

Independent DPE Compliance Audit

SSI-10040 – Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section)

Trigalana Environment Pty Ltd 14 October 2022





Independent DPE Compliance Audit

SSI-10040 – Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section)

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Executive Summary

Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd has been engaged to undertake an independent audit of Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section), which consists of the construction of a 330 kV high voltage energy connector between Buronga and Redcliff in South Australia and the expansion of the Buronga substation. Transgrid are the Proponent, Secure Energy Joint Venture (SEJV) are the Construction Contractor.

The Project is being delivered in 2 stages. Stage 1 is for early works and includes the upgrade of the existing substation at Buronga, establishing the Buronga accommodation camp, construction compound, and using and accessing a water supply point. Stage 2 includes all other construction activities.

Infrastructure Approval (SSI 10040) covers both the construction and operational phases of the Project and requires independent audits to be undertaken in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environments (DPE) Independent Post Approval Requirements (2020).

The audit covers the pre-construction, site establishment and early construction activities for the period from the commencement of construction on 4 July until the 19th of August 2022. The audit included a site inspection, consultation with relevant project stakeholders and a review of management plans, project documents and management records.

The site inspection was undertaken on 18th and 19th August 2022 with members of Transgrid and SEJV present.

The findings of the audit are:

- Preconstruction obligations as required by the Infrastructure Approval have been completed
- Key environmental issues are being managed effectively with key mitigations summarised below:
 - Erosion, sediment, and dust controls consisting of stabilised site access, street sweeper and water cart for dust suppression
 - Limits of disturbance, endangered ecological communities and habitat trees were clearly marked in the field to prevent unauthorised clearing
 - Implementation of a pre-clearing process with authorisation by SEJV environment manager, project ecologist and heritage specialist with pre-clearance inspections undertaken with the Aboriginal parties
 - Implementation of an equipment hygiene and cleaning process
 - o Implementation of Out of Hours Works protocol with approval by the independent Environmental Representative
- Compliance with all conditions of approval relevant to the early stages of work has been achieved, noting that further assessments will be undertaken during subsequent audits as the project construction accelerates.

Seven recommendations for improvement are made relating to erosion control/dust management, management review, environmental team resourcing, management plans, culture and awareness and accounting process of clearing limits.



1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The EnergyConnect Project is being delivered by Transgrid and ElectraNet and consists of the construction and operation of a new electrical interconnector and network support option between NSW and SA, with an additional connection to Red Cliffs in north-west Victoria.

The interconnector is aimed at reducing the cost of providing secure and reliable electricity transmission between NSW and SA in the near term, while facilitating the transition of the energy sector across the National Electricity Market to low emission energy sources.

EnergyConnect involves constructing a new high voltage electricity interconnector, approximately 900km long, between the power grids of SA (starting at Robertstown) and NSW (finishing in Wagga Wagga). EnergyConnect comprises several sections (as shown on Figure 1), being:

- Victorian section, which extends from the NSW/Victoria border to an existing electricity facility at Red Cliffs
- NSW sections including:
 - Western section (the subject area of this audit) which extends from: the SA/NSW border (near Chowilla in SA) to Buronga
 - Buronga to the NSW/Victoria border at Monak (near Red Cliffs in Victoria)
 - Eastern section, which extends from Buronga to Wagga Wagga
- SA section, which extends from Robertstown to the SA/NSW border.

TransGrid have two separate environmental planning approval applications for the sections within NSW these are for the:

- NSW Western Section (Application Number SSI 10040)
- NSW Eastern Section (Application Number SSI 9172452).

On the 28 September 2021, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces determined the NSW Western Section with Conditions of Approval. The NSW Eastern Section has not been determined at the time of this audit.

1.2 Construction Activities

EnergyConnect NSW Western Section is being delivered in two stages as summarised in Table 1. Stage 1 construction commenced on 4 July 2022 and Stage 2 on the 18th of July 2022.

Table 1: Stage Construction Details

Project Stage	Key Activities
Stage 1	 Environmental investigations, biodiversity and heritage protection, salvage, and recordings Other survey work, such as road dilapidation surveys, and surveys of the general alignment and existing utilities Site establishment and bulk earthworks at Buronga substation upgrade and expansion site Site establishment of the Buronga accommodation camp Site establishment and operation of the Buronga construction compound Access points



Project Stage	Key Activities	
	 Establishment and use of water supply points Utility adjustments and protection. 	
Stage 2	 Pre-construction minor works Continuation of any outstanding Stage 1 construction activities Establishment and operation of Wentworth accommodation camp, compound and Anabranch South ancillary site Buronga substation upgrade and expansion Establishment other ancillary facilities on the transmission line construction corridor outside identified heritage risk zones Property adjustment work including adjustments to property fencing Access points, water supply points establishment and/or use Construction access tracks Temporary works Transmission line construction Utility adjustments and protection Decommissioning of existing infrastructure Progressive site rehabilitation and landscaping 	



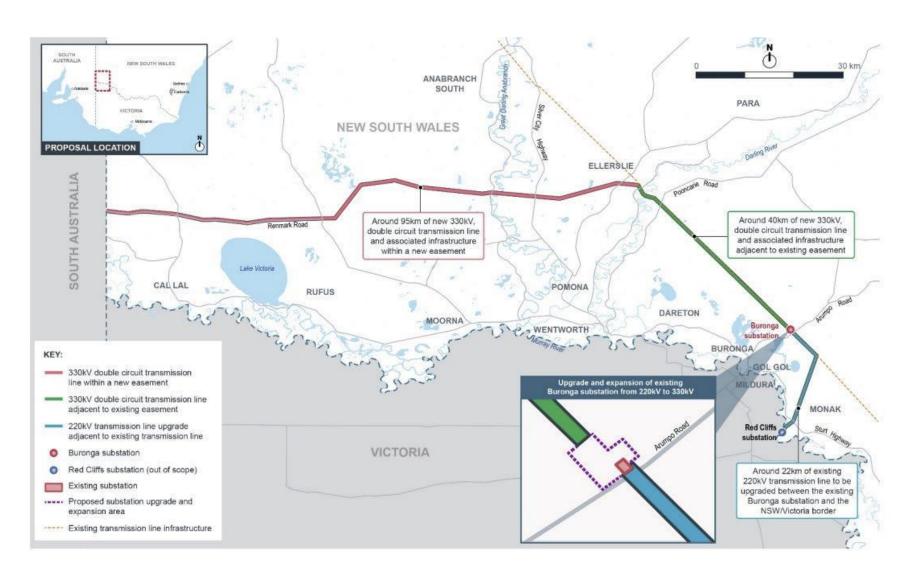


Figure 1: Project Location as described in the EIS



1.3 Auditor

Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd has been appointed to undertake this independent environmental audit. The auditor was approved by the Department of Planning and Environment. Details of the auditor are provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Auditor Details

Name	Qualifications	Key Experience
Richard Peterson	B. E Civil M. Environmental Management Management Systems Auditing Leading Management Systems Audit teams Exemplar Global Auditor	25 years of environmental management experience in the infrastructure sector. Have undertaken over 100 audits including independent DPE audits for major infrastructure projects including:

The DPE Letter of approval for the auditor is provided in Appendix A.

