas of the earthworks material site are no longer required. Progressive rehabilitation would be carried out in accordance with progressive erosion and sediment control plans (to provide safe, stable and non-polluting areas), with progressive rehabilitation occurring as soon as possible following disturbance.</p> |
|--|---|---------|-----------|--|---|----------|---|-----------|---|-------------|--|
| Feature | Objective | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ancillary facilities, accommodation camps, earthwork material sites, the existing 220 kV transmission line between Buronga substation and the NSW / Victoria border (Line 0X1), and the temporary bypass transmission line between Tower 1 and Tower 19 of existing transmission line 0X1. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe, stable and non-polluting Progressively rehabilitate the site as soon as possible following disturbance To be decommissioned and removed, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise | | | | | | | | | | |
| Land use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore land capability to pre-existing use | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure public safety at all times | | | | | | | | | | |

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2.3 Revised mitigation measures

The revised mitigation measures (RMMs) are defined in Appendix G of the Response to DPIE Request for Information. The RMMs relevant to biodiversity are detailed in Table 2.2 below.

A cross reference is also included to indicate where the measure is addressed within this plan or other project management documents. The management measures that will be implemented for the project are provided in Section 5 of this plan.

Table 2.2 - Revised mitigation measures relevant to biodiversity

| Reference | Revised mitigation measures | Application location(s) | Where addressed | How addressed |
|-----------|--|----------------------------|--|---|
| B1 | Impacts to matters of biodiversity conservation significance will be avoided to the greatest extent practicable during finalisation of the detailed design and construction methodology for the project. Micro-siting of the transmission line infrastructure and associated construction working areas and other areas of disturbance will occur to avoid impacts wherever practicable. Site features with the highest biodiversity conservation significance, in particular, threatened species recorded and their habitat, including <i>Acacia acanthoclada</i> , <i>Atriplex infrequens</i> , <i>Austrostipa nullanulla</i> , <i>Dodonaea stenozyga</i> and <i>Santalum murrayanum</i> , will be given the highest priority. | All locations | Table 5.2 – BD3, BD4, BD5, BD6, BD7, BD9, BD11, BD12 Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure Appendix C – Fauna Handling Procedure Appendix E – Biodiversity mapping | During detailed design and review of temporary design, opportunities to site items in locations where impacts to matters of biodiversity conservation significance are reduced, will occur. There is limited opportunity for the Stage 1 disturbance area as the full extent of the nominated disturbance area is required. Further opportunities will be reviewed in subsequent stages of the project. |
| B2 | Where vegetation disturbance activities are required in areas that have not previously been subject to biodiversity survey, additional survey will be carried out prior to works occurring to inform detailed design and construction methodology. These surveys will be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist. | All locations | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1 works. All of the Stage 1 work areas have been subject to biodiversity survey and assessment accordingly to the BAM, as per this requirement. |
| B3 | Opportunities to locate site offices, compounds and ancillary facilities in areas of limited biodiversity value (e.g. cleared land or areas of native vegetation with vegetation integrity scores of less than 17 (in accordance with the NSW Government Biodiversity Assessment Method Operational Manual) will be prioritised. | All locations | Table 5.2 – BD2 | The earthworks material site will be required to impact threatened ecological community to enable earthworks material to be won or obtained for the substation foundation. This impact is approved as part of the Infrastructure Approval and the loss of biodiversity values will be offset. The site office and construction compound are located in an area of limited biodiversity value. Further opportunities will be reviewed in subsequent stages of the project. |
| B4 | Existing tracks and clearings will be used, where possible, to avoid the construction of new tracks. Where this is not possible, the design will seek to | Transmission line corridor | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1 works. The existing tracks proposed to be used are |

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| Reference | Revised mitigation measures | Application location(s) | Where addressed | How addressed |
|-----------|---|---|-----------------|---|
| | minimise impacts to native vegetation as a priority. | | | located along the transmission line corridor. |
| B5 | Transmission line structures will be located and constructed to minimise impact to vegetated riparian corridors, wherever practicable. | Transmission line corridor within the riparian zone as defined by “Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land” (DPI – Office of Water, July 2012) of Great Darling Anabranch, Darling River and/or Murray River | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1 works. There are no riparian zones in the Stage 1 disturbance area. |
| B6 | Conductor line-marking techniques will be implemented during detailed design to minimise bird strike. Use of bird diverters, most likely consisting of the “flapper” variety, will be implemented. Positioning and exact diverter model will be finalised during detailed design but at minimum these will be used within one kilometre of wetland / riverine habitats to reduce impacts on aerial fauna species from collision and allow safer passage within these areas. | Transmission line corridor – within one kilometre of wetland / riverine habitats (i.e. Great Darling Anabranch, Darling River and Murray River) | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1 works. There are no riparian zones in the Stage 1 disturbance area. |
| B7 | TransGrid will establish a series of 20-metre-wide connectivity corridors near tower locations that occur in woodland vegetation. These would occur at strategic locations that would be developed as part of a Connectivity Strategy under the Biodiversity Management Plan. These connectivity corridors will involve native vegetation retention up to the 10-metre-wide temporary construction centreline clearing zone to better facilitate woodland connectivity. | All locations | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1 works. This requirement is applicable to the transmission line easement. A Connectivity Strategy will be provided in further revisions of the BMP. |
| B8 | A two year monitoring program following the completion of construction will be implemented to better understand interactions of bird species with the transmission lines and towers. Problematic interactions identified during the program would be considered and options for addressing them implemented as practicable. Options that would be considered include nesting deterrents in high risk areas, installation of alternative nest habitat, relocation of nests or their deconstruction in certain circumstances. | Transmission line – within one kilometre of wetland / riverine habitats (i.e. Great Darling Anabranch, Darling River and Murray River) | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1 works This is applicable to the operation phase only. |

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| Reference | Revised mitigation measures | Application location(s) | Where addressed | How addressed |
|-----------|--|--|---|---|
| B9 | TransGrid will make a one off funding contribution targeted at further scientific study into the impacts of electric and magnetic fields on birds in Australia. | Not applicable | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1 works This RMM is applicable 'Prior to the completion of construction'. |
| B10 | Nest boxes will be provided to offset the loss of tree hollow fauna habitat in accordance with a Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy. The strategy will include the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> survey of tree hollows and nests within the proposed clearing extents the size, type, number and location of nest boxes required will be based on the results of the ecological surveys appropriately sized nest boxes will be installed within the vicinity of hollow-bearing trees (subject to landholder agreement and suitable existing trees being present) no more than two weeks prior to clearing of the tree all nest boxes in a particular location will be installed within 6 months after clearing "nest boxes" will include consideration of natural tree hollow re-use and new tree hollow creation measures to address and manage nests (such as raptor nests) pre-clearing will be included. | All locations where hollow bearing trees are being removed | Section 5.2 Table 5.2 - BD3, BD13 | The presence of tree hollow habitat with the Stage 1 disturbance area will be confirmed during pre-clearing surveys (Section 5.1 and Appendix B). If present, a Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy will be prepared and will include the requirements of RMM B10. Detail relating to the Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy is included in Section 5.2. Any nest boxes required for Stage 1 will be installed within the vicinity of hollow-bearing trees no more than two weeks prior to clearing of the tree and within 6 months after clearing in a particular location. |
| B11 | Pre-clearing surveys will be completed prior to clearing at each location by a suitability qualified ecologist. The proposed clearing extents will be marked out on site prior to the pre-clearing surveys. During the surveys, the ecologist will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> survey the proposed clearing extent identify any fauna that will require relocation prior to clearing confirm the location and mark out the extents of any biodiversity exclusion zones confirm that hollow-bearing trees within and adjacent to the clearing extents are prominently marked/tagged confirm that nest boxes are in place (where required) in suitable locations adjacent to areas to be cleared, or suitable | All locations | Section 5.1 Table 5.2 – BD10 Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure | Pre-clearing surveys will be undertaken in accordance with the Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure located within Appendix B and the requirements listed within Section 5.1. Pre-clearing surveys will be undertaken by the project ecologist in accordance with the requirement of RMM B11. These requirements are listed within Appendix B. |

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| Reference | Revised mitigation measures | Application location(s) | Where addressed | How addressed |
|-----------|--|--|--|---|
| | locations for installation have been identified. | | | |
| B12 | The results of the pre-clearing surveys will be used to update and confirm the accuracy of sensitive area maps. | All locations | Section 5.1 Table 5.2 – BD5 Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure | The Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure includes the requirement to update any sensitive area maps (as required based on findings). |
| B13 | Biodiversity exclusion zones for retained vegetation, including identified threatened flora populations will be clearly identified by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to the commencement of clearing or any site activity that could damage the vegetation within the exclusion zone. Biodiversity exclusion zones will be physically marked and demarcated, and included on sensitive area maps, prior to clearing. | All locations | Section 5.1 Section 5.3 Table 5.2 – BD7 Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure | The Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure includes the requirement for the ecologist to identify biodiversity exclusion zones. The ecologists' tasks and responsibilities are also identified within Table 5.2. |
| B14 | Training on biodiversity management practices and the requirements for the project will be provided to all relevant project personnel, including relevant subcontractors, through inductions, toolbox talks and targeted training. Construction workforce will be supplied with sensitive area maps (showing clearing boundaries and exclusion zones), including updates as required. | All locations | Table 5.2 – BD1, BD5 Section 6.1 Section 4.5 of the CEMP Appendix B - Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure | Training will be carried out by the site inductions, toolbox trainings and targeted training. Table 5.2 and Section 6.1 provides information in relation to the training and awareness that will be provided to all site personnel. Sensitive area maps for the relevant works locations will be covered in the training and provided to the construction workforce (Section 5.1). |
| B15 | Clearing of native vegetation will be monitored to confirm actual impacts to biodiversity values to inform any final biodiversity offset requirements within the biodiversity offset package. The final offset requirements will be informed by a BAMC calculation on the recorded clearing. Any additional credit liability identified by this calculation will be met. | All locations | Section 5.3 Table 5.2 – BD25 Section 6.3 Section 6.6 | Monitoring of native vegetation which is cleared will occur in accordance with the requirements detailed within Section 5.3 and the reporting requirements included within Section 6.6. This will include the reporting of information relating to the type of clearing (eg Disturbance Area A) and the spatial extent of each PCT, TEC and threatened flora. |
| B16 | Shrub or ground stratum native vegetation within vegetated riparian zones (within the definition of <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>) of the Great Darling Anabranch, Darling River and/or Murray River (and other defined riparian areas) will be protected to the greatest extent practicable, with vegetation clearing | Transmission line within the riparian zone as defined by "Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land" (DPI – Office of | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1 works. There are no riparian zones in the Stage 1 disturbance area. |

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| Reference | Revised mitigation measures | Application location(s) | Where addressed | How addressed |
|-----------|---|--|--|--|
| | ideally limited to the tree stratum only, with trunk bases being retained in-situ. | Water, July 2012) of Great Darling Anabranch, Darling River and/or Murray River | | |
| B17 | Activities within vegetated riparian zones will be managed to minimise impacts to aquatic environments. Riparian areas subject to disturbance will be progressively stabilised and rehabilitated. | Transmission line within the riparian zone as defined by “Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land” (DPI – Office of Water, July 2012) of Great Darling Anabranch, Darling River and/or Murray River | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1 works. There are no riparian zones in the Stage 1 disturbance area. |
| B18 | A species unexpected finds protocol will be implemented if threatened ecological communities, flora and fauna species, not assessed in the biodiversity assessment, are identified in the disturbance area. | All locations | Appendix A – Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure Table 5.2 – BD12 | If an unexpected threatened species is discovered, the Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure will be followed. |
| B19 | TransGrid will maintain vegetation for the project in accordance with commitments in the EIS, as amended in the Amendment Report. Vegetation maintenance protocols will be developed accordingly prior to the commencement of any vegetation maintenance activities within the easement and implemented during the operational phase of the project. The vegetation maintenance protocols will identify and address the biodiversity exclusion zones identified in the construction phase and the areas within the maintenance zone where the vegetation is not of a height/growth form that will ever require management. Relevant TransGrid operational personnel and associated vegetation maintenance contractors will receive in training in the vegetation maintenance protocols prior to the commencement of any vegetation maintenance. | All locations | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1 works. This is applicable to the operation phase only. |
| B20 | TransGrid will retire the total quantum of the project’s biodiversity offset credit liability confirmed in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method. TransGrid will develop a Biodiversity Offset Package that | All locations | Transgrid | Prior to the commencement of development that would impact on any biodiversity values, a Biodiversity Offset Package will be |

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| Reference | Revised mitigation measures | Application location(s) | Where addressed | How addressed |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|--|
| | <p>identifies measures to address the project’s offset obligations and the timing and responsibility for implementation. Before commencing any project activities that impact biodiversity values, TransGrid will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> confirm the Biodiversity Offset Package with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and provide security to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for a Biodiversity Conservation Fund payment to cover any outstanding offset credit liability if the package is not implemented. | | | <p>prepared by Transgrid for the project. The Biodiversity Offset Package will be prepared in consultation with BCS and to the satisfaction of the Secretary.</p> <p>Transgrid has already provided security to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (in the form of an escrow account – refer to Condition D27) for a Biodiversity Conservation Fund payment to cover any outstanding offset credit liability if the package is not implemented.</p> |
| Land use and property | | | | |
| LP7 | <p>Biosecurity controls will be implemented during construction to minimise the risk of off-site transport or spread of disease, pests or weeds. Controls will include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inspections and cleaning of vehicles, machinery, and personnel equipment prior to movement on and off the construction work areas or between properties minimising movements across adjoining farmland including trip numbers and locations additional measures where localised areas of high biosecurity risks have been identified. <p>The specific controls applicable to a property will be identified in consultation with the affected landholder. The effectiveness of these controls will be regularly monitored.</p> | All locations | Table 5.2 – BD16 Appendix D - Biosecurity Management Plan | Appendix D provides a Biosecurity Management Plan which will be implemented to minimise the risk of off-site transport or spread of disease, pests or weeds. The Biosecurity Management Plan includes an inspection checklist for vehicles and equipment. Information from Property Management Plans and consultation with landowners will be used to identify specific controls applicable to a property. |
| LP8 | Where present, weeds will be managed in consultation with Western Local Land Services (LLS), Wentworth Shire Council and NSW Department of Primary Industries. | All locations | Table 5.2 – BD16 Appendix D - Biosecurity Management Plan | Consultation with Western LLS, Wentworth Shire Council and Department of Primary Industries will occur where weeds are present. Wentworth Shire Council will review the Biosecurity Management Plan as part of this BMP review. |
| LP9 | In the event of new infestations of notifiable weeds as a result of construction activities, the relevant control authority will be notified as per <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2017</i> . | All locations | Table 5.2 – BD17 Appendix D - Biosecurity Management Plan | Notification processes are included within the Biosecurity Management Plan. |

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| Reference | Revised mitigation measures | Application location(s) | Where addressed | How addressed |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------|--|
| Landscape and visual amenity | | | | |
| LV1 | Opportunities for the retention and protection of existing trees within the disturbance area will be identified during detailed construction planning. Trees that do not pose any risk to the safe operation of the transmission infrastructure will be retained where practicable. | Whole of proposal | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1. There will likely be limited opportunities for tree retention for Stage 1 as the area is required as an earthworks material site, camp and compound. |
| LV2 | Temporary and permanent access will be designed to minimise vegetation removal, changes to landform, and visual impacts. | Whole of proposal | N/A | Not applicable to Stage 1. Access within the earthworks material site, substation, accommodation camp and construction compound will require clearing of vegetation. There is considered to be limited opportunity for access to be designed to minimise impacts for the Stage 1 disturbance area, as the access tracks will be located within the earthworks material area and within the construction compound and accommodation camp. |
| LV7 | The Tree Protection Zone (as defined in AS4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites) of retained trees within or immediately adjacent to the disturbance area will be protected through the restriction of construction activities (refer Section 4.2 of AS4970-2009), to minimise the impact of the works on the long term health of these trees. | Whole of proposal | Table 5.2 – BD12 | Where tree protection zones can be protected on the boundary of Disturbance Area A, they will be. This measure is included within Table 5.2. |

2.4 Permits and licences

Due to the potential for impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), a referral (EPBC 2020/8673) was prepared and lodged with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment under the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth Minister’s delegate determined on 25 June 2020 that the proposed action is a “controlled action” under the EPBC Act.

A Scientific Licence under Part 2 of the BC Act (including Animal Ethics Approval under the *Animal Research Act 1985*) is required for fauna handling/rescue and survey work. Where rescued fauna requires rehabilitation and care, only wildlife rehabilitation organisations authorised under Part 2 of the BC Act may be used.

As this project has been designated CSSI and assessed under Part 5 of the EP&A Act, permits relating to fish passage are not required.

2.5 Guidelines

The main guidelines, specifications, and policy documents relevant to this plan include:

- NSW *Biodiversity Assessment Method 2017* (BAM).

Transgrid has assessed the project's potential impacts to biodiversity values in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method. The final biodiversity credit liability will be confirmed in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method.

3 Existing environment

The following section summarises the existing biodiversity within and adjacent to Stage 1 of the project including species, communities and habitats based. The key reference documents include:

- Section 9.3 of the EIS; and
- the Final BDAR.

3.1 Vegetation communities

Stage 1 of the project occurs in the Murray Darling Depression region and within the South Olary Plain subregion.

There are four main habitat types within the project area. Stage 1 is categorised as predominantly Arid Woodland / Shrublands habitat, which is associated with arid interior areas. The mallee is dominated by spinifex or chenopod understorey and is typically modified from agricultural or grazing use.

The native vegetation and plant community types (PCTs) identified within the disturbance area of Stage 1 includes:

- PCT 15 – Black Box open woodland wetland with chenopod understorey mainly on the outer floodplains in south-western NSW (mainly Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion);
- PCT 21 – Slender Cypress Pine – Sugarwood – Western Rosewood open woodland on sandy rises mainly in the Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion;
- PCT 58 – Black Oak – Western Rosewood open woodland on deep sandy loams mainly in the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion;
- PCT 170 – Chenopod sandplain mallee woodland/shrubland of the arid and semi-arid (warm) zones; and
- PCT 171 – Spinifex linear dune mallee mainly of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion.

Mapping of the PCTs within and adjacent to the Stage 1 area is indicated within Figure 3.1.

3.2 Threatened ecological communities

A total of four candidate threatened ecological communities listed under the BC Act were considered to have the potential to occur within the project study area of EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section).

Of these four candidate communities, only Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray Darling Depression and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions (Sandhill Pine Woodland) was recorded. This community is listed as endangered under the BC Act. Sandhill Pine Woodland is not listed under the EPBC Act.

Two PCTs confirmed within the project study area are considered likely to be associated with this threatened ecological community. These are:

- PCT 19 – Cypress Pine woodland of source-bordering dunes mainly on the Murray and Murrumbidgee River floodplains; and
- PCT 21 – Slender Cypress Pine – Sugarwood – Western Rosewood open woodland on sandy rises mainly in the Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion.