1.4 Audit Objectives

The key objective of the Independent Environmental Audit was to assess compliance of the Project with the Ministers Conditions of Approval (MCoA) (SSI 10040) and the implementation of management plans as outlined in the MCoA. The audit is to recognise good practices while providing practical and reasonable recommendations for improvement that can be implemented throughout the project as construction accelerates.

1.5 Audit Scope and Period

This audit has been undertaken in accordance with Condition E 11 of the Ministers Conditions of approval as outlined below.

Table 3: Independent Audit – Requirements

Condition Reference	Condition	Comment
E 11	development must be conducted and carried out at	This audit was undertaken on 18th and 19th of August 2022. Construction commenced on 4 July 2022. The audit was undertaken within 3 months of the commencement of construction.



This is the first independent audit for Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) and covers the period from the commencement of construction on 4 July 2022 to the 19^{th of} August 2022.



2 Audit Methodology

2.1 Scope Development

The audit scope was developed in consideration of:

- The NSW Department of Environment Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (May 2020)
- Project Conditions of Approval (SSI 6693) as modified dated 15 April 2021
- Stakeholder feedback from relevant government stakeholders including:
 - Department of Planning and Environment
 - Environment Protection Authority
 - o Biodiversity Conservation Division
 - Heritage NSW
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Wellington Council
 - o DPI Fisheries
 - o DPI Water
 - Local Lands Service/Western Lands
 - o Federal Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment
 - Transport for NSW.

2.2 Stakeholder Consultation – Key Issues

In undertaking the audit, key issues raised by the government agencies and aboriginal stakeholder groups that are relevant to the audit are summarised in Table 4.

Table 4: Stakeholder Consultation - Key issues

Key Issue	Stakeholder focus areas	Where addressed in this Report
Environmental Protection	 Requirement to obtain an Environment Protection Licence for the for the upgrade of the Buronga Substation During construction the proponent must take all necessary precautions and implement all practical measures that could be taken to prevent, control, abate or mitigate water pollution and protect human health and the environment from harm during the construction phase. 	Section 3.4 Table 6 Appendix B (D1-D54)
Aboriginal Stakeholder	 Work scheduling and session planning Cultural value of local ecology including nocturnal and small mammals Heritage management plan consultation Indigenous employment opportunities and workers from outside the local area Opportunities for local aboriginal businesses Cultural significance of the local area noting rich heritage values of Lake Victoria and Lake Mungo. 	Section 2.5 Table 7 Appendix B Conditions D29, D53
Biodiversity	 Requirement for Nest Box Strategy to form part of the CEMP. 	Section 2.5 Appendix B Condition D28



Key Issue	Stakeholder focus areas	Where addressed in this Report
	 Maximum clearing areas in hectares are referring (i.e. partial clearing, full clearing, or a combination of these). 	
Flooding impact	 Flood modelling and impact assessments for infrastructure located in floodplain areas, prior to construction. 	Appendix B Condition D21
Out of Hours Work	 OOHW that has occurred and how that complies with conditions of consent (management plans and OOHW protocol) and how the Project is complying with predictions in the EA. 	Appendix B Conditions D1-D3
General	 Project staging which has occurred, and compliance complies with the relevant conditions of consent and management plans 	Section 1.2 Appendix B Condition E 2

2.3 Summary of Audit Processes

To complete the audit, the following was undertaken:

- Opening Meeting
- Site inspection, noting environmental practices and controls
- Audit Interviews
- Review of documents and records
- Closing meeting.

2.4 Opening Meeting

An opening meeting was held on 16th of August where the auditor provided an overview of the audit process and confirmed the agenda for the audit.

2.5 Site Inspection

A site inspection was undertaken on the morning of Thursday 18th of August 2022. The weather was overcast and dry.

The project was in early stages of development with activities underway including:

- Construction of Site Compound area, storage yard and Camp 6 located at Buronga including construction of site access
- Clearing work for the construction of the Buronga Substation
- Construction of several access points along the alignment.

Environmental protection measures observed during the site inspection are as follows:

- Site Boundary limits were well defined using wire fencing
- Native vegetation and heritage (no/go) areas were clearly identified in the field with visible "No Go" signage
- Spill control measures were available on site including a ventilated and bunded chemical storage container with spill kits provided in accessible locations
- An onboarding equipment cleaning process was observed with the item of equipment cleaned to an acceptable standard
- A water truck was in use for dust suppression and high-pressure hose for equipment cleaning
- Stabilised site access at the Buronga site was provided to minimise mud tracking on local roads
- Appropriate waste and recycling facilities were provided



• Erosion and sediment controls were installed including retained topsoil for regeneration, sediment fences, choir logs and sandbags.

During the site inspection, there were no observed dust, mud tracking, water pollution, inappropriate waste storage, or oil spills.

In addition to undertaking a site inspection, the auditor attended the project pre-start meeting on the 18th of February prior to works commencing. The pre-start included a briefing on environmental issues that may be encountered during the day's activities.

2.6 Document Review

In undertaking the audit, a broad range of documents were reviewed or referred to including:

- Project conditions of approval (SSI 10040)
- Project Environmental Impact Statement
- Environmental Management Plans, developed in accordance with the Project Conditions
- Correspondence with relevant authorities
- Consultation records
- Specialist reports
- Records of implementation of the environmental management plans including checklists, inspection reports, waste records etc.

2.7 Closing Meeting

The closing meeting was held on 30th of August 2022 where the summary of the audit findings was provided, noting areas of good practice and recommendations for improvement.

2.8 Compliance Descriptors

The compliance status of each condition was determined using the relevant descriptors in Table 5 and as described in the DPE 2020 Auditing Post Approval Requirement.

Table 5 Compliance Descriptors

Status	Description
Compliant (C)	Sufficient verifiable evidence to demonstrate that all elements of the requirement have been completed
Non- Compliant (NC) One or more specific elements of the conditions or requirements he been complied with within the scope of the audit	
Not Triggered (NT)	A requirement has an activation or timing trigger that has not been met at the time when the audit was undertaken



3 Audit Findings

3.1 Non-Compliances

No non compliances were identified by the audit.

3.2 Summary of Agency Notices, Orders, Penalty Notices and Prosecutions

No agency notices, orders, penalty notices or prosecutions have been issued to the project to date.

3.3 Actions from previous audits

Not applicable, as this is the first audit for the project, there were no actions requiring completion.