PCT 21 - Slender Cypress Pine is located within the disturbance area of the Stage 1 works at the Buronga substation area. Refer to Figure 3.1 for mapping of this threatened ecological community within the Stage 1 disturbance area.

3.3 Threatened flora species

The biodiversity surveys carried out to inform the EIS did not identify any threatened flora species under the BC Act or the EPBC Act within the Stage 1 disturbance area.

A total of 20 candidate threatened flora species were considered to have potential associated habitat within the project study area and were the subject of targeted surveys. Of these, no threatened flora were recorded in the Stage 1 disturbance area.

Threatened flora species which were recorded in other locations of the project study area, and have the potential to occur within the Stage 1 disturbance area due to the PCTs identified at this site, are listed within Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 - Potential threatened flora species

| Species name | Common name | BC Act ¹ | EPBC Act ² | Images (Source: WSP) | Associated PCT |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| <i>Acacia acanthoclada</i> | Harrow Wattle | E | - |  <p>Acacia acanthoclada with stock proof fencing under PVP No. 179UP00009</p> <p>Acacia acanthoclada on edge of track on the northern side of Remark Road</p> <p>Acacia acanthoclada flowers globular and golden</p> <p>Acacia acanthoclada with thorns/dots rigid and spinescent</p> | PCT 171 |

| Species name | Common name | BC Act ¹ | EPBC Act ² | Images (Source: WSP) | Associated PCT |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <i>Dodonaea stenozyga</i> | Desert Hophbush | CE | - | <p>Large mature <i>Dodonaea stenozyga</i> individuals with woody stems</p> <p><i>Dodonaea stenozyga</i> ramified shrub habit growing on red sand in PCT 171 (inset)</p> <p><i>Dodonaea stenozyga</i> with angular branchlets and four-winged fruits</p> <p><i>Dodonaea stenozyga</i> perpendiculate leaves and four-winged fruit</p> | PCT 170 PCT 171 PCT 172 |
| <i>Santalum murrayanum</i> | Bitter Quandong | E | - | <p><i>Santalum murrayanum</i> with weeping pendulous habit</p> <p>An individual growing in PCT 171 with <i>Trochid scarrosa</i></p> <p>Leaf and fruit (cherry)</p> <p>Old fallen fruit berries accumulated at the base of a tree</p> | PCT 170 PCT 171 PCT 172 |

(1) V = vulnerable, E = endangered, CE = critically endangered under the BC Act

(2) V = vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

3.4 Threatened fauna species

The biodiversity surveys carried out to inform the EIS did not identify any threatened fauna species under the BC Act or the EPBC Act within the Stage 1 disturbance area.

Species that have the potential to occur within the Stage 1 disturbance area due to the PCTs within this location are listed within Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 - Potential threatened fauna species

| Species name | Common name | BC Act ¹ | EPBC Act ² |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Falco hypoleucos</i> | Grey Falcon | V | - |
| <i>Grantiella picta</i> | Painted Honeyeater | V | - |
| <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> | Malleefowl | E | V |
| <i>Manorina melanotis</i> | Black-eared Miner | CE | E |
| <i>Pachycephala rufogularis</i> | Red-lored Whistler | CE | V |
| <i>Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides</i> | Regent Parrot | E | V |
| <i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i> (syn. <i>N. timoriensis</i>) | South-eastern Long-eared Bat | V | V |

(1) V = vulnerable, E = endangered, CE= critically endangered under the BC Act

(2) V = vulnerable, E = endangered under the EPBC Act.

3.5 Migratory species

No migratory fauna species were recorded in the Stage 1 disturbance area, however there is a moderate potential for the occurrence of migratory species within adjacent habitat.

Twenty-six migratory species are considered to have the potential to occur in the broader locality of the project study area, and an additional nine marine bird species may occur in habitats within the project study area. Three migratory and/or marine bird species listed were recorded within the project study area during the field surveys. These include the White-bellied Sea Eagle, Rainbow Bee-eater and Great Egret. An additional seven migratory species were recorded outside the proposal study area in local or regional wetlands such as the South Australian Chowilla Regional Reserve and therefore could move through the proposal study area at times.

3.6 Groundwater dependent ecosystems

The Stage 1 works will not impact any groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs). The closest GDE to Buronga substation is a grouping of Mallee and *Eucalyptus largiflorens* that occur proximal to the townships of Buronga, approximately one kilometre from the project study area and approximately two kilometres from the Stage 1 disturbance area.

3.7 Pest species

During the consultation process for the EIS, local landholders and the Western Local Land Services (LLS) biosecurity officers identified rabbits, foxes, kangaroos, goats, wild dogs and pigs as the main vertebrate pests in the vicinity of the project study area. These pest animals can cause damage to primary production, the natural environment and cultural assets.

No specific pest species were reported to have been identified in the vicinity of the Stage 1 disturbance area.

3.8 Weeds

The weeds identified across the project and legislation or document under which they were identified are included in the *Biosecurity Management Plan* (45860-HSE-PLN-D-0032) located in Appendix D.

There are several species of weeds identified in the EIS that are likely to be located in the vicinity of the project study area including:

- six species of weeds recorded during property inspections under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (DPI, 2020);
- a likely occurrence of six noxious weeds, declared under the former *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*;
- 11 species that are identified as regional priority weeds on the *Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022* (Western LLS, 2017);
- one state priority weed – Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*);
- four weeds that were specifically mentioned as problematic weeds by landholders and the Wentworth Shire Council biosecurity officer: Khaki weed, caltrops, thornapple and onionweed; and
- Noogoora burr and Bathurst burr, which can be a problem in irrigation fields and contaminate wool.

Note that the reporting above is in line with what was reported in the EIS, however the *Biosecurity Act 2015* repeals and replaces the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. The term “priority weed” replaces the term “noxious weed” for the purposes of the Act (s 32).

The EIS does not contain any specific weed information for the Stage 1 disturbance area.

3.8.1 Weeds under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*

Technical Paper 3 (Agricultural land impact assessment) reported that weeds recorded by authorised officers during property inspections under *Biosecurity Act 2015* (DPI, 2020b) are as follows:

- Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*);
- Common pear (*Opuntia stricta*);
- Burr ragweed (*Ambrosia confertiflora*);
- Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*);
- Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia rosea*); and
- African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*).

3.8.2 Weeds under the former *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*

Under the former *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* the following weeds were declared noxious in the Wentworth Shire local government area (LGA):

Class 4 (Locally controlled weeds)

- Rope pear (*Cylindropuntia imbricata*);
- Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia rosea*); and
- Prickly pear (*Opuntia spp.*).

Class 5 (Restricted plant)

- Athel pine (*Tamarix spp.*);
- Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*); and
- Willows (*Salix spp.*).

4 Environmental aspects and impacts

4.1 Construction activities

An environmental aspect is an element of an organisation's activities, products, or services that has or may have an impact on the environment (ISO 14001 Environmental management systems). The relationship of aspects and impacts is one of cause and effect.

Key construction activities of Stage 1 and the associated environmental aspects that could result in adverse impacts to biodiversity include:

- removal of vegetation as a result of clearing activities reducing available habitat and local biodiversity;
- stripping of topsoils as part of the initial earthwork's activities removing or harming any existing seed bank present and limiting natural regeneration potential;
- dust generation due to earthworks and vehicle movements affecting adjacent habitat;
- construction activities generally affecting the amenity and breeding cycles of any nearby fauna;
- introduction or spread of weeds and pathogens due to vehicle and machinery movements;
- surface grading and earthworks affecting root stock and soil structure, limiting natural regeneration potential;
- compaction of soils due to earthworks and vehicle movements increasing runoff and soil erosion risk and reducing future revegetation potential; and
- construction plant and equipment and site activities resulting in ignition of vegetation.

4.2 Impacts

The potential for impacts on biodiversity will depend on a number of factors. Primarily impacts will be dependent on the nature, extent and magnitude of construction activities and their interaction with the natural environment. Impacts associated with Stage 1 works will include:

- loss or degradation of native vegetation;
- loss or degradation of threatened ecological communities – approximately 8.68 hectares of the permitted 19.6 hectares of PCT21 Slender Cypress Pine (Sandhill Pine Woodland) will be impacted due to the Stage 1 disturbance area;
- loss or degradation of threatened species habitat;
- temporary reduced viability of adjacent habitat due to noise, dust or light spill;
- loss of natural regeneration potential due to impacts to root systems and soils;
- loss of biodiversity due to increase competition from introduced weeds and pathogens; and
- loss of vegetation and habitat due to fire caused or exacerbated by project-related activities.

As the disturbance area for the Stage 1 works is restricted to the works at Buronga substation and the accommodation camp and compound, the impacts on biodiversity are expected to be limited relative to the overall project impacts.

5 Management measures

A range of environmental requirements and mitigation measures are identified in the EIS, the Submissions Report and the Infrastructure Approval.

Specific safeguards and management measures to address impacts to biodiversity for Stage 1 are identified within Section 5.1 to Section 5.5 and in Table 5.2.

5.1 Pre-clearing surveys

The pre-clearing survey and marking out of the clearing extents and limits will be undertaken by the project ecologist. Extents will be marked by delineation using regularly placed pegs or identification markers in areas that are not adjacent to sensitive areas or by highly visible barrier or star pickets with tape or other appropriate measures in areas that are adjacent to sensitive areas. The pre-clearing surveys of the clearing extent will be undertaken prior to clearing and will include:

- confirmation of the location and extents of any biodiversity exclusion zones;
- identification and demarcation of all hollow bearing trees. Identification and demarcation may also occur during earlier surveys. If this is the case, the ecologist will confirm that hollow bearing trees are prominently marked / tagged;
- identification of fauna that require relocation;
- the identification of nearby habitats for suitable release of fauna; and
- identification of suitable resources for salvage and beneficial reuse within the approved disturbance area. This may include, for example, logs or tree hollows.

The pre-clearing survey will be undertaken in accordance with the *Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure* (45860-HSE-PR-D-0002) included within Appendix B.

The results of the pre-clearing surveys will be used to update and confirm the accuracy of sensitive area plans and these will be communicated and distributed to the construction team as part of the work packs.

5.1.1 Management of nests

Should any nests be identified during pre-clearing or clearing surveys, the following will occur:

- check nest to identify if active (i.e. 10-15 minute watch to see if being attended/there is movement);
- stop work in the surrounding area (20m minimum buffer);
- where the nest is active and is located at height:
 - if there is an elevated work platform (EWP) or tree climber present, use this approach to retrieve the nest along with any eggs/hatchlings;
 - if an EWP or tree climber is not present, the tree will not be removed until the nest can be safely relocated;
- fauna spotter catcher/ecologist to oversee process and advise if feasible to attempt relocation within the local area; and
- if not feasible to relocate, fauna spotter catcher/ecologist to secure within a dark, cool area until eggs/fledglings can be transported to a licensed wildlife carer.

5.2 Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy

During pre-clearing surveys, the project ecologists will survey and document tree hollows and nests within the proposed clearing extent as outlined in the *Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure* (45860-HSE-PR-D-0002). If the surveys identify tree hollow habitat within the disturbance area, a

Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy will be prepared to inform the types of nest boxes that would be required.

The *Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy* will include the following:

- the size, type, number and location of nest boxes required based on the results of the ecological surveys;
- appropriately sized nest boxes will be installed within the vicinity of hollow-bearing trees (subject to landholder agreement and suitable existing trees being present) no more than two weeks prior to clearing of the tree;
- all nest boxes in a particular location will be installed within six months after clearing;
- “nest boxes” will include consideration of natural tree hollow re-use and new tree hollow creation where reasonable and feasible; and
- measures to address and manage nests (such as raptor nests) pre-clearing will be included.

The *Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy* will be implemented.

5.2.1 Nest box locations

The location of the nest boxes will be determined by the project ecologist following identification of the hollow bearing trees and available nearby habitat. Should there be no suitable areas and trees adjacent to this site, the boxes will be installed at the nearest suitable area. Suitability will be determined by installation guidelines. Spacing of the boxes in relation to the species natural home range is important to consider as overcrowding can be counterproductive and has potential to deter animals from using it.

The project ecologist will also determine the potential for relocation of natural tree hollows for re-use, either by attachment within adjacent vegetation, or by placement on the ground to create habitat for ground-dwelling fauna.

An ecologist will provide advice on recommended installation e.g. tree attachment, suitable height, density, location, aspect and timing of nest boxes and outlined in the *Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy*.

Considerations for the location and position of nest boxes will include:

- installing nest boxes as close as possible to the location of the original hollow-bearing tree;
- placing in areas of native vegetation ideally connected to other areas of native vegetation;
- placing nest boxes at varying heights according to the heights recommended height for the target species (refer also to Table 5.1);
- positioning the nest box on the tree in a location which will consider the hot afternoon sun and the predominant aspects of severe storms; and
- recipient tree should be robust and in good health.

5.2.2 Number of boxes required

The number and type of nest boxes to be installed will be determined based on the results of the surveys undertaken by WSP (as part of the Final BDAR) and any further surveys which are undertaken by the project ecologist.

Hollow data will be collected during pre-clearing surveys and will include:

- size/diameter and shape of the hollow entrance (cm);
- approximate depth (cm) of the hollow;
- height (m) of the hollow from the ground; and

- suitability/evidence of fauna.

This data will be compared to species specific nest box dimensions to help determine an estimated quantity of nest boxes and specific types.

5.2.3 Nest box construction

Nest box dimensions will be detailed within the *Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy*, with Franks and Franks (*Nest boxes for wildlife*) used as a guide in determining nest box size. Table 5.1 provides an overview of some proposed nest box sizes based on *Nest boxes for wildlife*. Please note that it's recognised that there were no possums identified during field surveys, however this information is included as a general reference as the distribution of the Common Brushtail Possum does extent to the project area.

Table 5.1 - Nest box dimensions (from *Nest boxes for wildlife 2011*)

| Species | Inside measurement (mm) | Entrance diameter (mm) | Depth of chamber (mm) (from bottom of entrance hole) | Height above ground (m) | Comments |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Small birds | 150 x 150 | 50 | 30 | 3-6 | Horizontal spout entrance |
| Parrots | 150 x 200 | 65 | 400 | 2-4 | |
| Cockatoo | 300 x 400 | 200 | 1200 | 8-10 | Very heavy chewer; angled spout entrance |
| Possums | 250 x 250 | 100 | 300 | 2-4 | Will use several den sites |
| Microbat | n/a | 30 hole, 20 slot | 400 | 3-5 | Bottom opening |

Nest boxes will likely be constructed in plywood or timber.

The lid should overhang the front and sides of the nest box by at least 25 mm to prevent water damage. A hinged lid is recommended for monitoring and maintenance purposes.

To assist with drainage, three small holes should be drilled into the base of the nest box. Either rough-sawn timber or grooves cut into the face of the box will allow animals to grip to the box. Grip should also be considered inside the box, either with mesh or grooves cut into the walls to allow young to climb out of the box.

A nest box identification number will be placed on the nest box (stamped on the side or bottom of the nest box).

5.2.4 Nest box installation

The installation of nest boxes in suitable habitat outside of the clearing extent is proposed to compensate for the loss of hollow-bearing trees which will be removed for the project.

The preferred method of attaching nest boxes to trees is the Habisure system, which involves:

- a length of plastic-coated soft fencing wire will be passed through the nest box and around the tree trunk;
- where the wire is in contact with the tree trunk or branch it will be threaded through a length of garden hose to protect the tree;
- details of each nest box will be recorded and include:
 - the GPS location;
 - date of installation;

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- identification number; and
- nest box type.

Nest boxes will be installed during the following period:

- no more than two weeks prior to clearing of the tree; and
- all nest boxes in a particular location will be installed within six months after clearing.

5.2.5 Nest box monitoring and maintenance

Monitoring and maintenance of nest boxes will be detailed within the *Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy*.

Monitoring during construction will determine the use of nest boxes during the construction phase and will occur on an annual basis. Any requirement to maintain or replace nest boxes due to deterioration or invasion by pest species, will also be assessed based on the viability of the nest box to continue to be used by the target species. Where longer term use is considered unviable, consideration and assessment will be made to determine if nest box replacement is required.

Any longer-term maintenance and monitoring (post-construction) would be detailed within the Operational Environmental Management Plan.

5.3 Vegetation clearing

All vegetation clearing will be undertaken in accordance with the *Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure* (45860-HSE-PR-D-0002) included within Appendix B.

5.3.1 Staged or non-staged clearing

All areas that need to be cleared will be subject to staged or non-staged clearing. Staged clearing occurs in locations where the ecologist identifies habitat and is typically referred to as 'two-stage clearing'. Habitat vegetation will be identified with unique identifier numbers (identified by use of spray paint). Flagging will also be placed around the trunk of the vegetation.

Areas where two-stage clearing is required will clear non-habitat vegetation first, with habitat vegetation removed approximately 24 hours following this. Habitat vegetation will be removed following an inspection by the ecologists / fauna handlers. Relocation of fauna will occur.

Areas where no staging is required may be removed in one step. No habitat has been identified in these locations.

Both two-staged and non-staged areas are also subject to the requirements of the disturbance areas.

5.3.2 Disturbance areas

The method of clearing required changes based on the disturbance area. The key disturbance areas are as follows:

1. Disturbance Area A;
2. Disturbance Area A centreline clearing;
3. Disturbance Area B; and
4. Other areas (hazard / high risk trees and fauna corridors).

Disturbance Area A

Disturbance Area A includes the accommodation camps, construction compounds, the required asset protection zones and the substation. The Final BDAR indicated the Stage 1 disturbance area as Disturbance Area A within Figure 5.1.

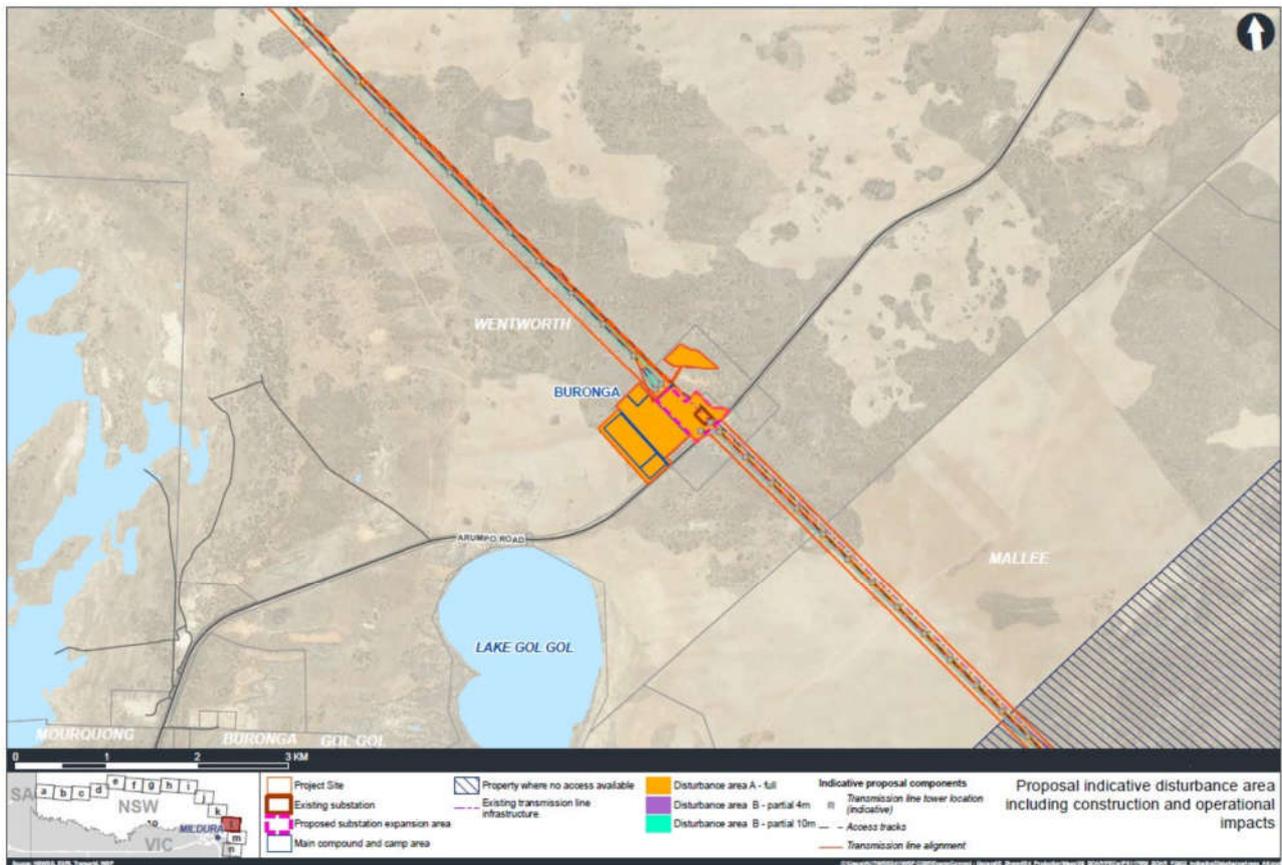


Figure 5.1 - Disturbance areas at the Stage 1 disturbance area

Vegetation is permitted to be removed to ground within Disturbance Area A. Where possible opportunities to retain vegetation will occur through review of temporary design and construction methodologies. There are, however, limited opportunities with the Stage 1 disturbance area, as the area is required for the earthworks material site, and the accommodation camp and construction compound. The full extent of the Stage 1 disturbance area will likely require clearing.

Any clearing will be subject to the management measures within Table 5.2 and the Pre-Clearing and Clearing Procedure in Appendix B.

Disturbance Area A – centreline clearing, Disturbance Area B and other areas

The Stage 1 disturbance area does not include Disturbance Area A centreline clearing, Disturbance Area B or the other areas (hazard / high risk trees and fauna corridors). These disturbance areas are located within the transmission line easement.

As this management plan relates only to Disturbance Area A clearing, information on the alternative clearing types will be included in subsequent versions of the Biodiversity Management Plan.

5.4 Biodiversity Offset Package

The extent of clearing of native vegetation will be recorded to confirm actual impacts to biodiversity values to inform any final biodiversity offset requirements within the biodiversity offset package. Actual clearing extents will be provided to Transgrid, who will calculate the final biodiversity offset requirements in accordance with the requirements of the BC Act, the RMMs and applicable conditions of approval. The following information will be recorded and provided to Transgrid in GIS format:

- the clearing extent; and

- the type of clearing at each clearing location as per the clearing approach identified and assessed in the EIS and BDAR (i.e., Disturbance Area A, Disturbance Area B4, Disturbance Area B10 etc).

5.5 Fauna handling

A *Fauna Handling Procedure* (45860-HSE-PRG-1005) has been developed for the project and is included in Appendix C. The procedure will be implemented.

5.6 Unexpected threatened species finds

If any threatened species or threatened ecological community is unexpectedly encountered during construction, the *Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure* (45860-HSE-PR-D-0002) will be implemented. Refer to Appendix A.

5.7 Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation objectives for the project are detailed within condition D54 of the Infrastructure Approval. Condition D54 states that the rehabilitation objectives for the ancillary facilities, accommodation camps, and the earthwork material site are:

- safe, stable and non-polluting;
- progressively rehabilitate the site as soon as possible following disturbance;
- to be decommissioned and removed, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise;
- restore land capability to pre-existing use;
- ensure public safety at all times.

The Stage 1 disturbance area will present little opportunity for permanent rehabilitation works. There will also be no decommissioning of project infrastructure undertaken as part of Stage 1. Detail relating to permanent rehabilitation and decommissioning works will be detailed in subsequent stages of the BMP.

Any rehabilitation works for Stage 1 will be temporary in nature. In undertaking temporary rehabilitation, the following will occur:

- material resources will be salvaged and stockpiled for beneficial reuse in future. This will include soil and vegetative resources such as hollows and mulch;
- topsoil will be removed and stockpiled for future reuse;
- stabilisation of the accommodation camp and construction compound will occur through the application of hardstand material. Any decommissioning or rehabilitation of these areas will be carried out in accordance with the Stage 2 BMP;
- stabilisation of any areas available within the earthworks material site will occur in accordance with the progressive erosion and sediment control plans. Stabilisation would occur progressively, as any of the sections of the earthworks material site are no longer required; and
- stockpiled topsoil would be reused in progressive rehabilitation works. Mulch and woody debris will be a by-product of vegetation clearing activities. Where practicable, this material will be reused in the progressive rehabilitation works.

Table 5.2 - Biodiversity management measures

| ID | Management measure | When to implement | Responsibility | Source Requirement |
|----------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| General | | | | |
| BD1 | Training will be provided to all project personnel, including relevant sub-contractors on biodiversity management practices and the requirements from this plan through inductions, toolbox talks and activity specific training. | Pre-construction | HSSE Manager | Good Practice |
| BD2 | The Buronga accommodation camp and construction compound is located within an area of reduced biodiversity value. Any site offices or crib sheds which may be required for Stage 1 will be located in an area of limited biodiversity value (e.g. cleared land or areas of native vegetation with vegetation integrity scores of less than 17 (in accordance with the NSW Government Biodiversity Assessment Method Operational Manual) will be prioritised). | Detailed design | Design Manager, Construction Manager, Environmental Manager | RMM B3 |
| BD3 | Clearing of native vegetation and key habitat will be minimised where possible. This will include minimising impacts on the clearing of hollow-bearing trees and threatened species. Opportunities to minimise clearing will occur through review of temporary design and construction methodologies for the Stage 1 disturbance area. | Pre-construction and construction | Environmental Manager, Supervisor, Engineer | Condition D25 |
| BD4 | Clearing is not to exceed the follow limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19.6 hectares (ha) of BC Act listed Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW Southwestern Slopes bioregions; • 0.04 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species <i>Acacia acanthoclada</i> (Harrow Wattle); • 0.32 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed flora species <i>Atriplex infrequens</i> (A saltbush); • 1.51 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species <i>Austrostipa nullanulla</i> (A spear-grass); • 14 individuals of BC Act listed <i>Santalum murrayanum</i> (Bitter Quandong); and • 6.91 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed fauna species <i>Polytelis anthoepplus monarchoides</i> (Regent Parrot) (eastern subspecies). <p>For Stage 1 the Sandhill Pine Woodland is identified within the Final BDAR as being impacted by the Stage 1 disturbance area. GIS mapping indicates the area for Stage 1 is approximately 8.68 hectares of the permitted 19.6 hectares of PCT21 Slender Cypress Pine (Sandhill Pine Woodland). This is subject to the pre-clearing survey and delineation of the biodiversity exclusion zone by the project ecologist.</p> <p>Spatial data and threatened species locations will be provided to the detailed design team for consideration in detailed construction planning.</p> | Pre-construction and construction | Design Manager, Construction Manager, Environmental Manager, Supervisor | Condition D25 |

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| ID | Management measure | When to implement | Responsibility | Source Requirement |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| BD5 | <p>Sensitive area plans will be prepared and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the location of clearing boundaries; the location of exclusion zones; and the location of threatened flora or vegetation which is to be retained. <p>The sensitive area plans will be issued to relevant site personnel with updates issued as required. Sensitive area plans will be updated based on the results of the pre-clearing surveys.</p> | Construction | Environmental Advisor, Environmental Manager | RMM B12 RMM B14 |
| Preclearing and clearing | | | | |
| BD6 | Pre-clearing surveys will be completed prior to construction by a suitability qualified ecologist in accordance with the <i>Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure</i> (45860-HSE-PR-G-1008) located in Appendix B. | Pre-construction | Environmental Advisor, Environmental Manager, Ecologist | Condition D28 RMM B11 |
| BD7 | <p>Prior to clearing, biodiversity exclusion zones for retained vegetation, including identified threatened flora populations, will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearly identified by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to the commencement of clearing or any site activity that could damage the vegetation within the exclusion zone; physically marked and demarcated; and included on sensitive area plans. | Pre-construction | Environmental Advisor, Environmental Manager, Ecologist | RMM B13 |
| BD8 | Clearing will be carried out in accordance with the <i>Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure</i> (45860-HSE-PR-G-1008) located in Appendix B. | Pre-construction and construction | Environmental Manager, Supervisor, Construction Manager | Condition D28 RMM B11 |
| BD9 | Threatened species and their habitats will be identified through the sensitive area plans (SAPs). Impacts to threatened species will be avoided as far as practicable during detailed design and when determining construction methodologies. No threatened flora species were identified in the Stage 1 disturbance area. In the event that unexpected threatened species are identified, the Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure will be implemented. | Detailed design and construction | Design Manager, Environmental Advisor, Environmental Manager, Supervisors | Condition D28 RMM B1 |
| BD10 | Resources within the approved disturbance area will be identified for salvage and beneficial reuse prior to clearing. | Pre-construction | Environmental Advisor, Environmental Manager, Supervisor | Condition D28 |
| BD11 | The Tree Protection Zone (as defined in <i>AS4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites</i>) of retained trees within or immediately adjacent to the disturbance area will be protected through the restriction of construction activities (refer Section 4.2 of AS4970- 2009), to minimise the impact of the works on the long-term health of these trees. | Pre-construction | Environmental Advisor, Environmental Manager, Supervisors | RMM LV7 |

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| ID | Management measure | When to implement | Responsibility | Source Requirement |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Threatened species management | | | | |
| BD12 | The <i>Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure</i> (45860-HSE-PR-D-0002) located in Appendix A of this plan will be implemented if threatened ecological communities and threatened flora and fauna species, not assessed in the biodiversity assessment, are identified in the disturbance area. | Construction | All personnel | RMM B18 |
| Habitat retention and restoration | | | | |
| BD13 | Nest boxes will be provided to offset the loss of tree hollow fauna habitat in accordance with a Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy. The strategy will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a survey of tree hollows and nests within the proposed clearing extents; the size, type, number and location of nest boxes based on the results of the ecological surveys; appropriately sized nest boxes will be installed within the vicinity of hollow-bearing trees (subject to landholder agreement and suitable existing trees being present) no more than two weeks prior to clearing of the tree; all nest boxes in a particular location will be installed within 6 months after clearing; nest boxes will include consideration of natural tree hollow re-use and new tree hollow creation; and measures to address and manage nests (such as raptor nests) pre-clearing will be included. | Pre-construction and construction | Environmental Manager | RMM B10 |
| BD14 | Resources such as topsoil, hollows and mulch within the approved disturbance area will be reused where possible for rehabilitation of the site. | Pre-construction | Environmental Manager, Supervisor | Condition D28 |
| BD15 | Where relevant, and in consultation with the ecologist, seed will be collected or obtained to assist with stabilisation of disturbed areas. | Construction | Environmental Manager, Ecologist | Condition D28 |
| Biosecurity controls | | | | |
| BD16 | The biosecurity controls outlined in the <i>Biosecurity Management Plan</i> (45860-HSE-PLN-D-0032) in Appendix D will be implemented during construction to minimise the risk of off-site transport or spread of disease, pests or weeds. Controls will include (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inspections and cleaning of vehicles, machinery, and personnel equipment prior to movement on and off the construction work areas; and minimising movements across adjoining farmland including trip numbers and locations where possible. Additional measures where localised areas of high biosecurity risks have been identified will be implemented. The effectiveness of these controls will be regularly monitored. | Construction | Environmental Manager, Environmental Advisor, Supervisor | RMM LP7 RMM LP8 |

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| ID | Management measure | When to implement | Responsibility | Source Requirement |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| | Where weeds are present within the disturbance area, weeds will be managed in consultation with Western LLS, Wentworth Shire Council and NSW Department of Primary Industries. | | | |
| BD17 | In the event of new infestations of notifiable weeds as a result of construction activities, the relevant control authority will be notified as per <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2017</i> . | Construction | Environmental Manager | RMM LP9 |
| Soil and water quality | | | | |
| BD18 | Soil and water quality management measures will be implemented in accordance with the <i>Soil and Water Management Plan</i> (45860-HSE-PL-D-0008) to minimise erosion during clearing. | Pre-construction and construction | Environmental Manager, Supervisor, Engineer | Condition D28 |
| BD19 | An <i>Erosion and Sediment Control Strategy</i> (ESCS) (45860-HSE-DOC-D-0002) has been provided in Appendix A of the Soil and Water Management Plan. It has been prepared in line with the principles and requirements in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction, Volume 1</i> (Landcom 2004), commonly referred to as the ‘Blue Book’; • <i>Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction, Volumes 2A and 2C</i> (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water 2008); • <i>Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control</i> (IESCA – 2008); • Transgrid’s HSE Guideline; and • <i>Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land</i> (NRA 2018). The ESCS will be implemented to guide the development of the Progressive Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (PESCPs) for the project. | Construction | Environmental Manager | Condition D16 b) RMM HF5 RMM SCG9 |
| BD20 | Progressive Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (PESCPs) will be prepared and implemented for locations where soil disturbance will occur. The PESCPs will outline controls to be implemented to manage and aim to minimise soil erosion and movement of sediment and other pollutants to land and/or waters. The PESCPs will be progressively updated throughout the project to reflect the current construction activities occurring on site and to allow the removal of any measures that are ineffective or no longer needed. | Construction | Environmental Manager | Condition D16 a) RMM HF5 |
| BD21 | Disturbed areas will be stabilised to minimise soil and water impacts. This will be carried out in consultation with the relevant landholder. | Construction | Environmental Manager, Supervisor, Engineer | Condition D28 RMM LP5 |

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| ID | Management measure | When to implement | Responsibility | Source Requirement |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Bushfire management | | | | |
| BD22 | Construction activities will be managed in accordance with the <i>Emergency Plan</i> (45860-HSE-PL-D-0025). The Emergency Plan includes measures to minimise the potential for bushfire risk and will be prepared in consultation with Rural Fire Service. It will be made publicly available upon approval. | Construction | Environmental Advisor, Environmental Manager | Condition D28 |
| BD23 | The following resources will be available at the work front/work locations to respond to localised fires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fire-fighting appliances such as a ‘slip-on’ fire-fighting unit, tanker trailers or water cart should be positioned nearby where possible; • water filled knapsacks; • shovels; and • fire extinguisher located within vehicles. | Construction | Supervisor | Condition D47 e) |
| BD24 | The following will be implemented during all outdoor hot works, grinding activities and vegetation slashing within and adjacent to the construction compound: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shielding will be used; • a water supply will be present (nine kilogram water fire extinguisher); and • a trained operator will be present. | Construction | Supervisor, Project Manager, HSSE team | RMM HR7 |
| Monitoring | | | | |
| BD25 | Clearing of native vegetation will be monitored to confirm actual impacts to biodiversity values to inform any final biodiversity offset requirements. The clearing report will be provided within two weeks of completion of clearing. | Pre-construction and construction | Design Manager, Environmental Manager | RMM B15 |
| BD26 | Monitor weather forecasts from Mildura Airport AWS to determine when adverse bushfire weather conditions are predicted. | Construction | Supervisor, Environmental Manager, HSSE team | Good practice |
| BD27 | Monitor the Fire Danger Ratings of Wentworth Shire Council on NSW RFS website. | Construction | HSSE team | Good practice |

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6 Compliance management

6.1 Training and awareness

All site personnel will undergo the SecureEnergy site induction. The induction training addresses elements related to biodiversity management including, but not limited to:

- relevant legislation;
- the environmental management system, including the CEMP;
- biodiversity values;
- land disturbance and clearing;
- biosecurity and weeds; and
- sensitive area plans.

Targeted training in the form of toolbox talks or specific training will also be delivered to personnel with a key role in biodiversity management. Examples of training topics include:

- clearing procedures;
- no-go zones;
- threatened species within the project area;
- unexpected finds procedure for threatened species; and
- biosecurity procedures.

Further details regarding the staff induction and training are in Section 6 of the CEMP.

6.2 Roles and responsibilities

SecureEnergy's organisational structure and overall roles and responsibilities are outlined in Section 4 of the CEMP. Specific responsibilities for the implementation of mitigation measures are detailed in Section 5 of this BMP.

6.3 Monitoring

The impacts and environmental performance of the project relevant to biodiversity matters, and the effectiveness of the management measures identified in Section 5 will be monitored through the proposed monitoring program in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 - Monitoring program

| Item | Scope | Frequency | Responsibility | Records/ reporting |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Weekly inspections | Inspection of the performance and effectiveness of exclusion zones when works are being undertaken in the Stage 1 areas. | Weekly | Environmental Advisor Supervisors | Weekly Environmental Inspection Checklist |
| Pre-clearing inspection | Inspecting work areas before clearing in accordance with the <i>Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure</i> (45860-HSE-PR-G-1008). | 24 hours prior to clearing | Ecologist Environmental Advisor | Clearing and Land Disturbance Permit |
| During clearing supervision | Ecological supervision of clearing operations and removal of habitat trees during two-stage clearing approach in accordance with the <i>Pre-clearing and Clearing</i> | During second stage of two-stage clearing | Ecologist / Fauna handler Environmental Advisor | Clearing report |

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| Item | Scope | Frequency | Responsibility | Records/ reporting |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | <i>Procedure</i> (45860-HSE-PR-G-1008). | | | |
| Monitoring vegetation clearing | Clearing of native vegetation will be monitored to confirm actual impacts to biodiversity values to inform any final biodiversity offset requirements within the biodiversity offset package. | Prior to and during clearing | Environmental Manager Transgrid (offsets) Ecologist | Clearing Register |
| Nest box monitoring | Monitoring and inspection of nest boxes that have been installed for the project, as per the vegetation clearing offset requirements. Monitoring and associated data to involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> confirmed presence or absence of fauna activity and/or habituation including occupation by pest insects e.g. termite/European bees; nest box maintenance requirements and/ or replacement of the asset where necessary; verification of nest box identification i.e asset number. | Annually | Ecologist / Environmental Manager | Annual report |
| Fauna handling and rescue | Handling and rescue of fauna in accordance with the <i>Fauna Handling Procedure</i> (45860-HSE-PRG-1005). | As discovered | Supervisor Environmental Advisor | Fauna Handling Record Sheet |

6.4 Inspections

Weekly inspections will be performed by Environmental Advisor and documented in the Weekly Environmental Checklist. The inspections will check the implementation and effectiveness of the management measures identified in Section 5 and the environmental performance of the project relevant to biodiversity. Visual monitoring of delineated/fenced disturbance boundaries will be undertaken.