3.4 Supplementary Approvals and Licences

In addition to the Project Planning Approval, several other approvals and licences are relevant to the work. These include

- Water Access Licence (WAL 7731) which is held by Western Murray Irrigation Ltd and is utilised by SEJV for the purposes of construction water for dust suppression
- Environment Protection Licence (EPL 2029) held by Wentworth Shire Council for the operation of the Buronga Landfill (the disposal site for project waste generated by SEJV).

The current activities do not trigger the requirement for an Environment Protection Licence at this stage in the project. Further review of the requirement for an EPL may be required as construction activities progress, particular in relation to any planned concrete batching, material crushing and extractive work such as quarrying.

3.5 Community Complaints

No community complaints have been received at this stage in the project.

3.6 Adequacy of Environmental Management Plans

The management plans implemented for this construction phase have been prepared by suitably qualified personnel, endorsed by the independent Environmental Representative, and approved by the Department of Planning and Environment following consultation with relevant stakeholders. The plans are technically robust and meet the conditions of approval and other relevant legislative requirements. The management plans are adequate for the current scope of work and were observed to be implemented effectively in the field.



4 Conclusions

4.1 Management of Key Issues

Key environmental issues identified during the audit as relevant to the stage of project along with a summary of measures employed to minimise risk are provided in Table 6. These measures are deemed to be practical and appropriate to manage the key environmental issues with further recommendations for improvement identified in Table 7.

Table 6: Key Environmental Issues and Summary of Management Controls Employed

Table 6. Key Environmental issues and Summary of Management Controls Employed		
Key Environmental Issues	Summary of Management Controls and Resources Employed	
Soil and Water Management	 Construction Soil and Water Management Plan Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control Progressive erosion and sediment control plans Erosion and sediment control training (planned) Erosion and Sediment control inspections Progressive rehabilitation Bunded and ventilated chemical storage area Fully stocked spill kits Sediment fences Water reuse (of sediment basin water) for dust suppression (on site) and road dust suppression Water Access Licence for dust suppression 	
Heritage	 Heritage Management Plan Cultural awareness training Heritage consultant Project Heritage Manager Ground disturbance checklist Pre-ground disturbance inspections involving aboriginal stakeholders Heritage No- Go Signage Work area boundary fencing 	
Biodiversity Biodiversity Management Plan Nest Box Management Plan Field Ecologist Biodiversity Assessors Ground disturbance checklist Pre-ground disturbance inspections involving project ecologist Signage and fencing protecting areas Clearing reporting		
 Traffic and Transport Site Induction Driver Code of Conduct Contractual instructions (for site access routes) 		
Community and Stakeholder	 Community Communication Strategy Local Business and Employment Strategy Engagement Manager Indigenous Participation Manager Land and Property Access Manager 	



Key Environmental Issues	Summary of Management Controls and Resources Employed
	 Community notifications Project website Monitoring of local and aboriginal employment targets OOH Works protocol

4.2 Key Strengths

The key strength identified during the audit is both TransGrid and SEJV have engaged a dedicated and experienced team of environmental, approvals, stakeholder engagement, planning specialists and consultants with substantial experience in the delivery of major infrastructure projects. The team is pro-actively managing compliance with the conditions of approval and were able to demonstrate a systematic and well organised approach to managing site environmental and compliance risks.

4.3 Audit Recommendations

Audit recommendations are provided in Table 7.



Table 7: Audit Recommendations

Ref	Condition (s)	Key Issues	Observations	Recommendation
1	B1	CEMP	The project is significant in terms of both size and complexity with substantial commitments, stakeholder engagement, monitoring and reporting requirements. Ensuring the correct balance between field supervision with office-based administration, stakeholder and reporting will be a challenge as an imbalance may result in increased risk of incident in the field. There may also be instances where resource gaps within the team may need to be filled during roster periods.	An opportunity to improve process efficiency through enhanced use of technological applications, simplifying routine processes and administrative tasks (on a risk-based approach) may optimise the field time of the site-based environment team to ensure on the ground risks are minimised. It is recommended that this opportunity is explored. It is also recommended that contingency resourcing plans for the environment team should be developed to account for the roster system.
2	B1	CEMP	The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and specialist management plans are technically rigorous and complex. This may lead to misinterpretation or misunderstanding of the requirements in the field resulting in an increased risk of incident or non-conformance.	There may be benefit in reviewing the plans and presenting the critical information with simpler and more user-friendly documents by optimising the use of visual presentations, flowcharts, tables, and technology applications such as GIS. This may be particularly useful for high risk and routine processes such as ground disturbance and clearing. It may be beneficial to re- engage with relevant stakeholders including aboriginal, technical specialists (soil and water, heritage, ecology, so that the requirements are clearly understood, and process improvements may be identified).



Ref	Condition (s)	Key Issues	Observations	Recommendation
3	B1	CEMP	There are a range of mechanisms within the CEMP to communicate CEMP requirements, provide training, education and promote cultural awareness. These include daily pre-start talks, leadership visits and targeted environmental briefings. An opportunity exists to capitalise on current platforms to deliver clear messaging to the workforce of the importance of environmental and aboriginal cultural heritage values.	It is recommended that an environmental and aboriginal cultural heritage risk and awareness program that is aimed at the project workforce is developed and implemented focusing on the priority risks and important cultural heritage values. The program may utilise the existing platforms such as pre-starts and leadership visits but may also include additional tools such as field pocket handbooks and posters. The opportunity to involve aboriginal stakeholder groups and the project leadership in the program is encouraged.
4	B1	CEMP	The International Standard for Environmental Management (ISO 14001) documents a process for undertaking management reviews involving top management to ensure the continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the Environmental Management System. SEJV have a range of reporting mechanisms and management tools to ensure top management are involved with the implementation of the CEMP and related management plans, however the format and frequency of undertaking management reviews is not defined within in the CEMP.	It is recommended a formalised process for undertaking management reviews involving the top project management team is documented in the CEMP (noting that this may be the formalisation of existing processes). It is recommended that the reviews include an assessment of key performance metrics such as biodiversity clearing limits, indigenous employment, and local industry participation targets etc.