6.5 Auditing

Audits will be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the management measures and overall compliance with this plan, and other relevant approvals, licences and guidelines. Audit requirements are detailed in Section 9.3 of the CEMP.

6.6 Reporting

Reporting which will be undertaken in accordance with the BMP is summarised within Table 6.2.

Table 6.2 - Reporting program

| Item | Scope | Frequency | Responsibility | Recipient |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Clearing report | Following completion of clearing a clearing report will be prepared summarising clearing details. The clearing report will be provided within two weeks of completion of clearing. | Following clearing | Environmental Manager | Transgrid |

| Item | Scope | Frequency | Responsibility | Recipient |
|----------------------|--|--|---|-------------------|
| Monitoring reporting | Reporting of biodiversity matters on the project website in accordance with condition E12. | As required | Environmental Manager | Transgrid |
| Audit reports | Independent audits undertaken in accordance with the Infrastructure Approval will include audits of biodiversity measures (based on the Independent Auditor's program). Audit reports will be prepared. Further detail in relation to auditing is provided within Section 9.3 of the CEMP. | At intervals, no greater than 26 weeks from the date of the initial Independent Audit or as otherwise agreed by the Secretary. | Environmental Manager / Independent Auditor | Transgrid DPIE |

The clearing reports will include:

- information on clearing operations, dates, procedures and areas;
- the type of clearing (i.e. Disturbance Area A);
- the spatial extent and type of clearing of each Plant Community Type;
- the spatial extent and type of clearing of threatened ecological communities and threatened flora;
- the number of individuals and type of clearing for *Santalum murrayanum* (Bitter Quandong);
- the spatial extent and type of clearing of habitat for *Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides* (Regent Parrot) (eastern subspecies);
- live animal sightings, captures, any releases or injured/shocked wildlife;
- fauna that may have died as a result of clearing; and
- photographs of any rescued fauna.

The spatial extent of clearing will be recorded in GIS file format.

Clearing of native vegetation will be monitored and recorded to inform any final biodiversity offset requirements within the biodiversity offset package. This information will be tracked in the *Clearing and Land Disturbance Register* (45860-HSE-REG-1008).

6.7 Emergencies, incidents and non-compliances

Emergency management and planning including emergencies related to biodiversity matters will be undertaken in accordance with the Clough management system and relevant procedures. Emergencies will be managed in accordance with the relevant Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) Plan as identified in Section 8.1 of the CEMP – Emergency preparedness and emergency response.

Environmental incidents, including incidents related to biodiversity matters (e.g. unauthorised/unapproved impact to threatened ecological communities) will be managed as described in Section 8.2 of the CEMP – Environmental incidents and the Incident, Notification and Investigation Procedure Flowchart provided in Appendix A4 of the CEMP.

Incident reporting is described in Section 8.3 of the CEMP – Incident notification and reporting.

Where a non-compliance has been identified, including those relevant to biodiversity matters (e.g. not installing nest boxes within the required timeframe), corrective actions will be developed as required and implemented to address the non-conformance that occurred as described in Section 11 of the CEMP – Non-compliance, non-conformance, corrective and preventative action. Reporting of non-compliances will be undertaken as described in Section 10.1 of the CEMP – Reporting non-compliances.

6.8 Contingency plan

Although the project has been assessed through the environmental impact assessment process and potential impacts identified, unpredicted impacts may occur as the project progresses. In the event that unexpected impacts are identified, the action or cause will be categorised and as required will be managed as:

- an emergency or environmental incident in accordance with Section 8 of the CEMP – Incidents and emergencies; and/or
- a non-compliance or non-conformance in accordance with Section 11 of the CEMP – Non-compliance, non-conformance, corrective and preventative action.

Reporting of the unpredicted impacts would be in line with the above processes and as described in Section 10 of the CEMP – Reporting.

Through the identification of corrective and/or preventative actions through the above processes, the following steps will be considered as relevant:

- a) determine the relevant impact assessment criterion/criteria, below which the impact should be reduced, consistent with the requirements of this BMP;
- b) identify options to reduce the unexpected impacts to below the relevant criterion/criteria and appropriate timeframe for implementation;
- c) implement the selected measure(s) to reduce the unexpected impacts; and
- d) identify and implement an appropriate monitoring program to determine the effectiveness of the selected measure(s) to reduce the unexpected impact.

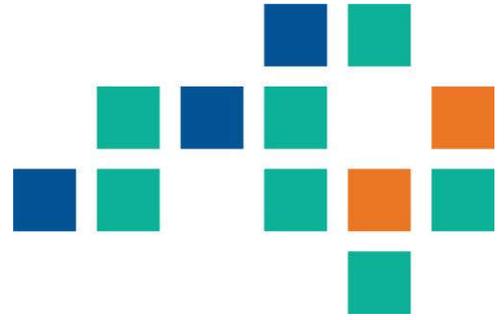
If the above monitoring program identifies that the unexpected impacts have not been reduced to below the nominated criterion/criteria, items b) to d) of the contingency process will be repeated.

This section does not apply to unexpected threatened species finds. These will be managed in accordance with the Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure included in Appendix A of this BMP.

Appendix A – Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure

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INTERNAL



Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) 45860-HSE-PR-D-0002

| REV | DATE | GENERAL DESCRIPTION | PREPARED | REVIEWED | VERIFIED | VERIFIED | APPROVED |
|-----|------------|------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| A | 23/06/2021 | Issued for internal review | L.Coetzee | R.Walker-Edwards | G.Crighton | JL.Barrenechea | D.Whatmough |
| B | 25/06/2021 | Issued for TransGrid review | L.Coetzee | R.Walker-Edwards | G.Crighton | JL.Barrenechea | D.Whatmough |
| C | 5/08/2021 | Issued for TransGrid review | R.Walker-Edwards | M.Lee | G.Crighton | JL.Barrenechea | D.Whatmough |
| D | 23/11/2021 | Revised to address agency comments | R.Walker-Edwards | M.Lee | G.Crighton | JL.Barrenechea | D.Whatmough |
| E | 16/12/2021 | Issued for TransGrid review |  R.Walker-Edwards |  M.Lee |  G.Crighton |  JL.Barrenechea |  D.Whatmough |

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| Revision History | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Rev. | Detailed Description |
| A | Issued for internal review |
| B | Issued for TransGrid review |
| C | Issued for TransGrid review |
| D | Revised to address agency comments |
| E | Issued for TransGrid review |
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1 Introduction

This Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure is part of the *Biodiversity Management Plan* (45860-HSE-PL-D-0006) prepared for EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) and forms part of the overall environmental management framework for the project.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to detail the actions to be taken in the event that an unexpected actual or potential threatened species or endangered ecological communities is encountered during project works.

2 Induction/Training

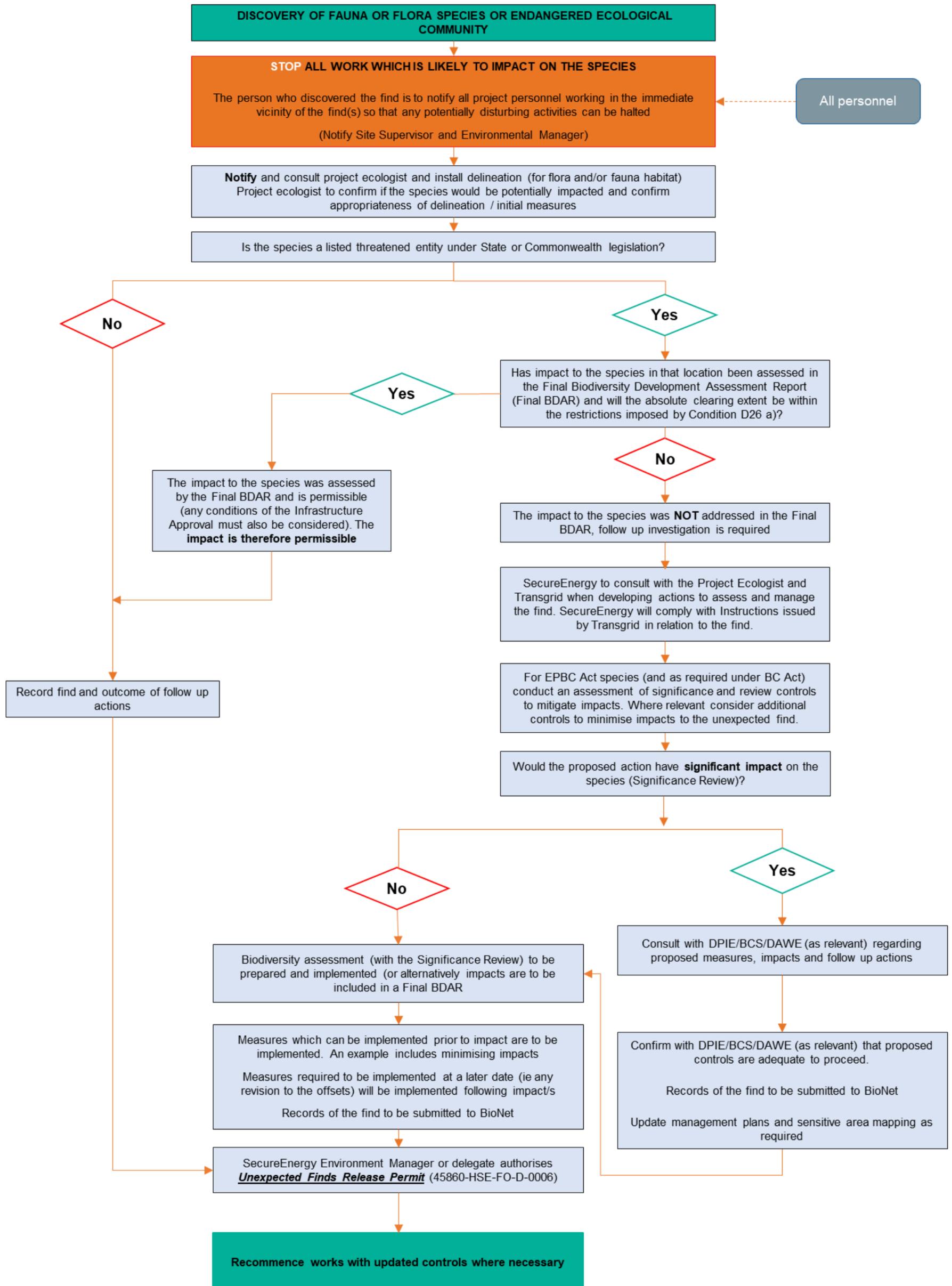
All site personnel (including subcontractors) will undertake an induction which will include details relating to this procedure. Training may also occur through toolbox talks, pre-starts and targeted training as required.

3 Scope

This procedure is applicable for the following:

- all activities conducted by site personnel (including sub-contractors) that have the potential to encounter unexpected threatened species finds (usually during pre-clearing inspections and construction);
- where the project does not have approval to impact the threatened species; and
- where mitigation measures for managing the disturbance (apart from this procedure) are not contained in the environmental impact assessment.

Biodiversity Management Procedure
Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure

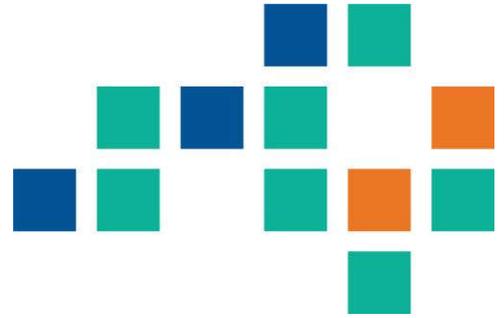


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Appendix B – Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure

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INTERNAL



Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Stage 1 45860-HSE-PR-G-1008

| REV | DATE | GENERAL DESCRIPTION | PREPARED | REVIEWED | VERIFIED | VERIFIED | APPROVED |
|-----|------------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| A | 27/04/2021 | Issued for internal review | L.Coetzee | R.Walker-Edwards | G.Crighton | JL.Barrenechea | D.Whatmough |
| B | 7/05/2021 | Issued for TransGrid review | L.Coetzee | R.Walker-Edwards | G.Crighton | JL.Barrenechea | D.Whatmough |
| C | 3/08/2021 | Issued for TransGrid review | R.Walker-Edwards | M.Lee | G.Crighton | JL.Barrenechea | D.Whatmough |
| D | 11/10/2021 | Issued for TransGrid review | M.Lee | R.Walker-Edwards | G.Crighton | JL.Barrenechea | D.Whatmough |
| E | 22/11/2021 | Issued for TransGrid review | R.Walker-Edwards | M.Lee | G.Crighton | JL.Barrenechea | D.Whatmough |
| F | 16/12/2021 | Issued for ER review |  R.Walker-Edwards |  M.Lee |  G.Crighton |  JL.Barrenechea |  D.Whatmough |

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| Revision History | |
|------------------|--|
| Rev. | Detailed Description |
| A | Issued for internal review |
| B | Issued for TransGrid review |
| C | Updated following receipt of TransGrid's comments and draft conditions of Approval |
| D | Updated following TransGrid review and to address the Infrastructure Approval |
| E | Updated following TransGrid review |
| F | Updated following ER review |
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1 Introduction

This Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure is an appendix to *the Biodiversity Management Plan* (45860-HSE-PL-D-0006) and forms part of overall environmental management framework for the project.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure is to describe how SecureEnergy proposes to manage clearing during construction of the Stage 1 works to minimise impacts on biodiversity.

2 Induction/Training

Personnel taking part in construction activities shall be informed of this Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure through the site-specific induction, daily prestart briefings or targeted training as required.

Personnel involved in clearing activities will be subject to toolbox talks and daily prestart meetings which will discuss items such as the following:

- the proposed clearing for the day;
- the limits of clearing;
- processes to follow;
- known or potentially occurring threatened species; and
- sensitive areas.

3 Scope

This procedure is applicable for the following pre-clearing and clearing activities conducted by site personnel (including sub-contractors) for Stage 1 of the project.

For clarity, the Stage 1 clearing and grubbing activities will occur at the following locations:

- the Buronga substation site; and
- the earthworks material site area adjacent to the existing substation; and
- at the Buronga accommodation camp and construction compound.

Note: There is no transmission line easement clearing in this procedure. A revised Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure will be prepared for other project areas.

4 Pre-clearing

The following tasks are required to occur prior to clearing:

- a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist will be engaged for the project (the Project Ecologist);
- a clearing and grubbing work pack will be developed for Construction teams;
- opportunities to retain and protect existing vegetation within the disturbance area will be identified during construction planning through review of temporary design and construction methodologies for the Stage 1 disturbance area;
- the predicted extent clearing of native vegetation will be monitored against:
 - the extent of clearing of the Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW Southwestern Slopes bioregions listed under *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* as permitted by condition D25 of the Infrastructure Approval. All

reasonable and feasible measures will be implemented to ensure that clearing to no more than the values detailed within condition D25; and

- the Plant Community Types as detailed within the *Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report* (Final BDAR)(August 2021).

The predicted extent of clearing will also consider the type of clearing (i.e. Disturbance Area A);

- the extent of clearing required for construction and permanent infrastructure will be marked on site by the Survey team and will be confirmed on a survey plan;
- the Project Ecologist is to identify and mark out the extent and clearing limit for the installation of delineation and exclusion zone;
- the Supervisor will ensure the clearing limit is delineated. Delineation and exclusion zones will be set out in accordance with the Sensitive Area Plans for that work area. The clearing limits will be delineated using regularly placed pegs or identification markers in areas which are not adjacent to sensitive areas (such as threatened ecological communities); or highly visible barrier or star pickets with tape such as colour-coded UV-stabilised rope, bunting, nightline or other similarly robust and durable material in locations adjacent to sensitive areas or where pegs and identification markers will not be suitably visible (for example of obscured by existing vegetation);
- threatened flora populations that will be retained will be clearly identified by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to any site activity that could damage the vegetation within the exclusion zone;
- the Environment team will ensure delineation is installed and maintained consistently through Stage 1 to mark boundaries and sensitive areas and to reduce the risk of error or misinterpretation of boundaries;
- prior to clearing commencing, the Project Ecologist will:
 - identify and demarcate hollow bearing trees that are suspected to accommodate fauna;
 - record GPS coordinates for all identified hollow bearing trees during the pre-clearing survey;
 - record the total number of hollows which will be incorporated into the *Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy* (45860-HSE-DOC-D-0004);
 - confirm nearby habitat suitable for the release of any fauna that may be encountered during clearing works;
 - check for the presence of threatened flora and fauna species by visual inspection of potential habitat features. If found, the *Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure* (45860-HSE-PR-D-0002) will be followed;
 - identify and confirm the location of any weeds present within and immediately adjacent to the clearing extents;
 - check for any signs or observations of domestic fauna such as stray sheep and cattle. Ecologists to notify the Environment team who will contact the Land and Property Access Manager. The Land and Property Access Manager will contact the owner to collect and / or manage their animals if required;
 - the Project Ecologist will capture and/or remove fauna that have the potential to be disturbed as a result of clearing activities and relocate any captured fauna into pre-determined habitat identified for fauna release;
- any relevant findings from the pre-clearing inspections will be used to update and confirm the accuracy of sensitive area plans;
- the construction workforce will be supplied with sensitive area maps (showing clearing boundaries, exclusion zones and the location of threatened flora or vegetation which is to be retained) through the relevant Work Packs;

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- resources within the approved disturbance area (i.e. topsoil) will be reused where possible for rehabilitation of the site;
- Environment team to check clearing limits and other delineation requirements are installed prior to clearing as per *Clearing and Land Disturbance Permit* (45860-HSE-FO-G-1004);
- the Supervisor, clearing operators and Environment team to discuss any findings from the pre-clearing walk during the daily pre-start meetings including changes to sequence of clearing, sensitive areas, avoidance areas, or habitat features; and
- the *Clearing and Land Disturbance Permit* (45860-HSE-FO-G-1004) will be approved by the Environment Manager or delegate prior to clearing activity commencing.

5 Vegetation clearing

5.1 Clearing where there are no habitat features (One-stage clearing)

If no habitat features have been identified in the pre-clearing surveys, then a two-stage clearing process is not required and clearing can be undertaken in a single-step without the ecologist present. An example is crop land/agricultural pasture area.

All other demarcation and flagging is to occur as required by the *Clearing and Land Disturbance Permit* (45860-HSE-FO-G-1004).

5.2 Clearing where there is habitat features (Two-stage clearing)

Where habitat features have been identified during the pre-clearing surveys, two-stage clearing is required. Habitat vegetation will be identified with unique identifier numbers (identified by use of spray paint). Flagging will also be placed around the trunk of the vegetation. For these locations, the clearing area will be surveyed by the Project Ecologist within 24 hours or immediately prior to clearing, to:

- obtain updated information on fauna and flora habitat that is present, including:
 - inspection of identified habitat features for evidence of fauna habitation;
 - demarcate any newly identified habitat;
 - capture and relocate non-mobile fauna, such as reptiles and frogs; and
- collect data on any newly identified threatened species in the area.