Ref	Condition (s)	Key Issues	Observations	Recommendation
5	D14, D16	Dust, Erosion and Sediment Control	Camp 6 is in the early phases of construction, the primary method of controlling dust is with a water cart and a street sweeper with a broom attachment which may be less effective during hot, dry and dusty conditions. There is also the potential for tracking dirt on the road as construction activities accelerate.	It is recommended that the site layout, vehicle movement plan and erosion and sediment control plan are reviewed concurrently with the objective of providing primary dust and sediment control. This will provide the opportunity to test systems prior to the establishment of other site compounds, accommodation camps and laydown areas.
6	D35, D36	Vehicle Routes	Driver's code of conduct does not include a map or clear instruction of the approved vehicle routes. There is no visible signage on key access routes alerting drivers to correct (or incorrect) vehicle routes.	It is recommended that the driver code of conduct is updated to include a map showing the approved vehicle routes (as per Appendix 2 of the infrastructure approval). It is also recommended that the current measures to communicate and monitor the approved routes to contractors, suppliers and personnel are reviewed and appropriate mechanisms are implemented that may include visible signage at key intersections and/or on approved routes. Another alternative for consideration may be the use of vehicle tracking technology.
7	D25	Restrictions on Habitat Removal	The project is in its early stages of construction with minimal clearing undertaken to date. The project has an established pre-clearing process which is overseen by the project ecologist with cleared areas recorded and reported. While the current process is adequate for the limited clearing to date, there does not appear to be a documented process for auditing the clearing limits and for providing up to date information regarding progress and compliance with clearing restrictions.	It is recommended that biodiversity accounting and reporting processes are reviewed, and a clear process is defined and implemented so up to date information is available so compliance with clearing restrictions may be monitored and reported accurately.



Appendix A DPE Auditor Approval





Department of Planning and Environment

Mr John Fisher Environment Manager – Delivery NSW Electricity Network Operations Pty Ltd 180 THOMAS STREET HAYMARKET New South Wales 2000

09/02/2022

Dear John Fisher

Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) - (SSI10040) Independent Environmental Audit - Audit team approval request (1st Audit)

I refer to your request (SSI-10040-PA-23) submitted on 27 January 2022 to the Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) for the Secretary's approval of suitably qualified persons to prepare the Independent Environmental Audit (the Audit) for the Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) (SSI-10040).

The Department has reviewed the nomination and information you have provided and is satisfied that this expert is suitably qualified and experienced. In accordance with Condition E11 of SSI-10040 (the 'Consent') and the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements, I can advise that the Secretary approves the appointment of Mr Richard Peterson of Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd to undertake this Audit and prepare this Audit Report.

Please ensure this correspondence is appended to the Audit Report.

The Independent Audit must be prepared, undertaken and finalised in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements. Failure to meet these requirements will require revision and resubmission.

Please note that you are required to submit a separate audit team approval request to the Secretary for each Audit required for the life of the Project.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Michael Wood on 0459890661 or compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Katrina O'Reilly

Team Leader - Compliance

Compliance



Appendix B Independent Audit Table



Schedule 2 Part A – Administrative conditions

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status	
Obligat	Obligation to minimise harm to the environment				
A1	In meeting the specific performance measures and criteria of this approval, all reasonable and feasible measures must be implemented to prevent, and if prevention is not reasonable and feasible, minimise any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, rehabilitation, upgrading or decommissioning of the development.	Site Observations Audit Interview Documents reviewed as part of the audit and noted below	All reasonable and feasible measures were observed to be implemented on site.	Compliant	
Terms	of approval				
A2	The development may only be carried out: In compliance with the conditions of this approval; In accordance with all written directions of the Planning Secretary; Generally in accordance with the EIS; and Generally in accordance with the Development Layout in Appendix 1.	Site Observations Audit Interview Documents reviewed as part of the audit and noted below	No directions received from the Planning Secretary.	Compliant	
А3	The proponent must comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Departments assessment of: Any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this approval; Any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this approval and; The implementation of actions or measures contained in these documents.	Site Observations Audit Interview Documents reviewed as part of the audit and noted below	DPE comments incorporated into the management plans.	Compliant	
A4	The conditions of this approval and directions of the Planning Secretary prevail to the extent of any inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict between them and a document listed in condition A2(c) or A2(d). In the event of an inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict between any of the documents listed in condition A2(c) or A2(d), the most recent document prevails to the extent of inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict.	Site Observations Audit Interview	No inconsistencies identified.	Compliant	
A5	Any document that must be submitted within the timeframe specified in or under the terms of this approval may be submitted within a later	Audit Interview Site Observations	Not triggered, a request for alternative timeframes has not been sought.	Not triggered	



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	timeframe agreed with the Planning Secretary. This condition does not apply to the immediate written notification required in respect of an incident under condition E6.			
Lapse of	Approval			
A6	This approval will lapse if the Proponent does not physically commence the development within 5 years of the date on which is it granted.	Site Observations Audit Interview	The development commenced on 4 July 2022 within 5 years of the date of approval (28/9/21).	Compliant
Evidence	e of Consultation			
A7	Where conditions of this approval require consultation with an identified party, the Proponent must: a) Consult with the relevant party prior to submitting the subject document to the Planning Secretary for approval; and b) Provide details of the consultation undertaken including; i) The outcome of that consultation, matters resolved and unresolved; and; ii) Details of any disagreement remaining between the party consulted and the Proponent and how the Proponent has addressed the matters not resolved.	Consultation records ER review letters	Consultation records, Environmental Representative review letters and DPE letters of approval demonstrate the necessary consultations have been undertaken.	Compliant
Protection	n of Public Infrastructure			
A8	Unless the Proponent and applicable authority agree otherwise, the Proponent Must; a) Undertake any works on or in the vicinity of public infrastructure in consultation with the applicable public authority or service provider responsible for that public infrastructure; b) Repair, or pay the full costs associated with repairing, any public infrastructure that is damaged by the development; and c) Relocate, or pay the full costs associated with relocating, any public infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a	Audit interview Site observations	No public infrastructure impacted by the project at this stage of construction.	Not triggered



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status	
	result of the development. This condition does not apply to any damage to roads caused as a result of general road usage which is expressly provided for in the conditions of this approval. NSW Government 9 Project EnergyConnect (NSW- Western Section) Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (SSI 10040)				
Demolitie	on				
А9	The Proponent must ensure that all demolition work on site is carried out in accordance with AS 2601-2001: The Demolition of Structures (Standard)	Site Observations Audit Interview	Demolition not undertaken at this stage of the project.	Not triggered	
Structura	al Adequacy				
A10	The Proponent must ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA; and where the BCA is not applicable, to the relevant Australian Standard. Notes: - Under part 6 of the EP&A Act, the proponent is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the development. - Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the development	Site Observations Audit Interview	New buildings have not commenced construction.	Not triggered	
Complia	Compliance				
A11	The Proponent must ensure that all of its employees, contractors (and their sub-contractors) are made aware of, and are instructed to comply with, the conditions of this approval relevant to activities they carry out in respect of the development.	Audit Interview Site Observations Online Environmental and Heritage Induction Site specific induction Contract documentation – Appendix F	All subcontractors are required to attend an online induction which includes environmental and heritage aspects as well as site specific induction. Contracts (Appendix F) stipulate minimum standards for environmental performance.	Compliant	



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status	
Operation	on of Plant and Equipment				
A12	All plant and equipment used on site or in connection with the development must be; a) Maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and b) Operated in a proper and efficient manner.	Site Observations Audit Interview Plant and equipment pre-start checkist	All plant and equipment is subject to daily pre-start and onboarding checks. Plant and equipment observed on site was operating effectively.	Compliant	
Applical	bility of Guidelines				
A13	References in the conditions of this approval to any guideline, protocol, Australian Standard or policy are to such guidelines, protocols, Standards or policies in the form they are in as at the date of this approval.	-	Administrative note.	Noted	
A14	However, consistent with the conditions of this approval and without altering any limits or criteria in this approval, the Planning secretary may, when issuing directions under this approval in respect of ongoing monitoring and management obligations, require compliance with an updated or revised version of such a guideline, protocol, Standard or policy, or a replacement of them.	-	Administrative note.	Noted	
Commu	Community Communication Strategy				
A15	Prior to the commencement of construction, the Proponent must prepare a Community Communication Strategy to provide mechanisms to facilitate communication between the Proponent and the community (including adjoining affected landowners) during construction. The Community Communication Strategy must: a) Identify landowners for potentially impacted receivers: b) Ensure that the landowners identified in (a) are consulted during construction; c) Set out procedures and mechanisms for the regular	Community Communication Strategy (EnergyConnect) NSW Western Section) dated 15/2/22	The strategy includes these necessary details.	Compliant	



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	distribution of information to the wider community d) Establish a public liaison officer(s) to engage with the local community; and e) Set out procedures and mechanisms; - Through which the community can discuss or provide feedback from the community; and - To resolve any issues and mediate any disputes that may arise in relation to construction of the development. The Proponent must implement the Communication Strategy for the duration of construction.			
Environ	mental Representative			
A16	Prior to commencing the development, an Environmental representative (ER) must be approved by the Planning Secretary and engaged by the Proponent.	DPE Letter dated 15/10/21	Cameron Weller of Hutchison Weller has been appointed as the Independent ER. DPE approval was provided on 15/10/21.	Compliant
A17	The Planning Secretary's approval of an ER must be sought no later than one (1) week before commencing the development.	DPE Letter dated 15/20/21	Approval of the ER was provided on 15/10/21 construction commenced on 4 July 2022.	Compliant
A18	The proposed ER must be a suitably qualified and experience person who was not involved in the preparation of the documents listed in condition A2, and is independent from the design and construction of development. The ER must meet not only the requirements set out in section 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 3 in the Environmental Representative Protocol (Department of Planning and Environment, October 2018).	Audit Interview	The ER has over 15 years of experience and has performed the ER role on several major infrastructure projects.	Compliant
A19	From commencing the development, until commencing operation, or as agreed with the Planning Secretary, the approved ER must; a) Review the documents identified in conditions A15, B1, B2, D3, D10, D11, D29, D37, D47, D52 and D53, and any other documents that are identified by the Planning Secretary, to ensure they are consistent with requirements in or under this approval and if so; i. Make a written statement to this effect before submission of such documents to the Planning Secretary (if those	Audit Interview Various examples of ER endorsement letters including: - CEMP - SWMP - NVMP - Heritage MP - TTMP - ACMP - Emergency MP	The ER has provided review of relevant documents in accordance with this condition and has provided formal letters of endorsement to DPE.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	documents are required to be approved by the Planning Secretary); or ii. Mae a written statement to this effect before the implementation of such documents (if those documents are required to be submitted to the Department of information are not required to be submitted by the Department); b) As may be requested by the Planning secretary, assist the Department in the resolution of community complaints; and c) Consider any minor amendments to be made to plans/ strategies in conditions A15, D11, D52, D53, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7 that involve updating or are of an administrative nature and do not increase impacts to nearby sensitive receivers, and ensure they are consistent with the terms of this approval and, if satisfied such amendment is necessary, approve the amendment. This does not include any modifications to the terms of this approval.	- BMP - Out of Hours Works		
A20	The proponent must provide the ER with all documentation requested by the ER in order for the ER to perform their functions specified in condition A19, as well as the complaints register for any complaints received (on the day they are received).	Audit Interview ER formal correspondence	The ER has been provided with the necessary documents to allow them to satisfactorily perform their role No complaints had been received at the time of the audit.	Compliant



Part B Construction Environmental Management

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
Constru	uction Environmental Management Plan			
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.	Stage 1 - Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 Rev I dated 23/11/21 - ER letter of endorsement dated 24/11/21 - DPE Letter of approval dated 24/12/21 Stage 2 - Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 2 Rev 2 dated 6/7/22 - DPE Letter of approval dated 15/7/22	Stage 1 - CEMP was endorsed by the ER on 24/11/21 and approved by DPE on - 24/12 2021 - Stage 1 Construction Commenced on 4/7/22. Stage 2 - CEMP was endorsed by the ER on 7/3/22 and approved by DPE on 15/7/22 - Stage 2 Construction Commenced on 18/7/22.	Compliant
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 Subplans Required CEMP Subplan Consultation requirements a	Stage 1 - DPE Letters of approval for Stage 1 subplans (various) - Heritage Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 Rev F dated 17/12/21 - Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Rev K dated 08/03/2022)	DPE have approved CEMP subplans noting consultation with relevant stakeholders has been undertaken.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement		Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	d Heritage Heritage Aborigir e Traffic and Transport TfNSW Council	e NSW nal Stakeholders	 Soil and Water Management Plan, dated 9/3/2022) Biodiversity Management Plan (Rev F, dated 10/06/2022) Heritage Management Plan, dated 24/06/2022) Traffic and Transport Plan EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 Rev H dated 24/2/22 Stage 2 DPE Letter of approval dated 		
			15/7/22 Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Rev H, dated 06/07/2022) Soil and Water Management Plan (Rev H dated 6/7/22) Heritage Management Plan — EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) (Rev G, dated 24/06/2022) Biodiversity Management Plan - EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) — Rev F dated 10/6/22 Traffic and Transport Management Plan — EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) (Rev H, dated 12/07/2022)		
В3	Details of all information requested by an accemp Sub-plan as a result of consultation relevant CEMP Sub-plan.		DPE Letter of approval dated 24/12/21	DPE letter notes the CEMP and all associated subplans have prepared in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and contain all the information required by the conditions of approval.	Compliant
В4	Any of the CEMP Sub-plans may be submit subsequent to, the submission of the CEMF	tted along with, or P but in any event prior to	-	Noted	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	commencing construction.			
B5	Construction must not commence until the CEMP and all CEMP Subplans 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 the 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.	DPE Letter of approval dated 24/12/21 (Stage 1) DPE Letter of approval dated 15/7/22 (Stage 2) Transgrid Letters to DPE dated 23/6/22 and 18/8/22	Stage 1 construction commenced on 4/7/22 following approval of the CEMP and subplans by the Secretary. Stage 2 Construction commenced on 18/7/22 following formal notification to DPE on the 23/6/22.	Compliant
Manage	ment Plan Requirements			
B6	The CEMP and CEMP Sub-plans required under this approval must be prepared by the suitably qualified and experienced persons in accordance with relevant guidelines and include where relevant; a) A summary of relevant background or baseline data; b) Details i) The relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval or license conditions); ii) Any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; and 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; b. Any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the EIS; c. A description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures and criterial d. A program to monitor and report on the; i. Impacts and environmental performance of the development (including a table	CEMP and management subplans DPE Letter of approval dated 24/12/21 (Stage 1) DPE Letter of approval dated 15/7/22 (Stage 2)	Environmental Management documentation prepared by suitably qualified and experienced individuals and contain the relevant details as required by this condition.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	summarising all the monitoring and reporting obligations under the conditions of this approval); and ii. Effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph d); e. A contingency plan to manage any unprecedented impacts and their consequences and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible; f. A program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time; g. A protocol for managing and reporting any; i. Incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion and; ii. Performance criterion; iii. Complaint; or iv. Failure to comply with other statutory requirements. h. 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; ii. Receive, handle, respond to and record complaints; iii. Resolve any disputes that may arise; iv. Respond to amy non-compliance; v. Respond to emergencies; and i. A description of the roles and environmental responsibilities, authority and accountability for all relevant employees, as well as training and awareness; and j. \protocol for periodic review of the CEMP and			