5.2.1 Initial clearing – removal of non-habitat vegetation

In this first stage, only non-habitat vegetation will be removed. All marked habitat features will be retained until the final stage of clearing. This allows respite between the initial disturbance and the final removal of habitat. The changed environment and the disturbance from clearing should encourage residing fauna to individually relocate voluntarily without human handling.

A respite period of approximately 24 hours after removal of non-habitat vegetation is intended to allow resident fauna the opportunity to vacate remaining habitat before final clearing commences.

5.2.2 Final clearing

A suitably qualified and experienced fauna handler will be onsite to:

- thoroughly inspect all hollows that are accessible from the ground immediately prior to clearing;
- carefully supervise removal of habitat features and hollows when trees are dropped to the ground;
- ensure detected fauna will be encouraged to self-relocate or will be captured and released in the identified release areas;
- to capture and relocate any encountered fauna to pre-identified release sites;

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- ensure that any injured wildlife is transported to veterinarian or wildlife carer; and
- where breeding fauna or dependent young are detected during the clearing works, consult with a licensed carer to determine whether the animal/s require ongoing care or can be safely relocated to adjacent habitat.

Locations of fauna release (including GPS coordinates) will be recorded in a post-clearing report.

Once all fauna habitat inspection and any required fauna removal is complete, the remaining vegetation clearing will commence.

6 Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure

The *Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure* (45860-HSE-PR-D-0002) is applicable to all activities that have the potential to impact upon threatened flora and fauna species that have not been assessed and approved.

If during construction activities the project ecologist (or other project personnel) identify a threatened species or threatened ecological community that has not been (or is suspected to have not been) assessed as a part of the project assessment, the *Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure* (45860-HSE-PR-D-0002) will be followed.

7 Reporting

Post-clearing reports will be prepared by project ecologists and will include:

- information on clearing operations, dates, procedures and areas;
- the type of clearing (i.e. Disturbance Area A);
- a breakdown of the spatial extent and type of clearing of each Plant Community Type;
- a breakdown of the spatial extent and type of clearing of threatened ecological communities and threatened flora;
- live animal sightings, captures, any releases or injured/shocked wildlife;
- fauna that may have died as a result of clearing; and
- photographs of any rescued fauna.

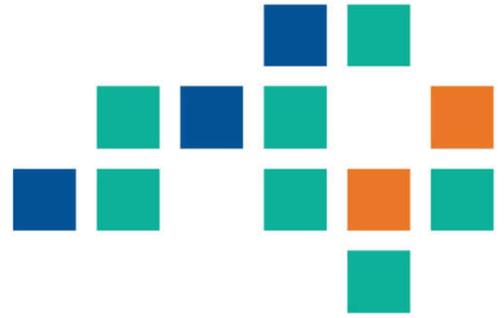
The spatial extent and type of clearing will be recorded in GIS file format and provided to TransGrid to allow the final offset requirements to be calculated based on the recorded clearing in accordance with REMM B15.

Clearing of native vegetation will be monitored and recorded to inform any final biodiversity offset requirements within the biodiversity offset package. This information will be tracked in the *Clearing and Land Disturbance Register* (45860-HSE-REG-1008).

Appendix C – Fauna Handling Procedure

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INTERNAL



Fauna Handling Procedure EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) 45860-HSE-PR-G-1005

| REV | DATE | GENERAL DESCRIPTION | PREPARED | REVIEWED | VERIFIED | VERIFIED | APPROVED |
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1 Introduction

This Fauna Handling Procedure is part of the *Biodiversity Management Plan* (BMP) (45860-HSE-PL-D-0006) for EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) and forms part of the overall environmental management framework for the project.

1.1 Purpose

This procedure is applicable to the handling of any fauna encountered during construction if required. Handling of fauna may be necessary when they are encountered and need to be relocated or if injured, taken to a vet or wildlife carer. Fauna handling should be undertaken either by the project ecologist or a person skilled in handling the species of fauna encountered.

Should any threatened species be identified, the *Unexpected Threatened Species Find Procedure* (45860-HSE-PR-D-0002) would be implemented.

2 Induction/Training

All site personnel (including sub-contractors) will undertake a site induction which will include details relating to this procedure. Training may also occur through toolbox talks, pre-starts meetings and targeted training as required.

Training will include the need for fauna handlers to be appropriately licensed or approved under relevant legislation. This includes the need for:

- those handling reptiles to have a Biodiversity Conservation Licence under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*; and
- any injured native fauna to be taken to a vet or to a licensed wildlife rehabilitation provider. The wildlife rehabilitation provider must hold a Biodiversity Conservation Licence (Wildlife Rehabilitation Licence) under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

3 Scope

This procedure is applicable for the following:

- all activities conducted by site personnel (including subcontractors) that have the potential to encounter fauna; and
- vegetation clearing and land disturbance.

4 General fauna handling requirements

Fauna may be encountered in a variety of situations during delivery of the project.

During clearing activities, any fauna handling will be carried out by the project ecologist or a trained fauna handler.

During other construction activities (when the project ecologist or fauna handler may not be present on site), fauna may require handling by other project personnel. Wherever possible, the project ecologist or trained fauna handler will be used and if they are not available, the Environment Team will attend to the fauna. Due to the remoteness and large distances between work sites there may be times when the project ecologist or fauna handler will not always be present on site and it is more important to move the fauna from danger or harm. In these circumstances, SecureEnergy personnel may be required to handle the fauna (i.e. where that movement removes the fauna from danger or harm). The general fauna handling requirements during construction are as follows:

- any fauna removed from hollows will only be removed in accordance with the *Pre-clearing and Clearing Procedure*. Fauna will be removed by hand. Removal may require cutting the entrance

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of the hollow with a chainsaw, therefore extreme care is advised. If a chainsaw must be used to increase the entrance size, a suitable plug (for example, several scrunched-up cloth capture bags or towels) must be placed between the animal and the chainsaw wherever feasible. Care must be taken not to injure the animal during the extraction process. Firm but gentle pressure will be applied, to encourage the animal from the hollow. An inverted cloth capture bag must be used if appropriate to the circumstance, so that when the animal is extracted, the bag can be pulled over the animal immediately. Where it is not possible to extract the animal from a hollow, the log can be carefully removed intact and located outside of the disturbance area so that the fauna can leave of their own accord. Ensure that egress from the hollow is not blocked when placing the log down;

- if nocturnal fauna is required to be kept during the day, they will be kept in either standard pet carrying cages, ventilated cardboard/plastic animal boxes or cloth capture bags. Captive fauna will generally be kept at a cool or ambient temperature and shaded conditions to avoid any heat stress. Water will be provided if necessary. Captured fauna will be kept in accordance with recommendations from the project ecologist. The project ecologist is to regularly monitor captive fauna when in attendance, otherwise monitoring will be conducted Environment team in consultation with project ecologist;
- if juvenile fauna is displaced and cannot be re-united with its parent(s), they must be taken to an authorised wildlife shelter within the region; and
- in the event that fauna is injured during construction, the animal should initially be assessed and first aid rendered by the project ecologist (if available) and subsequently taken to a Veterinarian for further assessment and treatment, and if necessary, euthanasia. Injured fauna will be kept in shaded conditions with water provided if necessary. Providing external heat (where available) may assist.

If fauna is handled or moved during clearing activities, this will be recorded in clearing reports. A *Fauna Handling Record Sheet* (45860-HSE-FO-D-001) will not be required to be completed during these activities. During other times of project delivery, if fauna is handled or moved, the *Fauna Handling Record Sheet* (45860-HSE-FO-D-001) is to be completed.

If fauna is struck by a vehicle this is recorded by the Environment team in the *Fauna Strike Register* (45860-HSE-REG-D-0001).

4.1 Fauna strike during travel

Due to the linear nature of the project, there will be a range of different roads and access tracks in which project personnel or subcontractors are likely to encounter fauna within and to and from worksites, ancillary areas and camps. The likelihood of encountering fauna during dawn and dusk is increased.

If during travel to and from the project on nominated project road or access tracks, SecureEnergy personnel or subcontractors accidentally strike fauna, the following is to occur:

- where safe to do so, direct the vehicle to a slow stop in a safe location with clear visibility to other oncoming vehicles;
- if the animal is deceased, where safe to do so, and if physically possible, move the animal off to the side of the road as far away from the road edge as practical. This will prevent any further fauna strike to other animals feeding on the carcass. If it is not physically possible to move the animal (due to size, nature of impact or safety concerns), leave it in place, note the location of and report the event to the Supervisor on return to the work site or camp. The Supervisor is to report the strike to the Environment team who will record the event in the *Fauna Strike Register* (45860-HSE-REG-D-0001);
- if the animal is alive, and escapes into adjacent habitat, note the location of the impact and the report the strike to the Environment team;

- if the animal is alive but injured, first aid should be provided and the Environment team should be contacted. The animal should be taken to a Veterinarian for further assessment and treatment;
- if the animal is alive but too dangerous to assist (e.g., a raptor such as a Wedge-tailed Eagle), note the location and report the event to the Supervisor on return to the work site or camp. The supervisor is to report the strike to the Environment Team; and
- if the animal is deceased but has an orphan in the pouch, contact the Environment team who will seek advice from the project ecologist regarding the best way to remove, store and transport the orphaned fauna. If the joey's mouth is attached to the teat, do not try to detach them, but instead, if possible, take the deceased mother, or cut off the teat. Where possible and safe to do so, recover the animal, keep warm in blanket or towel and transport in an aerated box to the work site or camp. Personnel to report immediately to the supervisor who will report the strike to the Environment team who will complete the *Fauna Handling Record Sheet* (45860-HSE-FO-D-001) and manage the animal in accordance with advice from the project ecologist.

4.2 Transmission line bird strike/electrocution

There is the potential that birds may accidentally fly into powerlines in the project easement or they may perch on transmission lines and spread their wings causing potential electrocution. If during construction of the project, any birds are found to be impacted by the project itself (such as by the bypass line), they must be reported to the Supervisor. The Supervisor is to notify the Environment team and they would complete *Fauna Handling Record Sheet* (45860-HSE-FO-D-001) and manage the animal with project ecologists.

4.3 Livestock interactions

Refer to the *Livestock and Construction Conflict Management Procedure* (45860-HSE-PR-G-1007).

5 Specific handling requirements

5.1 Birds

General rescue approach for birds:

- where possible and safe to do so, gain access to nests using an elevated platform/ladder. Capture and remove any nestlings;
- place nestlings in cotton capture bags and assess for injuries. Store bags containing nestlings in a pet carrying cage or ventilated cardboard box. The animal container will be covered to reduce stress on the bird. Deliver to specialist wildlife carer; and
- if adult birds are captured, they will be released away from construction activities.

5.2 Ground dwelling mammals: Echidna

General rescue approach for echidnas:

- if echidnas are found within the construction zone or during habitat removal, they will need to be captured and relocated;
- dig echidna out by hand or carefully by shovel to the side of the echidna. The aim is to get a hand(s) beneath the echidna and to grasp a hind leg(s) and lift the echidna from the soil; and
- place in a dig-proof container, such as a ventilated plastic box or garbage bin. Captive echidnas will be kept in a cool, well ventilated location, out of direct sun. Uninjured echidnas will be translocated and released as soon as possible.

5.3 Ground dwelling mammals: Native rodents

General rescue approach for native rodents:

- capture rodents using a hand net; and
- once captured, rodents will be placed into a cloth capture bag, assessed and if not injured, retained until dusk and then released into appropriate habitat.

5.4 Ground dwelling mammals: Kangaroos, wombats and wallabies

General rescue approach for kangaroos, wallabies and wombats:

- if a macropod is within the construction zone, activities in the area which may impact the macropod may need to cease;
- in the event that a juvenile macropod is displaced (thrown from a pouch) and cannot be re-united with its parent, orphaned macropods will be taken to a vet or wildlife carer; and
- uninjured adults will be calmly ushered from construction zone (as required).

5.5 Reptiles: Snakes, lizards, turtles

General rescue approach for reptiles:

- reptiles will be captured by the project ecologist (when they are available) or with a person who is licensed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* to catch and release reptiles;
- snakes will only be captured and relocated if they present a potential threat to construction personnel or are likely to be harmed by the works. In most cases, snakes will attempt to move away from a disturbed area; and
- lizards will be released as soon as possible after capture into suitable habitat outside of the construction zone.

5.6 Amphibians: Frogs

General rescue approach for frogs:

- the capture and relocation of frogs require specific attention to minimise disease transmission. The following hygiene protocol applies:
 - capture, handling and housing of wild frogs will be minimised or avoided where possible;
 - single-use latex, nitrile or vinyl gloves or single-use plastic bags will be used when handling/capturing frogs (where available);
 - hand washing with 70% ethanol (allowing hands to dry) between handling individual frogs is acceptable if no gloves are available (note, repeated use on human skin is not recommended). Alcohol is toxic to frogs so hands must be washed thoroughly in water after treatment with alcohol;
 - each frog is to be housed separately in plastic zip lock bags (with air holes punched into the bag prior to frog capture). Bagged frogs are to be kept in a cool quiet location and released into suitable habitat at the earliest opportunity (immediate release ideal or release before night fall on the day of capture); and
 - plastic bag will not be re-used and are to be disposed of after a single use.

5.7 Arboreal mammals: Possums

General rescue approach for arboreal mammals:

- the project ecologist will be on site to inspect trees for possums that may need to be relocated;
- if possums are found during vegetation clearing, the project ecologist will determine if capture and relocation is warranted;
- possums will be captured either by hand or net and placed into a suitable cage;

- captured possums will be released at a location deemed suitable by the project ecologist; and
- in the event that juvenile possums/glidens are displaced and cannot be re-united their mother, they will be taken to an authorised wildlife shelter within the region.

5.8 Other mammals: Microbats

General rescue approach for microbats:

- there is potential for microbats to carry the Australian Bat Lyssavirus (a rabies like virus), a disease potentially fatal to humans. To reduce the risk of infection, only experienced and vaccinated personnel be authorised to handle microbats;
- the project ecologist is to be on site during the removal of vegetation and to inspect trees for microbats that may need to be relocated;
- microbats will be captured by hand using protective gloves;
- as soon as possible, captured microbats will be placed into a cloth bag hung vertically in a quiet, cool, dark place until released;
- all captured microbats will be relocated into adjacent suitable habitat; and
- in the event that a juvenile microbat is displaced and cannot be re-united with its parent, orphaned microbats will be taken to a vet or wildlife carer.

6 Contact details

The closest wildlife carer organisation to the clearing operations or construction activity will be contacted prior to the clearing operations to advise of any potential animals that may come into care and determine their available to assist with caring of injured or orphaned native wildlife if required.

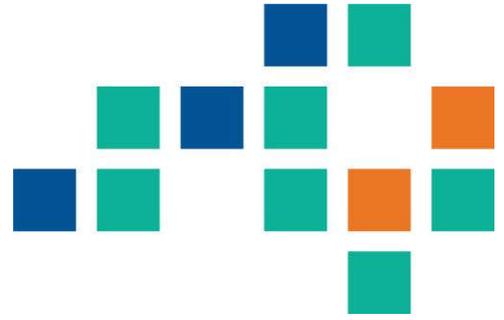
In the event that local wildlife carers are not available, the national WIRES contact number can be used to identify any other local qualified wildlife carers.

Table 6.1 - Contact details

| Role | Organisation | Location | State | Contact details |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------|--|
| Project Ecologist | ngh | Wagga Wagga | NSW | The contact details for the Project Ecologist will be retained by the project staff and available to personnel upon request. |
| Wildlife Carers | WIRES | National service utilising local volunteers | NSW | 1300 094 734 |
| Veterinary Clinic | Mildura Veterinary Hospital | 370 Deakin Ave, Mildura | VIC | (03) 5023 3838 |
| Veterinary Clinic | Wagga Wagga Veterinary Clinic | 132 Urana St, Turvey Park NSW | NSW | (02) 6926 0900 |
| Veterinary Clinic | Hay Veterinary Clinic | 379 Murray St, | NSW | (02) 6993 1861 |

Appendix D – Biosecurity Management Plan

INTERNAL



Biosecurity Management Plan

EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section)

45860-HSE-PL-D-0032

| REV | DATE | GENERAL DESCRIPTION | PREPARED | REVIEWED | VERIFIED | VERIFIED | APPROVED |
|-----|------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
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Abbreviations / Definitions

| Acronym | Definition |
|-------------------------|--|
| Amendment Report | <i>EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Amendment Report</i> |
| BC Act | <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> |
| Biosecurity duty | Biosecurity duty is defined in Part 4, Division 3, Section 30 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> (NSW) as: (1) A person who becomes aware of, or suspects, that a prohibited matter event has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur has a biosecurity duty to immediately notify the prohibited matter event in accordance with the requirements specified in the regulations. (2) A biosecurity duty arises under this Division only if the person— (a) is the owner, occupier or person in charge of, or has the care, custody or control of, premises, a carrier or other thing in relation to which the prohibited matter is present or suspected of being present, or (b) becomes aware of, or suspects, the occurrence of the prohibited matter event as a result of any consultation or other work carried out in relation to premises, a carrier or other thing in the person’s professional capacity, or (c) is a person of a class prescribed by the regulations. |
| Biosecurity matter | Biosecurity matter is defined in Section 10 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> (NSW) as: a) any living thing, other than human, or b) any part of an animal, plant or living thing, other than a human, or c) a product of a living thing, other than a human, or d) a disease, or e) a prion, or f) a contaminant, or g) a disease agent that can cause disease in a living thing (other than a human) or that can cause disease in a human via transmission from a non-human host to a human, or h) anything declared by the regulations to be biosecurity matter. |
| Final BDAR | Final <i>Biodiversity Development Assessment Report</i> (August 2021) |
| CEMP | Construction Environmental Management Plan |
| DECCW | Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (now Department of Environment, Energy and Science) |
| DPIE | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment |
| DPI | Department of Primary Industries |
| EIS | <i>EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Environmental Impact Statement</i> |
| EPBC Act | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> |
| HSSE | Health, Safety, Security and Environment |
| HSSE Manual | Health, Safety, Security and Environment Management Manual |
| IMS | Integrated Management System |
| KTP | Key Threatening Process |
| LGA | Local Government Area |
| LLS | Local Land Services |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| OEH | Office of Environment and Heritage (now Department of Environment, Energy and Science) |
| OJD | Ovine Johne’s Disease |
| Prohibited Matter Event | As per Section 31 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> (NSW): A prohibited matter event means— (a) the presence of biosecurity matter in a part of the State in which it is prohibited matter, or |

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| Acronym | Definition |
|--------------------|---|
| | (b) the introduction of biosecurity matter into a part of the State in which it is prohibited matter. |
| Project, the | EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) |
| RMM | Revised mitigation measures |
| SecureEnergy | Elecnor and Clough Projects Australia Pty Ltd have formed SecureEnergy. SecureEnergy is the contractor who will be carrying out the project on behalf of Transgrid. |
| Submissions Report | <i>EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Submissions Report</i> |
| WMS | Work Method Statement |
| WoNS | Weeds of National Significance |

1 Introduction

1.1 Context

This Biosecurity Management Plan (or plan) is an Appendix to the Biodiversity Management Plan which forms part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section).