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	associated Sub-plans and programs. The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.			



Part C - Operational Environmental Management

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status	
Operati	Operational Environmental Management Plan				
C1	An Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) must be prepared to detail how the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures made and indentified in the EIS will be implemented and achieved during operation. This condition (condition C1) does not apply if condition C2 of this approval applies.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Not required until operational phase.	Not Triggered	
C2	An OEMP is not required for the development if the Proponent has an Environmental Management System (EMS) or equivalent as agreed with the Planning Secretary, and demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary, that through the EMS; a) The performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures, made and identified in the EIS, and specified relevant terms of this approval to be achieved; b) Issues identified through ongoing risk analysis can be managed; c) There is a clear plan depicting all monitoring to be carried out in relation to the development, including a table summarizing all the monitoring and reporting obligations under the conditions of this approval; d) There is a strategic framework for environmental management of the development; e) The role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development is clear; and f) Procedures are in place for: - Keeping the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the development; - Receiving, handling, responding to, and recording complaints; - Resolving any disputes that may arise; - Responding to any non-compliance; and	Site Observations Audit Interview	Not required until operational phase.	Not Triggered	



Re	ef	Requirement	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
		- Responding to emergencies.		
C3	3	Prior to commencing operation, the OEMP or EMS or equivalent as agreed with the Planning Secretary must be prepared to the Satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.	Not required until operational phase.	Not Triggered



Part D - Key Issue Conditions

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status	
Noise and	Noise and Vibration				
D1	Construction Hours Road upgrades, construction, upgrading and decommissioning activities may only be undertaken between; a) 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday; b) 8am to 1pm Saturdays; and c) At no time on Sundays and NSW public holidays; unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.	Out of Hours Works Protocol EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Rev H 8/3/22 Agency Consultation Report Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Stage 1) Rev A dated 2/12/21	The approved hours of construction are documented in the Noise and Vibration Management Plan.	Compliant	
D2	The following construction, upgrading and decommissioning activities may be carried out outside the hours specified in condition D1 above: a) The delivery or dispatch of materials as requested by the NSW Police Force or other public authorities for safety reasons; b) Emergency work to avoid the loss of life, property or to prevent material harm to the environment; or c) Works carried out in accordance with the hours and noise limits specified in any negotiated agreements with sensitive receivers (owners and occupiers), provided the negotiated agreements are in writing and finalized before the commencement of works.	Audit Interview	OOH works have not been undertaken as allowed by this condition. Negotiated agreements have not been obtained to undertake OOH works.	Not triggered	
D3	An Out-of-Hours Work Protocol must be prepared to identify a process for the consideration, management and approval of works which are outside the hours defined in conditions D1, D2, and D7. The Protocol must be approved by the Planning Secretary before commencing works. The Protocol must; a) Be prepared in consultation with the Council; b) Provide a process for the consideration of out-of-hours	Noise and Vibration Management Plan dated 8/3/22 Out of Hours works protocol dated 8/3/22	Appendix A of the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan includes and out of hours protocol. The Noise and Vibration Management plan and the out of hours works protocol was approved by DPE. Several out of hours works applications have been approved by the ER in	Compliant	



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	works against the relevant noise and vibration criteria, including the determination of low and high-risk activities; c) Provide a process of the identification of mitigation measures for potential impacts, including respite periods in consultation with any affected receivers; d) Provide a process for the identification of out-of-hours works undertaken by third parties in the vicinity of the site, and coordination of out-of-hours works with these third parties to achieve respite periods in locations where receivers may be affected by concurrent activities; e) Identify an approval process that considers the risk of activities, proposed mitigation, management and coordination, including where; - Low risk activities can be undertaken without the approval of the Planning Secretary and with the approval of the ER; and - High risk activities that are approved by the Planning Secretary; and f) Identify Department, Council and community notification arrangements for approved out-of-hours work.	DPE Letter of approval dated 9/3/22 Out of Hours Works Permit ER approval letters DPE OOH work lodgment correspondence dated 29/7/22	accordance with the OOH work protocol.	
D4	Construction and Decommissioning The Proponent must take all reasonable and feasible steps to minimise the construction upgrading or decommissioning noise of the development in the locations where the noise is audible to sensitive receivers, including any associated traffic noise.	Site Observations Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Construction Noise and Vibration management plan prepared. No rock breaking, blasting or impulsive noise observed during the site inspection. No noise complaints received to date.	Compliant
D5	The Proponent must implement mitigation measures; a) To ensure that the noise generated by any construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities is managed in accordance with the requirements for construction 'noise affected' management levels established in accordance with Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009); and b) With the aim of achieving the road traffic noise assessment criteria for residential land uses from NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011).	Site Observations Audit Interview	Limited activities have been undertaken to date. Work at Camp 6, Buronga substation and road upgrades are in sparsely populated areas with a considerable buffer distance between construction activities and residential receivers. No highly impactful activities observed during the audit inspection.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
D6	 The Proponent must comply with the following vibration limits; a) Vibration criteria established using the Assessing vibration: a technical guideline (DEC, 2006) (for human exposure); b) BS 7385 Part 2 – 1993 "Evaluation and measurement for vibration in buildings Part 2" as they are "applicable to Australian conditions"; and c) Vibration limits set out in the German Standard DIN 4150-3: Structural Vibration – effects of vibration on structures (for structural damage) 	Site Observations Audit Interview	No vibration undertaken to date as construction activities are a substantial distance from nearby sensitive receivers or structures. No vibration causing activities such as impact piling or vibratory rollers were observed to be occurring during the site inspection.	Compliant
D7	Blasting may only be carried out on the site between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday and between 9am and 1pm on Saturday. No blasting is allowed on Sundays or public holidays.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Blasting has not been undertaken during the audit period.	Not Triggered
D8	The Proponent must ensure that any blasting carried out on the site does not exceed the criteria in Table 2. [refer to infrastructure approval for table]	Site Observations Audit Interview	Blasting has not been undertaken during the audit period.	Not Triggered
D9	Operation The Proponent must implement all reasonable and feasible measures with the aim of ensuring that the noise generated by the operation of the development does not exceed 40dB (A) Laeq, 15min at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017) at any non-associated residence.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Operational Phase requirement.	Not Triggered
D10	Within 12 months of the date of this approval, the Proponent must prepare an Operation Noise Review to confirm noise predictions and control measures that would be implemented for the operation of the development. The Review must; a) Be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person whose appointment has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary; b) Be prepared in the consultation with the landowner of impacted residences;	DPE Letter dated 19/11/21 Audit Interview	Operational Noise Review (ONR) is due on 28 September 2022 (12 months following date of project approval). Renzo Tonin have been appointed by Transgrid to prepare the ONR and have been approved by DPE.	Not triggered