This plan has been prepared to address the requirements of the Infrastructure Approval (SSI 10040), the *EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*, the *EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) Submissions Report (Submissions Report)*, *EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) Amendment Report (Amendment Report)* and the additional information letter dated 10 August 2021 (Response to DPIE Request for Information).

1.2 Purpose and objective

The key objective of the Biosecurity Management Plan (this plan) is to describe the management measures that will be implemented to ensure that biosecurity impacts are minimised and in accordance with the requirements of:

- the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*; and
- the Infrastructure Approval, EIS, Amendment Report and Response to DPIE Request for Information.

To achieve this the plan describes:

- the existing and potential weeds, pest animals and animal diseases identified within the study area during the preparation of the environmental assessment;
- the implementation of appropriate processes to manage the spread of weeds, pests and diseases; and
- how the implementation of practical measures will be undertaken prior to and during construction to avoid the introduction of new weeds and to minimise the spread of existing weeds.

2 Environmental requirements

2.1 Legislation

Legislation relevant to weed management is detailed within Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 – Relevant legislation and its application

| Legislation | Application |
|--|--|
| <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> (NSW) and <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2017</i> (NSW) | <p>The <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> (Biosecurity Act) and the <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2017</i> (NSW) provides for risk-based management of biosecurity in NSW. It provides a statutory framework to protect the NSW economy, environment and community from the negative impact of pests, diseases and weeds.</p> <p>The primary object of the Act is to provide a framework for the prevention, elimination and minimisation of biosecurity risks posed by biosecurity matter, dealing with biosecurity matter, carriers and potential carriers, and other activities that involve biosecurity matter.</p> <p>Under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> there is a general obligation on people to be aware of their surroundings and take action to prevent the introduction and spread of pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants, referred to as the general biosecurity duty under Part 3, section 22 of the Act.</p> <p>The Act also identifies Biosecurity Zones and imposes Biosecurity Control Orders. No weeds listed under the three applicable Biosecurity Zones or one listed under a Biosecurity Control Order were identified during field surveys, however provisions for their identification and management are included in this plan.</p> <p>In addition to the general biosecurity duty, the Biosecurity Act also identifies 'prohibited matter', which includes twenty-seven (27) weeds. It is an offence to deal with prohibited matter under the Act without a prohibited matter permit.</p> <p>As outlined in the Revised BDAR Section 5.3, two exotic flora species were recorded within the proposal study area during field surveys were listed in the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> as priority weeds for the Western Region (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2020).</p> <p>Both the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> (NSW) and the <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2017</i> (NSW) impose notification requirements on the landowner or the occupier to report to the Department of Primary Industries or the local council (Wentworth Shire Council) of biosecurity events, prohibited matters or notifiable weeds, pests and diseases. These are discussed further in Section 5 of this plan.</p> <p>Biosecurity control orders may also be in place as part of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>. A control order can prohibit or control the doing of anything, subject to certain limitations, to prevent the introduction or eradicate a biosecurity matter that poses a biosecurity risk. Control measures may include requirements to take, or not to take, any action necessary to prevent, eliminate, minimise or manage the biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact.</p> |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (NSW) (BC Act) | <p>Key Threatening Processes (KTPs) as outlined under Division 5 of the BC Act are discussed in Section 9.10 of the Revised BDAR. A number of weeds are identified as Key Threatening Processes (KTPs) under Division 5 of the BC Act (list provided in Schedule 4 of the Act). None of those listed in Schedule 4 of the Act, have been identified in the project area.</p> |
| <i>Pesticides Act 1999</i> (NSW) | <p>It is an offence under this act to wilfully or negligently use pesticides in a manner that may harm humans, animals or property or threaten endangered, vulnerable or protected species outlined under the BC Act.</p> |
| <i>Pesticides Regulation 2017</i> (NSW) | <p>Specifies that pesticides used in an occupational setting may only be used by qualified persons and that a Pesticide Use Notification Plan must be prepared and implemented when use of pesticides occurs on public lands such as rail corridors. The plan must include public consultation requirements of this regulation.</p> |

2.2 Conditions of Approval

The conditions of the Infrastructure Approval relevant to biosecurity management are detailed in Table 2.2 in bold, italicised text.

Table 2.2 – Conditions relevant to biosecurity management

| Condition | Requirement | Where addressed |
|-----------|---|--|
| D28 | <p>The Biodiversity CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include:</p> <p>a) a description of the measures that would be implemented for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimising the amount of native vegetation clearing within the approved development footprint; • minimising the loss of key fauna habitat, including tree hollows; • minimising the impacts on fauna on site, including undertaking pre-clearance surveys; • minimising the potential indirect impacts on threatened flora and fauna species, migratory species and 'at risk' species; • rehabilitating and revegetating disturbance areas; • protecting native vegetation and key fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance area; • maximising the salvage of resources within the approved disturbance area – including vegetative and soil resources – for beneficial reuse (such as fauna habitat enhancement) during the rehabilitation and revegetation of the site; • controlling weeds; • controlling erosion; and • bushfire management; <p>b) details of the Proponent's commitment to make a one off \$150,000 funding contribution targeted at further scientific study into the impacts of electric and magnetic fields on birds in Australia;</p> <p>c) preparation and implementation of a two year bird impact monitoring program at the commencement of operations; and</p> <p>d) a detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures.</p> | This document and the Biodiversity Management Plan |

2.3 Revised mitigation measures

The revised mitigation measures (RMMs) are defined in Appendix G of the Additional Information (August 2021). The RMMs relevant to biosecurity for the project are presented in Table 2.3 below. The RMMs provided below are extracts from the Additional Information (August 2021). The management measures that will be implemented for the project are provided in Section 4 and Section 5 of this plan.

Table 2.3 – Revised mitigation measures relevant to biosecurity management

| Reference | Revised mitigation measures | Where addressed |
|-----------|---|------------------------|
| LP2 | <p>The locations of transmission line structures, (other permanent structures and the extents of associated construction areas or compounds) will be located where possible to avoid or minimise impacts, or as agreed with the affected landholder, on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cropping and irrigated horticultural land • areas used for set up and pack up of agricultural equipment, entry points and turning areas • radiocommunication sensitive areas • drainage catchments for farm dams • locations of high biosecurity risk. | Section 5 Table 5.1 |
| LP7 | <p>Biosecurity controls will be implemented during construction to minimise the risk of off-site transport or spread of disease, pests or weeds. Controls will include (but not be limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inspections and cleaning of vehicles, machinery, and personal equipment prior to movement on and off the construction work areas or between properties | Section 5 Table 5.1 |

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| Reference | Revised mitigation measures | Where addressed |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimising movements across adjoining farmland including trip numbers and locations additional measures where localised areas of high biosecurity risks have been identified. <p>The specific controls applicable to a property will be identified in consultation with the affected landholder. The effectiveness of these controls will be regularly monitored.</p> | |
| LP8 | Where present, weeds will be managed in consultation with Western Local Land Services (LLS), Wentworth Shire Council and NSW Department of Primary Industries. | Section 5 Table 5.1 |
| LP9 | In the event of new infestations of notifiable weeds as a result of construction activities, the relevant control authority will be notified as per <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2017</i> . | Section 5.5 Table 5.1 |

2.4 Guidelines

The guidelines within Table 2.4 were considered in the development and implementation of this plan.

Table 2.4 – Relevant guidelines

| Guideline / Strategy | Application |
|---|--|
| Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022 | <p>Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans have been developed for eleven regions of NSW. The Plans provide guidance on the outcomes required to discharge the duty for managing weeds under the Biosecurity Act.</p> <p>The Western Regional Strategic Plan is applicable to the Project area and lists priority weed species as determined by NSW Department of Primary Industries and includes regional management measures for priority weeds. For each priority weed, the management objective and specific requirements for management is included. Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the General Biosecurity Duty are identified for each regional priority weed species and recommended measures that will assist in the achievement of these outcomes.</p> <p>Weeds listed in the Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan that occur or have the potential to occur in the project area are discussed in Section 3 of this plan.</p> |
| National Weeds Strategy 2017-2027 | <p>Identifies thirty-two (32) introduced plants as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS). These weeds are regarded as a current priority and future weed threat to Australia because of their invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Two (2) WoNS were identified in the project area and another fourteen (14) identified as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project area.</p> <p>The Strategy also identifies twenty-eight (28) introduced plants as National Environmental Alert Weeds. These weeds are in the early stages of establishment and have the potential to become a significant threat to biodiversity if they are not managed.</p> <p>No National Environmental Alert weeds were identified in the project area.</p> |
| NSW <i>Invasive Species Plan 2018-2021</i> (DPI, 2018a). | <p>The plan adopts four goals for managing invasive species (including weeds):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exclude – prevent the establishment of new invasive species. 2. Eradicate or contain – eliminate or prevent the spread of new invasive species. 3. Effectively manage – reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species. 4. Capacity building – ensure NSW has the ability and commitment to manage invasive species. <p>This plan will aim to align with the relevant first three main goals of preventing the establishment of new invasive species and containing invasive species in areas directly impacted by construction as outlined in Sections 4 and 5 of this plan.</p> |
| <i>Western Local Land Services Region Priority Weed Identification Guide</i> (May 2020) | <p>The guide has been developed as an easy to use resource to assist land managers and members of the general community to identify high priority weeds.</p> <p>It is not intended to provide detailed information on each species and their control.</p> <p>Notification details are also provided within the guide for the identified priority weeds.</p> |

3 Existing environment

The following section summarises existing known weed, pest animal and pathogen species within and adjacent to the project based on the information contained in Chapter 12 and Technical Paper 3 (Agricultural land impact assessment) of the EIS, and the Final BDAR.

3.1 Weeds

The Far West region of NSW has the potential to effectively manage biosecurity risks due to its separation from major populations and intensive agricultural industries, and as its semi-arid climate, which is challenging for exotic animals and plants to survive. The EIS found that the project area has relatively few examples of widespread introduced species of weeds in the areas surveyed for the biodiversity assessment.

The EIS identified 35 species of weeds that are known or likely to be located in the project area, including:

- weeds under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* including:
 - two weeds which are listed as priority weeds for the Western Region and are also listed as Weeds of National Significance;
 - six species of weeds recorded during property inspections undertaken in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (DPI, 2020);
- 11 species that are identified as regional priority weeds on the *Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022* (Western LLS, 2017);
- one state priority weed – Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*);
- four weeds that were specifically mentioned as problematic weeds by landholders and the Wentworth Shire Council biosecurity officer: Khaki weed, caltrops, thornapple and onionweed; and
- Noogoora burr and Bathurst burr, which can be a problem in irrigation fields and contaminate wool.

3.1.1 Weeds under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*

As identified in Section 5.3 of the Final BDAR, there are two exotic species that were recorded in the project area and are listed as priority weeds and Weeds of National Significance. These species are:

- African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*); and
- Prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.).

The EIS Technical Paper 3 (Agricultural land impact assessment), reported weeds recorded by authorised officers during property inspections under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (DPI, 2020b):

- Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*);
- Common pear (*Opuntia stricta*);
- Burr ragweed (*Ambrosia confertiflora*);
- Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*);
- Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia rosea*); and
- African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) (also listed as a priority weed above).

3.1.2 Weeds under the former *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*

Under the former *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* the following weeds were declared noxious in the Wentworth Shire local government area (LGA):

Class 4 (Locally controlled weeds)

- Rope pear (*Cylindropuntia imbricata*);
- Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia rosea*); and
- Prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.)

Class 5 (Restricted plant)

- Athel pine (*Tamarix* spp.);
- Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*); and
- Willows (*Salix* spp.).

3.1.3 State priority weeds

As outlined in EIS Technical Paper 3 (Agricultural land impact assessment), the only state priority weed which may be present in the vicinity of the proposal study area is Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) (DPI, 2000c).

3.1.4 Other weeds identified in the EIS

The *Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022* (LLS, 2017) identifies regional priority weeds, some of which may be present in the vicinity of the proposal study area (DPI, 2000c), as follows:

- Boxing glove/coral cactus (*Cylindropuntia fulgida*);
- Burr ragweed (*Ambrosia confertiflora*);
- Clock weed (*Oenothera curtiflora*);
- Willow rhus (*Searsia lancea*);
- Giant reed (*Arundo donax*);
- Silver-leaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*);
- African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*);
- Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*);
- Rope pear (*Cylindropuntia imbricata*);
- Prickly pear; (*Opuntia* spp. excl *Opuntia ficus-indica*) and
- Spiny burrgrass (*Cenchrus* spp.)

The weeds identified as likely to be present across the study area, and legislation or document under which they were identified are listed in Table 3.1 with images of the weeds included in Appendix B. In addition to priority weeds and Weeds of National Significance the following environmental weeds were also recorded in the ecological surveys to support the EIS:

- *Asphodelus fistulosus* (onion weed);
- *Emex australis* (Spiny Emex);
- *Marrubium vulgare* (Horehound);
- *Nicotiana glauca* (Tree Tobacco);
- *Onopordum acaulon* (Stemless Thistle);
- *Tribulus terrestris* (Cat-head); and
- *Xanthium occidentale* (Noogoora Burr).

Table 3.1 – Weeds, pests and pathogens known or potentially occurring in the study area

Note regarding General Biosecurity Duty and Prohibited matter

Where identified (refer to table below) plants are regulated with a *general biosecurity duty* (GBD) to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Weeds identified as *Prohibited matter* means that the plant (or any parts of the plant) must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.

| Species Name Common name | Weeds identified in project area or likely in vicinity | | | | Weed Category | | Biosecurity Act 2015 and WRSW MP Requirements | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| | Identified during EIS field surveys | DECCW reported weeds in region | Landowners / DPI / LLS / Council weeds in vicinity | Other environmental / agricultural weeds in vicinity | State or Regional Priority Weed | Weed of National Significance | General Biosecurity Duty applies | Prohibited matter | Notification to Local Control Authority required if identified / found | Species Specific biosecurity duty for Priority Weeds in NSW and/or Western LLS Region |
| <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> African boxthorn | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.</p> <p>Regional Recommended Measure Land managers mitigate the risk of the plant spreading from their land. Land managers reduce impact of plant on priority assets (riparian areas and floodplains).</p> |
| <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> Parthenium weed | | | | | | | | | | <p>Prohibited Matter A person who deals with prohibited matter or a carrier of prohibited matter is guilty of an offence. A person who becomes aware of or suspects the presence of prohibited matter must immediately notify the Department of Primary Industries</p> <p>Prohibition on certain dealings The following equipment <u>must not be imported into NSW from Queensland</u>: grain harvesters (including the comb or front), comb trailers (including the comb or front), bins used for holding grain during harvest operations, augers or similar for moving grain, vehicles used to transport grain harvesters, support vehicles driven in paddocks during harvest operations, mineral exploration drilling rigs and vehicles used to transport those rigs, unless set out as an exception in Division 5, Part 2 of the <i>Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities) 2017</i>.</p> |

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| Species Name Common name | Weeds identified in project area or likely in vicinity | | | | Weed Category | | Biosecurity Act 2015 and WRSW MP Requirements | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| | Identified during EIS field surveys | DECCW reported weeds in region | Landowners / DPI / LLS / Council weeds in vicinity | Other environmental / agricultural weeds in vicinity | State or Regional Priority Weed | Weed of National Significance | General Biosecurity Duty applies | Prohibited matter | Notification to Local Control Authority required if identified / found | Species Specific biosecurity duty for Priority Weeds in NSW and/or Western LLS Region |
| | | | | | | | | | | <p>Note from Western Local Land Services Weed Identification Guide</p> <p>Parthenium weed is not currently present in the Western Local Land Services region.</p> |
| <i>Tamarix spp.</i> Athel pine | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings</p> <p>Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.</p> |
| <i>Xanthium spinosa</i> Bathurst burr | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> Alligator weed | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings</p> <p>Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.</p> <p>Biosecurity Zone</p> <p>The Alligator Weed Biosecurity Zone is established for all land within the state except land in the following regions: Greater Sydney; Hunter (but only in the local government areas of City of Lake Macquarie, City of Maitland, City of Newcastle or Port Stephens).</p> <p>The local control authority must be notified of any new infestations of this weed within the Biosecurity Zone.</p> <p>Note from Western Local Land Services Region Priority Weed Identification Guide:</p> <p>Alligator weed is not currently present in the Western Local Land Services region; however there are infestations further upstream in the Murray and Murrumbidgee catchments.</p> |
| <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> Water hyacinth | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings</p> <p>Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.</p> <p>Biosecurity Zone</p> <p>The Water Hyacinth Biosecurity Zone applies to all land within the State, except for the following regions: Greater Sydney or North Coast, North West (but only the local government area of Moree Plains), Hunter (but only in the local government areas of City of Cessnock, City of Lake Macquarie, MidCoast, City of Maitland, City of Newcastle</p> |

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| Species Name Common name | Weeds identified in project area or likely in vicinity | | | | Weed Category | | Biosecurity Act 2015 and WRSW MP Requirements | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|---|
| | Identified during EIS field surveys | DECCW reported weeds in region | Landowners / DPI / LLS / Council weeds in vicinity | Other environmental / agricultural weeds in vicinity | State or Regional Priority Weed | Weed of National Significance | General Biosecurity Duty applies | Prohibited matter | Notification to Local Control Authority required if identified / found | Species Specific biosecurity duty for Priority Weeds in NSW and/or Western LLS Region |
| | | | | | | | | | | <p>or Port Stephens), South East (but only in the local government areas of Eurobodalla, Kiama, City of Shellharbour, City of Shoalhaven or City of Wollongong).</p> <p>The local control authority must be notified of any new infestations of this weed within the Biosecurity Zone</p> <p>Regional Recommended Measure</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. Notify local control authority if found.</p> |
| <p><i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. rotunda</i> Bitou bush</p> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.</p> <p>Biosecurity Zone The Bitou Bush Biosecurity Zone is established for all land within the State except land within 10 kilometres of the mean high water mark of the Pacific Ocean between Cape Byron in the north and Point Perpendicular in the south. The local control authority must be notified of any new infestations of this weed within the Biosecurity Zone</p> |
| <p><i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera</i> Boneseed</p> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.</p> <p>Control Order - Boneseed Control Zone: Whole of NSW Owners and occupiers of land on which there is boneseed must notify the local control authority of new infestations. A person who deals with a carrier of boneseed must ensure the plant (and any seed and propagules) is not moved from the land; and immediately notify the local control authority of the presence of the plant.</p> |
| <p><i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i> Boxing glove/coral cactus</p> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.</p> <p>Regional Recommended Measure Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. The plant should not be</p> |

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| Species Name Common name | Weeds identified in project area or likely in vicinity | | | | Weed Category | | Biosecurity Act 2015 and WRSW MP Requirements | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| | Identified during EIS field surveys | DECCW reported weeds in region | Landowners / DPI / LLS / Council weeds in vicinity | Other environmental / agricultural weeds in vicinity | State or Regional Priority Weed | Weed of National Significance | General Biosecurity Duty applies | Prohibited matter | Notification to Local Control Authority required if identified / found | Species Specific biosecurity duty for Priority Weeds in NSW and/or Western LLS Region |
| | | | | | | | | | | bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. Notify local control authority if found. |
| <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> Bridal creeper | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings: Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale. *this requirement also applies to the Western Cape form of bridal creeper</p> <p>Regional Recommended Measure: Land managers mitigate the risk of the plant spreading from their land. Land managers reduce impact of plant on priority assets (riparian areas and commercial horticultural areas).</p> |
| <i>Ambrosia confertiflora</i> Burr ragweed | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <p>Regional Recommended Measure Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. Notify local control authority if found.</p> |
| <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> Caltrops or Cat-head | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | NA |
| <i>Oenothera curtiflora</i> Clock weed | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | <p>Regional Recommended Measure Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Note from Western LLS Region Priority Weed Guide Land managers should notify their local shire council or Western Local Land Services immediately if they have found or suspect that clockweed is present on their land. Minor use permits currently exist for a small number of herbicides if larger infestations are encountered.</p> |
| <i>Opuntia spp.</i> Prickly pears | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale. For all <i>Opuntia</i> species except for <i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> (Indian fig).</p> |

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| Species Name Common name | Weeds identified in project area or likely in vicinity | | | | Weed Category | | Biosecurity Act 2015 and WRSW MP Requirements | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| | Identified during EIS field surveys | DECCW reported weeds in region | Landowners / DPI / LLS / Council weeds in vicinity | Other environmental / agricultural weeds in vicinity | State or Regional Priority Weed | Weed of National Significance | General Biosecurity Duty applies | Prohibited matter | Notification to Local Control Authority required if identified / found | Species Specific biosecurity duty for Priority Weeds in NSW and/or Western LLS Region |
| | | | | | | | | | | <p>Regional Recommended Measure Land managers mitigate the risk of the plant spreading from their land. Land managers mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment. This Regional Recommended Measure applies to all species of <i>Opuntia</i> except for <i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> (Indian fig). <u>Related species:</u> Aaron's beard prickly pear Blind cactus Bunny ears cactus Chicken dance cactus Common pear Smooth tree pear Tiger pear Velvety tree pear Wheel cactus</p> |
| <i>Opuntia stricta</i> Common pear | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale. Regional Recommended Measure Land managers mitigate the risk of the plant spreading from their land. Land managers mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment. Land managers reduced impact of the plant on priority assets (grazing, conservation and urban areas). Note from Western LLS Region Priority Weed Guide Land managers with infestations can contact Western Local Land Services to organise a release of biocontrol agents, which will kill the plants over time. Isolated plants can be dug up and then buried or burned, or treated with a herbicide registered for that purpose. Land managers should take measures that reduce impact of prickly pear on</p> |

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| Species Name Common name | Weeds identified in project area or likely in vicinity | | | | Weed Category | | Biosecurity Act 2015 and WRSW MP Requirements | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| | Identified during EIS field surveys | DECCW reported weeds in region | Landowners / DPI / LLS / Council weeds in vicinity | Other environmental / agricultural weeds in vicinity | State or Regional Priority Weed | Weed of National Significance | General Biosecurity Duty applies | Prohibited matter | Notification to Local Control Authority required if identified / found | Species Specific biosecurity duty for Priority Weeds in NSW and/or Western LLS Region |
| | | | | | | | | | | grazing lands, conservation areas and urban areas and mitigate the risk of the plant spreading to other properties. |
| <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> Fountain grass (also identified as <i>Cenchrus setaceus</i>) | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Arundo donax</i> Giant reed | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | <p>Regional Recommended Measure</p> <p>Exclusion zone: whole region except for the core infestation area of Wentworth Shire Council</p> <p>Wentworth Shire Council Area</p> <p>Land managers within the core infestation area (the Wentworth Shire Council) should take measures that reduce impact of giant reed on riparian areas and mitigate the risk of the plant spreading to other properties. Land managers in all other areas of the region should destroy all plants found and ensure any subsequent generations are also destroyed.</p> <p>Whole region: Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment.</p> |
| <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> Horehound | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Cylindropuntia rosea</i> Hudson pear | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings</p> <p>Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.</p> <p>Regional Recommended Measure</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. Notify local control authority if found.</p> |
| <i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i> Rope pear | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | <p>Prohibition on certain dealings:</p> <p>Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.</p> <p>All species in the <i>Cylindropuntia</i> genus have this requirement.</p> |

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EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Biosecurity Management Plan

| Species Name Common name | Weeds identified in project area or likely in vicinity | | | | Weed Category | | Biosecurity Act 2015 and WRSW MP Requirements | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|---|
| | Identified during EIS field surveys | DECCW reported weeds in region | Landowners / DPI / LLS / Council weeds in vicinity | Other environmental / agricultural weeds in vicinity | State or Regional Priority Weed | Weed of National Significance | General Biosecurity Duty applies | Prohibited matter | Notification to Local Control Authority required if identified / found | Species Specific biosecurity duty for Priority Weeds in NSW and/or Western LLS Region |
| | | | | | | | | | | Regional Recommended Measure Land managers should mitigate spread from their land. Land managers reduce impact of plant on priority assets (grazing conservation and urban areas). The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. |
| <i>Alternanthera pungens</i> Khaki weed | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Prosopis spp.</i> Mesquite | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | Prohibition on certain dealings Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale. All species in the genus <i>Prosopis</i> have this requirement Regional Recommended Measure Exclusion zone: whole region except for the core infestation area of Evelyn, Yantara, Mootwingee, Yancowinna, Menindee, Tandora, Livingstone and Windeyer counties Whole region: Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. |
| <i>Xanthium occidentale</i> Noogoora burr | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i> Onion weed | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> Silver-leaf nightshade | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | Prohibition on certain dealings Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale. Regional Recommended Measure Land managers mitigate the risk of the plant spreading from their land. Land managers reduce impact of plant on priority assets (dryland farming areas). |
| <i>Cenchrus spp.</i> Spiny burgrass | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | Regional Recommended Measure Land managers mitigate the risk of the plant spreading from their land. Land managers reduce impact of plant on |

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EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Biosecurity Management Plan

| Species Name Common name | Weeds identified in project area or likely in vicinity | | | | Weed Category | | Biosecurity Act 2015 and WRSW MP Requirements | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| | Identified during EIS field surveys | DECCW reported weeds in region | Landowners / DPI / LLS / Council weeds in vicinity | Other environmental / agricultural weeds in vicinity | State or Regional Priority Weed | Weed of National Significance | General Biosecurity Duty applies | Prohibited matter | Notification to Local Control Authority required if identified / found | Species Specific biosecurity duty for Priority Weeds in NSW and/or Western LLS Region |
| Note two species listed as Priority Weeds for Western LLS Region: <i>Cenchrus longissimus</i> and <i>Cenchrus spinifex</i> syn. <i>Cenchrus incertus</i>) | | | | | | | | | | priority assets (commercial horticultural areas, grazing lands and conservation areas). The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment. |
| <i>Datura spp.</i> Thornapple | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Searsia lancea</i> Willow rhus | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | Regional Recommended Measure Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. Notify local control authority if found. |
| <i>Salix spp.</i> Willows | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | Prohibition on certain dealings Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale. All species in the <i>Salix</i> genus have this requirement, except <i>Salix babylonica</i> (weeping willows), <i>Salix x calodendron</i> (pussy willow) and <i>Salix x reichardtii</i> (sterile pussy willow). |
| <i>Emex australis</i> (now re-named as <i>Rumex hypogaeus</i>) Spiny emex (Also known as: cathead, doublegee, prickly jacks, three-cornered jacks) | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> Tree Tobacco | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Brassica tournefortii</i> Wild / Mediterranean turnip | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | Noted as Herbicide resistant weed in Additional species of concern Appendix 2 Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022 |

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EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Biosecurity Management Plan

| Species Name Common name | Weeds identified in project area or likely in vicinity | | | | Weed Category | | Biosecurity Act 2015 and WRSW MP Requirements | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| | Identified during EIS field surveys | DECCW reported weeds in region | Landowners / DPI / LLS / Council weeds in vicinity | Other environmental / agricultural weeds in vicinity | State or Regional Priority Weed | Weed of National Significance | General Biosecurity Duty applies | Prohibited matter | Notification to Local Control Authority required if identified / found | Species Specific biosecurity duty for Priority Weeds in NSW and/or Western LLS Region |
| <i>Carrichtera annua</i> Ward's weed | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | Noted as 'other' in Additional species of concern Appendix 2 Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022 |
| <i>Echium plantagineum</i> Paterson's Curse | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Onopordum acaulon</i> Stemless thistle | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | NA |
| <i>Hordeum glaucum</i> Barley Grass | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | Noted as Herbicide resistant weed in Additional species of concern Appendix 2 Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022. |
| <i>Limonium lobatum</i> Winged sea lavender | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | Noted as 'other' in Additional species of concern Appendix 2 Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022. |
| <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> Common sow thistle | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | Noted as Herbicide resistant weed in Additional species of concern Appendix 2 Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022. |
| Vertebrate Pests • rabbits; • foxes; • kangaroos; • goats; • wild dogs; • feral pigs; and • feral cats. | | | ✓ | | | | | | | NA Where identified property owners will be advised as a courtesy. |
| Sheep Footrot | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | The occurrence of sheep footrot in the vicinity of the proposal study area has been low in recent years. DPI (2016) reported no flocks were quarantined for footrot in either March 2014 or December 2015. Duty to Notify There is a duty to notify any awareness or suspicion of notifiable matter or a biosecurity event. The duty to notify is detailed in the Biosecurity Act 2015 (Sections 30 and 38) and the Biosecurity Regulation 2019 (clause 7). |

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EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Biosecurity Management Plan

| Species Name Common name | Weeds identified in project area or likely in vicinity | | | | Weed Category | | Biosecurity Act 2015 and WRSW MP Requirements | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|---|
| | Identified during EIS field surveys | DECCW reported weeds in region | Landowners / DPI / LLS / Council weeds in vicinity | Other environmental / agricultural weeds in vicinity | State or Regional Priority Weed | Weed of National Significance | General Biosecurity Duty applies | Prohibited matter | Notification to Local Control Authority required if identified / found | Species Specific biosecurity duty for Priority Weeds in NSW and/or Western LLS Region |
| Ovine Johne's disease | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | The landowners consulted confirmed that footrot and OJD has not been a significant problem in the past and is unlikely to readily spread in the proposal study area. Duty to Notify There is a duty to notify any awareness or suspicion of notifiable matter or a biosecurity event. The duty to notify is detailed in the Biosecurity Act 2015 (Sections 30 and 38) and the <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2019</i> (clause 7). |
| Potato Biosecurity Zone | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | The potato biosecurity zone restricts the movement of any potato biosecurity matter into the potato biosecurity zone. |
| Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area | | | | | | | ✓ | | | There is a ban on bringing fresh fruit and vegetables into the Pest Free Area (including Wentworth LGA) to ensure that the area remains pest free, there is a ban on bringing fresh fruit and vegetables into the area. |
| Phylloxera Exclusion Zone | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | The project area is included with the Phylloxera Exclusion Zone and is related to the movement of grapes, grapevine plant material and soil / organic materials from vineyards that are within Infestation and Risk Zones coming into the Exclusion area. The project area is not within any current Infested Zone or Risk Zone. Not generally applicable to project activities, however, Phylloxera can be transported on machinery and vehicles. |

The above table has been compiled by cross referencing the following information:

Appendix D Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report

EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Technical Paper 3: Agricultural land impact assessment

Appendices C-2 and C-3 *EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) Technical paper 1 – Biodiversity Development Assessment Report*

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/722391/Western-RSWMP-web.pdf

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/WeedListPublics/CategoryResults?showImages=True&categoryId=1&pageTitle=Weeds%20of%20National%20Significance>

Western Local Land Services Region Priority Weed Identification Guide (DPI LLS, May 2020)

Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022 (DPI LLS May 2017)

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3.2 Pest animal species

The EIS advised that during consultation, local landholders and the Western Local Land Services (LLS) biosecurity officer identified the following main vertebrate pest species in the area:

- rabbits;
- foxes;
- kangaroos;
- goats;
- wild dogs;
- feral pigs; and
- feral cats.

Common carp is also present throughout all major river systems in the Western LLS region (Western LLS, 2018). Plague locusts can also cause problems in favourable seasons.

It is important to note that goats and pigs can pose significant biosecurity, economic and social threats to the Western region as they can transmit endemic and exotic disease.

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water reported that feral donkeys and deer were increasing in abundance in the Lower Murray Darling region, but numbers were still at low levels.

3.3 Potential animal diseases

The EIS Technical Paper 3 concluded that the occurrence of sheep footrot has been low in recent years with only one flock out of 861 flocks being quarantined in 2015.

The study area is in a “low prevalence area” of Ovine Johne’s disease (OJD) in 2011 with an estimated infected flock proportion of less than 0.8 per cent (DPI, 2011). No known OJD infections were reported during landowner consultations.

Landowners confirmed the above-mentioned diseases have not been an issue in the past and are unlikely to spread, however stock movement due to the drought could increase their incidence.

Horticultural enterprises are particularly susceptible to plant diseases and pests. Parts of the study area are located in plant quarantine zones including the:

- Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area - aimed at preventing the entry of the Queensland fruit fly by banning certain fruit and vegetables from entering the area;
- Phylloxera Exclusion Zone - bans taking grapevines, cuttings or budwood into this zone;
- Potato Biosecurity Zone - bans the movement of plants belonging to the Solanaceae family and associated matter into this zone.

It is unlikely that the proposed activities will introduce any prohibited matter in relation the above potential animal and pest diseases.

4 Biosecurity risks and impacts

There are risks that animal diseases, plant diseases, feral pests and (especially) weeds could be introduced or spread during the construction of the proposal through vegetation clearing, ground disturbance and vehicle, machinery or construction personnel movements. Soil borne biosecurity hazards could also be spread by soil erosion and water runoff associated with construction works.

These risks are identified within the Environmental Aspect and Impact Register within Appendix A3 of the CEMP.

4.1 Risk of weed spread

The risk of weed spread is generally highest during the earthworks phase of construction, due to the high frequency of vehicle movements and disturbance of ground cover and soil, which could lead to weed growth. Some species of weeds are readily spread by vehicles, machinery and human activity, including cactuses, spiny burrgrass, khaki weed, Noogoora burr and Bathurst burr.

Biosecurity incidents (as defined in Section 5) have the potential to impact surrounding agricultural enterprises due to the costs of monitoring pests, weeds or diseases and implementing control measures as well as the reduced income caused by loss of livestock, crop or pasture production and lower produce quality.

To minimise the risk of biosecurity incidents occurring due to construction, mitigation measures would be implemented to avoid the spread of weeds. In addition, the study area lies within the biosecurity zones for alligator weed, bitou bush and water hyacinth (as per the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*), which means that the local control authority would need to be notified of a new infestation of the weeds as well as action undertaken by the contractor to eradicate, destroy or suppress the weeds.

4.2 Risk of livestock disease / pathogens

There is the potential for livestock diseases to be spread during construction of the proposal including:

- ovine footrot, which is an important risk despite its low current prevalence due to the relative ease of its spread and economic consequences due to impacts to stock health, productivity and value, as well as disease control costs
- ovine Johne's disease, which can result in significant economic losses due to sheep deaths, lost meat production, fewer lambs and less wool
- sheep lice, which can cause significant losses in sheep enterprises due to treatment costs, reduced wool growth and lower meat production.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* Schedule 1, ovine footrot and Ovine Johne's disease are notifiable diseases.

However, considering the low density livestock and low prevalence of disease in the area, the overall risk of spreading these livestock diseases during construction is low.

4.3 Risk of other pests

The most significant pest animals in the vicinity of the proposal study area are pigs, foxes and rabbits, which may result in economic impacts on livestock and crop enterprises due to lamb predation, fence damage or consumption of pasture and crops. However, construction activities are unlikely to significantly change the number or movement patterns of these pests.

5 Weed pest and pathogen management

The management of weeds is based on managing the risk of introducing new weeds to any project work areas during the construction phase due to project activities.

Safeguards and management measures will be implemented to avoid, minimise or manage impacts from the introduction and spread of weeds. These are summarised in Table 5.1 below.

5.1 Training and awareness

Construction personnel and subcontractors will be inducted in the importance of preventing weeds from entering the project and the measures which must be taken for vehicles, machinery and plant used on the project.

5.2 Vehicle and mobile equipment weed hygiene when arriving on the project

In order to minimise the risk of any new weeds being introduced to the project, vehicles, and mobile plant shall be inspected on arrival at the construction compounds by the SecureEnergy Plant Department (or their delegate). In accordance with project onboarding obligations, vehicle, plant and equipment hygiene inspection forms will be completed by suppliers prior to arrival on the project and presented to the Plant Department (or their delegate). If a Hygiene Inspection Form is not present or completed prior to arrival, one will be completed by the deliverer prior to inspection. If the vehicle, plant or equipment does not present clean, it will either be washed down at a site compound or be removed off the project and cleaned by the supplier at a suitable facility. A Hygiene Inspection Form shall be completed (refer to **Appendix A – Hygiene Inspection Form**). This form is an example form that may be amended during project delivery as required.

Vehicle or plant inspected will be assigned an identification number and this identification number will be used on vehicle washdown log sheets.

A copy of the Hygiene Inspection Form is to be retained on the project files and / or provided to a member of the Environmental Team.

5.3 Management of weeds, pests and or pathogens

Washdown bays will be established at designated points along the project and at compounds. Washdown bays will contain apparatus to clean vehicles, plant, equipment and footwear. The location of washdown bays will be dependent on the biosecurity risks identified in that location and confirmed with the affected landholder in the Property Management Plans referred to in Section 5.4 below. Water from washdown bays will drain to a contained sump/low point and materials (sediments) from washdown bays will be contained and disposed of in accordance with the *Waste Management Plan*.

5.4 Property Management Plans

All properties affected by the project area will have a Property Management Plan and where relevant will contain specific 'on-farm' biosecurity requirements.

Appropriate demarcation or signage (similar to below) will be installed in areas identified as having biosecurity risks or requirements as outlined in the in the Property Management plans. Figure 5.1 shows a sample Farm Biosecurity signage that is installed by property owners to indicate that a property has biosecurity requirements and/or an existing Biosecurity Management Plan. Please note that not all property owners may have this sign installed.



Figure 5.1 – Example signage advising that farm biosecurity measures exist

5.5 Incident notification

A biosecurity incident on the project means the detection of a terrestrial contaminant or terrestrial species on freight, people, plant, or equipment on the project which was not previously identified in the EIS. This would include a situation where there are weed species which were not previously identified in the EIS and are suspected to be spread to new locations as a result of project activities. This would exclude weeds which might be detected on properties or previously known locations (adjacent to or in the study area), that are distant from project activities. In the event of a biosecurity incident which has occurred as a result of construction activities, the process outlined in Section 8.2 of the CEMP will be implemented. Incident management and response will be undertaken in accordance with the incident reporting procedures detailed within the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

There are several instances that require notification in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*. These include the requirement to notify a biosecurity event and the requirement to notify a certain pest or disease.