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	 c) Identify residences predicted to experience noise levels that exceed 40dB(A) Laeq, 15 at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, determine in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017) d) Detail the noise mitigation measures to achieve the noise criteria identified, including the timing of implementation; e) Provide evidence of consultation with affected landowners; f) Include a consultation strategy to seek feedback from directly affected landowners on the noise mitigation measures; and g) Identify procedures for the management of operational noise complaints. The Proponent must implement any identified mitigation measures prior to the commencement of operation. 			
D11	Operational Noise Monitoring Within 6 months of commencement of operations (or commencement of operation of a stage if the development is to be staged), the Proponent must; a) Undertake noise and monitoring to determine whether the development is complying with the relevant conditions of this approval; and b) Submit a copy of the monitoring results to the Department.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Operational Phase requirement.	Not Triggered
D12	The Proponent must undertake further noise monitoring of the development if required by the Planning Secretary.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Operational Phase requirement.	Not Triggered
D13	Noise and Vibration CEMP Sub-Plan The Noise and Vibration CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must: a) Ensure the requirements in conditions D1 and D12 are complied with; b) Include a description of reasonable and feasible measures that would be implemented to minimise noise and vibration impacts of the development; c) Include a detailed description of the noise and vibration management system for the development;	Noise and Vibration Management Plan – EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 8/3/22 Noise and Vibration Management Plan – EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 2 6/7/22	Noise and Vibration Management Plans for both Stage 1 and Stage 2 contain the necessary content and have been reviewed and endorsed by the Environmental Representative.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	d) Include a protocol for the identification, notification, notification and management of works that exceeded the noise management levels; and e) Include a monitoring program that evaluates and reports om the effectiveness of the noise and vibration of the management system.			
Air Quality				
D14	In addition to the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures specified in EIS, the Proponent must take all reasonable steps to: a) Minimize the off-site dust, fume, blast emissions and other air pollutants of the development; and b) Minimize the surface disturbance of the site.	Site Observations Erosion and Sediment Control Plan – Camp 6	A water cart has been provided at the Camp 6 construction site to minimise dust emissions and was observed to be operational during the audit. A streetsweeper was available on site to clean up any material deposited on local roads. No fugitive dust emissions were observed.	Complaint
Soil and V	/ater			
D15	Water Supply The proponent must ensure that it has sufficient water for all stages of the development, and if necessary adjust the scale of the development to match its available water supply. Note: Under the Water Act 1912 and/or the Water Management Act 2000, the Proponent is required to obtain the necessary water licenses for the development.	Site Observations Audit Interview Water access licence 17/5/22 Western Murray Irrigation email 30/5/22 NSW Water Register 22/6/22 Email correspondence with Wentworth Shire Council dated 18/8/21	Water used on site as observed during the audit for dust suppression is extracted from a local council standpipe. Appropriate licenses are in place.	Compliant
D16	Erosion and Sedimentation The Proponent must: a) Minimize erosion and control sediment generation; and b) Ensure all land disturbances have appropriate drainage and erosion and sediment controls designed, installed and maintained in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater - Soils and construction Volume 1 (Landcom 2004) and Managing Urban Stormwater - Soils and Construction	Site Observations Audit Interview Camp 6 Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	An experienced erosion and sediment consultant has been appointed to assist the SEJV prepare progressive erosion and sediment control plans. ERSED controls installed on site were consistent with Blue Book requirements.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	Volume 2c Unsealed Roads (DECC, 2008);			
D17	Pollution of Waters Unless otherwise authorised by an EPL, the Proponent must ensure all development does not cause any water pollution, as defined under Section 120 of the POEO Act.	Audit Interview Site Observations	No incidents to date that have resulted in pollution of waters. Spill kits are in place at the site compound and fuels/chemicals are stored in bunds.	Compliant
D18	The Proponent must; a) Ensure that appropriate components of the concrete batching plants and substation are suitable bunded; an b) Minimise any spills of hazardous materials or hydrocarbons, and clean up an spills as soon as they occur.	Audit Interview Site Observations	Concrete batch plants and substation have not been constructed.	Not triggered
D19	The Proponent must ensure that any groundwater dewatering activities do not discharge to watercourses.	Site Observations	No groundwater dewatering observed during the site inspection.	Not triggered
D20	Riparian Areas The Proponent must ensure: a) All activities on waterfront land are constructed in accordance with the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (2012), unless DPIE Water agrees otherwise; and b) The geomorphic condition of the major rivers and distributary channels crossed by the development is not impacted.	Site Observations	No construction activities observed on waterfront land, or adjacent to creeks or rivers.	Not triggered
D21	Flooding The Proponent must ensure that the development. a) Does not materially alter the flood storage capacity, flows or characteristics in the development area or off-site; and b) Is designed, constructed and maintained to reduce impacts on surface water, localised flooding an groundwater at the site, unless otherwise agreed by the council.	Construction Soil and Water Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement – Technical Paper 6	The EIS concludes that for the construction phase, the proposal would have negligible impact on flood behaviour because the proposed works on the floodplain are insignificant compared to the extent of the floodplain and the construction program should be managed to minimise work within the floodplain.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
D22	Acid Sulfate Soils The Proponent must ensure that any construction activities in identified areas of acid sulfate soil risk are undertaken in accordance with the Acid Sulfate Soil Manual (Acid Sulfate Soil Management Advisory Committee, 1998).	Site Observations Audit Interview Environmental Impact Assessment Soil and Water Management Plan	No excavations observed to be undertaken that would impact Acid Sulphate Soils. Current activities are outside the areas of known acid sulphate soil risk areas.	Not triggered
D23	Salinity The Proponent must ensure that any construction activities in identified areas of moderate to high salinity are undertaken in accordance with the Salinity Training Manual (DPI, 2014) and Book 4 Dryland Salinity: Productive use of Saline Land and Water (NSW DECC, 2008)	Site Observations Audit Interview Environmental Impact Assessment	Areas classified as having high salinity potential are not within the vicinity of the proposal study area. No excavations observed to be undertaken that would impact saline soils. Current activities are outside the areas of known soils of moderate to high salinity.	Not triggered