Notification requirements with respect to biosecurity matters are detailed below.

5.5.1 Notifiable biosecurity events and prohibited matter events

In accordance with Section 39 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Act), a biosecurity event is something that has, is having, or could have, a significant biosecurity impact.

In terms of the Act, a biosecurity event does not involve prohibited matter. For example, a biosecurity event could be the sudden death of a flock of birds or a herd of cattle.

Prohibited matter is defined as any species listed in Schedule 2 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. Schedule 2 includes pests and diseases of plants and animals, diseases of aquatic animals, pest terrestrial invertebrates, terrestrial and freshwater weeds, and aquatic pests. Examples include the diseases African swine fever, foot and mouth disease, Hendra virus and the pest species Siam weed and rubber vine. If any of these are identified on the project site by project ecologists or informed by Property Owners, during construction delivery of the project, the SecureEnergy Environmental Manager would notify Transgrid and Department of Primary Industries. A person is required to immediately notify of a biosecurity event or prohibited matter event. The SecureEnergy Environmental Manager would notify Transgrid and the Department of Primary Industries (if SecureEnergy is the occupier of the project site at the time).

5.5.2 Notifiable pests or diseases

The *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* (Regulation) includes requirements for the notification of certain pests and diseases that are found in NSW and could have a severe effect on the economy, environment or community if not managed appropriately.

Pests and diseases that require notification are listed in:

- Schedule 2 of the Act; and
- Schedule 1 of the Regulation.

In terms of diseases identified as animal diseases of concern (under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and *Regulation*), sheep footrot and OJD are notifiable diseases.

The list of notifiable pests and diseases in the Act and Regulation is large and they typically require specialist knowledge to identify. The list is not, therefore, repeated within this plan. No notifiable pests or diseases were identified as occurring or likely to occur in the project area.. Presence of notifiable pests or diseases on the project would be identified in the Property Management Plans in consultation with landholders / property owners or as advised by Department of Primary Industries.

5.5.3 Notifiable weeds

Biosecurity zones cover most of NSW, including the project area and require landowners and occupiers to notify the local control authority in accordance with section 30 and section 38 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* of a new infestation of the weeds, and eradicate, destroy or suppress the weeds. The Wentworth Shire Council is the local control authority for this project. Refer to table 3.1 for identification of weeds that require notification to the local control authority. Note that should Boneseed be found / identified DPIE should be notified.

The EIS Technical Paper 3 (Agricultural land impact assessment) advises that the project area lies within the biosecurity zones for alligator weed, bitou bush and water hyacinth (listed under Part 5 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*). If these weeds are encountered during construction, the owner or occupier of the project site must:

- (a) if the weed is part of a new infestation of the weed on the land, notify the local control authority for the land as soon as practicable in accordance with Part 6 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*, and
- (b) eradicate the weed or, if that is not practicable, destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed.

5.5.4 Who is required to notify?

In the case of a pest or disease that is listed as prohibited matter in Schedule 2 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* or a biosecurity event, the duty to notify applies only if the person has anything to do with the premise in which the pest and disease is identified or suspected. This could include the owner (Transgrid) or occupier of the premise (SecureEnergy).

In the case of a pest or disease that is listed as notifiable in Schedule 1 of the Regulation, the duty to notify applies to any person who is aware of the presence or suspected presence of the pest or disease.

Notification must occur within one working day of first becoming aware.

SecureEnergy will notify Transgrid and the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). DPI indicates that there are several contact points based on what the issue is. As a first point of call it is recommended to contact DPI Biosecurity on 1800 680 244.

Where it is an animal pest, SecureEnergy will advise the relevant property owner (should the property owner wish to be informed).

5.6 Management measures

The management measures outlined in Table 5.1 will be implemented to minimise biosecurity impacts.

Table 5.1 – Biosecurity management measures

| ID | Measurement/Requirement | When to implement | Responsibility | Source document |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| BS1 | All construction personnel and subcontractors will attend the project induction which will include awareness of priority weeds, content regarding the importance of preventing weeds from entering the project site and the measures which must be taken for vehicles, machinery and plant used on the project. | Pre-construction Construction | HSSE Manager | Good practice |
| BS2 | Prior to arriving on the project site, the supplier/owner of plant and equipment shall complete a Hygiene Inspection Form. If a Hygiene Inspection Form is not present or completed prior to arrival, one will be completed by the deliverer prior to inspection. All vehicles and mobile plant will be inspected on arrival at the construction compounds. A Hygiene Inspection Form with an assigned inspection number will be issued for vehicle / plant assets inspected as required. If plant or equipment arrives on the project site unclean it will either be washed down at the site compound or be removed from the project site by the supplier/owner and cleaned an appropriate facility. | Pre-construction Construction | Subcontractor/owner/sup pliers Plant Department or delegate | Good practice |
| BS3 | The specific controls applicable to a property will be identified in consultation with the affected landholder, documented in a Property Management Plan as appropriate and implemented during all relevant site activities. The effectiveness of these controls will be regularly monitored. | Pre-construction Construction | Community and Stakeholder Engagement Team, Environmental Manager | RMM LP7 |
| BS4 | Where any of the weeds listed in the Biosecurity Plan are identified pre-construction or during construction, consultation (where relevant or required) will occur with Property Owners, Western Local Land Services (LLS), Wentworth Shire Council and/or NSW Department of Primary Industries. | Construction | Environmental Manager | RMM LP8 |
| BS5 | Cleaning of vehicles and machinery will occur at designated washdown bays prior to movement onto the construction work areas or between properties (as required by the Property Management Plans). | Construction | All personnel | RMM LP7 |
| BS6 | Water from washdown bays will drain to a contained sump/low point and materials (sediments) from washdown bays will be contained and disposed of in accordance with the <i>Waste Management Plan</i> . | Construction | Supervisor, Environmental Manager, Environmental Advisor | Good practice |
| BS7 | Site demarcation or signage will be installed in areas of significant biosecurity risk where access is required. | Construction | Environmental Manager, Environmental Advisor | Good practice |
| BS8 | The locations of permanent structures (and the extents of associated construction areas or compounds) will be located where possible to avoid or minimise impacts, or as agreed with the affected landholder, on locations of high biosecurity risk. | Construction | Engagement Manager, Environmental Advisor | RMM LP2 |
| BS9 | Vehicle and equipment movements across adjoining farmland, including trip numbers and locations, will be minimised where possible where localised areas of high biosecurity risks have been identified. | Construction | Supervisor, Environmental Manager, Environmental Advisor | RMM LP7 |

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| ID | Measurement/Requirement | When to implement | Responsibility | Source document |
|------|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| BS10 | If during construction, new infestations of notifiable weeds, pests or diseases are identified in project areas that are owned by Transgrid and/or occupied by SecureEnergy, the Environment Manager will notify Transgrid and will report the infestation to the relevant local control authority. | If required during construction only | Environmental Manager | <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2017</i> RMM LP9 |
| BS11 | Weeds are to be identified as part of pre-clearing inspections by project ecologists. | Pre-Construction | Ecologist | Good practice |
| BS12 | Weeds are to be managed appropriately in accordance with legislative (or local control authority) requirements and may use a range of options including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slashing (timing/species dependent); • onsite burning; • onsite deep burial; or • stockpile spraying. | Construction | Supervisor, Environmental Manager, Environmental Advisor | Good practice |

Appendix A – Hygiene inspection form

Hygiene inspection form

| Part A - Information | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Date: | | | | |
| Supplier/Owner of vehicle/plant: | | | | |
| Description of vehicle / plant: | | | | |
| Make: | | | | |
| Registration No: | | | | |
| Name of Operator / Driver: | | | | |
| Travelling / delivered from: | | | | |
| Part B – Washdown, brush down or blower log | | | | |
| Location of washdown, brush down or blowing of soil and Inspection: | | | | |
| Inspection criteria | Is the item free of soil? | | Action required (eg cleaning of area) | |
| Underside of the vehicle | | | | |
| Wheel arches | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Mud flaps | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Tyres and rims | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Engine bay | | | | |
| Radiator | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Grill | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Top of transmission gearbox | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Other areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Interior of the plant / machinery | | | | |
| Foot wells | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Carpet | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Other | | | | |
| Utes and trucks – inspect tray | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Trailers – check inside of the trailer, wheels, guards | | | | |
| Please provide details of any action taken as required | | | | |
| Part C - Declaration | | | | |
| (I, the undersigned declare that the information that I have provided in this declaration is true and correct) | | | | |
| Name: | | | | |
| Signature: | | | | |
| Date: | | | | |
| Please ensure that a copy of this form is recorded on the project files and / or provided to a member of the Environment Team. | | | | |

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Appendix B – Identification of weeds

Weed identification guide

| Common name | Species name | Images |
|------------------|---|--|
| African boxthorn | <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> |   |
| Alligator weed | <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> |  |
| Athel pine | <i>Tamarix spp.</i> |   |
| Barley grass | <i>Hordeum glaucum</i> |  |
| Bathurst burr | <i>Xanthium spinosa</i> |   |
| Bitou bush | <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> *State priority |    |
| Boneseed | <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> |  |

| Common name | Species name | Images |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Boxing glove/coral cactus | <i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i> |  |
| Bridal creeper | <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> |  |
| Burr ragweed | <i>Ambrosia confertiflora</i> |  |
| Caltrops or Cat-head | <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> |  |
| Clock weed | <i>Oenothera curtiflora</i> |  |
| Common pear | <i>Opuntia stricta</i> |  |
| Common sow thistle | <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> |  |
| Fountain grass | <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> |  |

| Common name | Species name | Images |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Giant reed | <i>Arundo donax</i> |  |
| Horehound | <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> |   |
| Hudson pear | <i>Cylindropuntia rosea</i> |   |
| Khaki weed | <i>Alternanthera pungens</i> |  |
| Mediterranean turnip | <i>Brassica tournefortii</i> |  |
| Mesquite | <i>Prosopis spp.</i> |   |
| Noogoora burr | <i>Xanthium occidentale</i> |   |
| Onion weed | <i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i> |   |

| Common name | Species name | Images |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Parthenium weed | <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> |  |
| Paterson's curse | <i>Echium plantagineum</i> |  |
| Prickly pear | <i>Opuntia spp.</i> |  |
| Rope pear | <i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i> |  |
| Silver-leaf nightshade | <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> |  |
| Spiny burrgrass | <i>Cenchrus spp.</i> |  |
| Spiny emex | <i>Rumex hypogaeus</i> |  |

| Common name | Species name | Images |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Stemless thistle | <i>Onopordum acaulon</i> |  |
| Thornapple | <i>Datura spp.</i> |    |
| Tree tobacco | <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> |  |
| Ward's weed | <i>Carrichtera annua</i> |  |
| Water hyacinth | <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> |  |
| Willow rhus | <i>Searsia lancea</i> |  |
| Willows | <i>Salix spp.</i> |   |

| Common name | Species name | Images |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Winged sea lavender | <i>Limonium lobatum</i> |  |

Appendix E – Biodiversity mapping

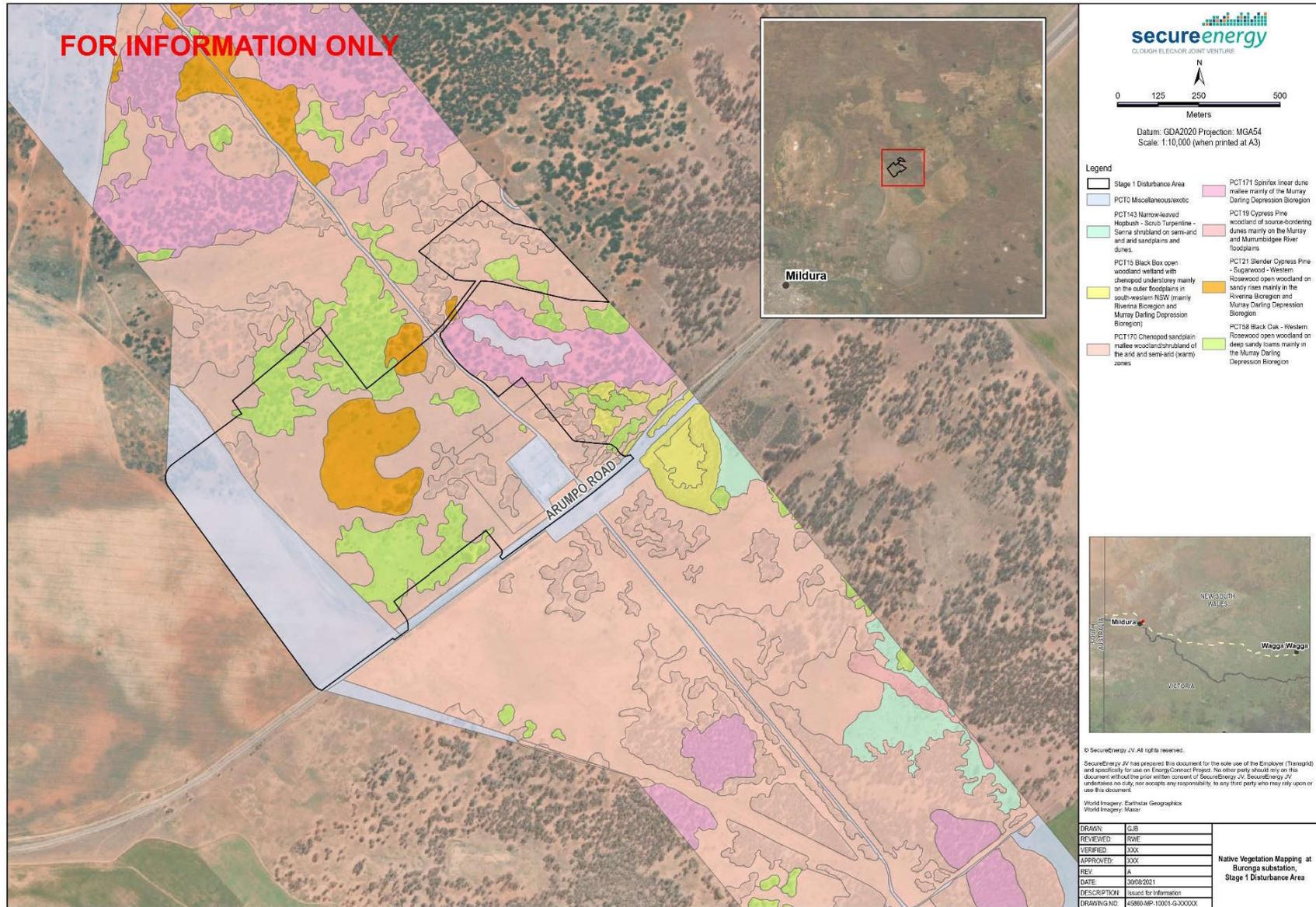


Figure E.1 - Native vegetation mapping and Threatened Ecological Communities

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Appendix F – Relevant legislation

| Legislation/ Regulations | Aspect | Reference | Requirement | Applicability | Responsibility |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|--|---|----------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) | Proposed action | Section 28 | A person must not take an action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on any of the matters of national environmental significance without approval. | <p>Yes, the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) aims to protect matters of national environmental significance (MNES) including national heritage places.</p> <p>Following referral of the project to Department of Environment, Agriculture and Water, the project was determined on 25 June 2020 to be a controlled action under section 75 of the EPBC Act, and therefore required further assessment and approval under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>. The referral number is EPBC 2020/8673.</p> <p>The EPBC Act controlling provisions for the proposed actions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listed threatened species and communities (section 18 and 18A). It should be noted that no MNES were identified in the EIS or Amendment Report for the project. | Transgrid |
| | Bilateral Agreement | Chapter 3 Clause 45 | A bilateral agreement is a written agreement between the Commonwealth and a State with the intention of protecting the environment, promoting the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources, ensuring an efficient, timely and effective process for environmental assessment and approval of actions and to minimising duplication in the environmental assessment and approval process. | EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) will be assessed using the bilateral assessment process in accordance Amending Agreement No. 1. | Transgrid |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act) | Flora and Fauna | All | Legislation responsible for the conservation of biodiversity in NSW through the protection of threatened flora and fauna species, populations and Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs). The Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, together with the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017, established the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme which is outlined below. | <p>The biodiversity impacts of the project have been assessed in accordance with the BC Act, which includes the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR).</p> <p>A Biodiversity Management Plan has been prepared and will be implemented for the project to manage the conservation and protection of threatened flora and fauna.</p> | Transgrid |

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| Legislation/ Regulations | Aspect | Reference | Requirement | Applicability | Responsibility |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|
| | | Part 6 Division 1 Clause 6.2 | This Act, and the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017</i> , outlines the framework for addressing impacts on biodiversity from development and clearing. Biodiversity Offsets Scheme is a framework to avoid, minimise and offset impacts on biodiversity from development and clearing, and to ensure land that is used to offset impacts is secured in-perpetuity. | As part of the assessment under the BC Act, the biodiversity offset credits has been estimated for the project and are outlined in the BDAR. Biodiversity Offset Credits is applicable for clearing on the project. Transgrid as the proponent will retire the full biodiversity offset credit liability of the development. | Transgrid |
| <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> | Taking or possessing fish or marine vegetation | Section 37 | Permit to take and possess fish or marine vegetation | A section 37 permit is required for any activity that involves taking or possessing fish or marine vegetation that would otherwise be unlawful under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> including any collecting activities. There is currently no intention to take and possess fish or marine vegetation, however in the event that this is required, a permit would be developed. | Transgrid / SecureEnergy |
| | Mangroves, seagrasses and marine vegetation | Section 205 | Do not harm any mangroves, seagrasses or other marine vegetation on public water land protected by the regulations without a permit. | As the project has been declared as Critical State significant infrastructure, in accordance with s.5.23 of EP&A Act, section 205 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> does not apply. | Not applicable |
| | Fish passage | Section 219 | Do not block fish passage without a permit | As the project has been declared as critical State significant infrastructure, in accordance with s.5.23 of EP&A Act, section 219 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> does not apply. | Not applicable |
| <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> | Weeds and Pest Management | Section 22 | Under Part 3 of the Biosecurity Act 2015, landowners or land managers have a general biosecurity duty to prevent, eliminate or minimise the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by priority weeds. A biosecurity risk exists where priority weeds have the potential to negatively impact on agriculture, industry, the liveability of our city, human health or the environment. Invasive weeds are known as 'Biosecurity Matter' or 'Priority Weeds'. | Biosecurity matters will be discussed with the affected landholders and addressed in project management plans for each property. | Transgrid / SecureEnergy |

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| Legislation/ Regulations | Aspect | Reference | Requirement | Applicability | Responsibility |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|----------------|
| <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> | Clearing of native vegetation in regulated rural areas | Part 5A Division 3 Clause 60N and Clause 60O | Clause 60N details the offence to clear native vegetation in a regulated rural area. Clause 60O details the planning approval and authorisation for clearing native vegetation in a regulated rural area. | Yes, as detailed 60O(b) of the Act, approval and authorisation for clearing native vegetation in a regulated rural area is subject to approval of the project under Part 5 of the EP&A Act. The Infrastructure Approval will satisfy this compliance requirement. | Transgrid |

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