D24	Soil and Water CEMP Sub-Plan The soil and Water CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include provisions for: a) Ensuring the requirements in conditions D15 to D23 are complied with; b) Managing flood risk during construction; c) Investigating, assessing and managing contaminated land, soils and groundwater in the development area; d) Investigating, assessing and managing the potential for asbestos and other hazardous materials in the development area; and e) Managing any unexpected and/ or suspected contaminated land, asbestos and unexploded ordinance excavated, disturbed or otherwise discovered during construction.	Soil and Water Management Plan – EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 7/2/22 Soil and Water Management Plan – EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 2 6/7/22	Soil and Water management subplans have been prepared for both Stages 1 and 2 and includes the necessary content.	Compliant
Biodivers	ity			
D25	Restrictions on Clearing and Habitat Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must: a) Ensure that no more than: - 19.6 hectares (ha) of BC Act listed Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW Southwestern Slopes bioregions;	Clearing and Habitat Disturbance Register Pre-Clearing and clearing procedure Energy Connect (NSW – Western Section Stage 1) 16/12/21	To date, only minor clearing has commenced for the establishment of Camp 6, the Buronga Substation and the site access roads. A clearing process has been implemented which includes authorisation by the project ecologist prior to any clearing being undertaken. The quantities of clearing are recorded.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	 0.04 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species Acacia acanthoclada (Harrow Wattle); 0.32 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed flora species Atriplex infrequens (A saltbush); 1.51 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species Austrostipa nullannulla (A spear-grass); 14 individuals of BC Act listed Santalum murrayanum (Bitter Quandong); and 6.91 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed fauna species Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides (Regent Parrot) (eastern subspecies); is cleared for the development; and Minimise; 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. 	Connect (NSW – Western Section Stage 2) 11/5/22 Clearing Permit Camp 6		
D26	Biodiversity Offset Package 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 the BCS and to the satisfaction of the Secretary in writing. The Package must include, but not necessarily be limited to; a) Details of the specific biodiversity offset measures to be implemented and delivered in accordance with the EIS; b) The cost of each specific biodiversity offset measure, which would be required to be paid into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund if the relevant measures is not implemented as delivered (as calculated in accordance with Division 6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) and the offsets payment calculator was established as at 29 July 2021); c) The timing and responsibilities for the implementation and delivery of the measures required in the Package; and d) Confirmation that the biodiversity offset measures will have been implemented and delivered no later than 31 December	Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Biodiversity Offset Package 14/3/22 DPE Letter of approval dated 16/3/22	DPE approved the biodiversity offset package on 16/3/22.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	2023 Following approval, the Proponent must implement and deliver the Biodiversity Offset Package.			
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. 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.	Escrow Account Receipt for \$48M dated 13/9/21	Escrow account fund was established prior to project approval and was therefore in place prior to any development that could impact biodiversity values prior to offset such as construction or any other minor works such as local road uprades etc.	Compliant
D28	Biodiversity CEMP Sub-Plan The Biodiversity CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include: a) A description of the measures that would be implemented for: - Minimising the amount of native vegetation clearing within the approved development footprint - Minimizing the loss of key fauna habitat, including tree hollows; - 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; - Maximizing 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; - Collecting and propagating seed (where relevant); - Controlling weeds - Controlling erosion; and - Bushfire management;	Biodiversity Management Plan, EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section Stage 1) Revision F dated 21/12/21 DPE Letter of approval dated 9/2/2022 Nest Box Strategy dated 29/4/22 Site Pre-clearing Permit	Biodiversity Management Plan was approved by DPE on 9/2/2022. A supplementary hollow and nest strategy has been prepared for the installation of nest boxes. The site preclearing permit is signed by the project ecologist and includes key ecological items including: - Exclusion Zones - Preclearing ecologist inspection - Requirement for a fauna spotter - Requirement for nest boxes - Retention of habitat features	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	 b) Details of the Proponent's commitment to make one of \$150,000 funding contribution targeted at further scientific study into the impacts of electric and magnetic fields on birds in Australia; c) Preparation and implementation of a two year bird impact monitoring program at the commencement of operations; and d) A detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures. 			
Heritage				
D29	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy, prepared in consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders and Heritage NSW, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The Strategy must; a) Identify any additional risk zones outside the potential archaeological deposits (PADs) where construction must not commence until subsurface testing in b) and surveys in c) are complete; b) Describe additional subsurface testing that will be undertaken to confirm the significance of the PADs that would be impacted by the final transmission infrastructure design and ancillary facilities in line with the Code of Practice for Archeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010); c) Describe additional Aboriginal heritage surveys that will be undertaken where the ground disturbance activities are required outside of the heritage survey area; d) Include details of ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, including any written responses and records of any meetings; and e) Include an updated Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, which; - Is based on the findings of the subsurface testing in b) and surveys in c);	Heritage Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 Rev F dated 17/12/21 DPE Letter of approval dated 4/2/2022	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy Approved by DPE on 4/2/2022/ Construction commenced on 4/7/22 (Noting that this document will be staged, further assessment will be undertaken during subsequent audits).	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	 Describes any potential additional impacts to heritage items; Identifies further mitigation measures including avoidance or salvage Includes detailed justification where the final transmission line alignment is not able to avoid impacts to heritage items; and Provides an updated and consolidated list of sites that would be protected and remain in-situ throughout construction and sites that would be salvaged and relocated to suitable alternative locations. 			
D30	Avoidance and Salvage The Proponent must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to avoid and minimize harm to heritage items and potential archaeological deposits (PADs) identified in the EIS and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy required by condition D29, prior to carrying out any development that could harm the items or deposits.	Everick Heritage – Preclearing survey inspections dated 14/12/21, 15/12/21, 10/5/22, 15/12/21, 26/2/22 Everick Heritage – Addendum Archaeological Survey Report dated 7/5/22 Aboriginal Focus Group Meeting Minutes 4/8/22 and 2/8/22	SEJV have appointed a heritage specialist to undertake pre-clearance surveys with members of the local aboriginal groups. Preclearance reports were provided for: - Wentworth Camp - Alcherinda Drive Road Reserve - Alcherinda Drive Water Supply Point - Buronga Substation - Duncans Access Track and Grand Lush Junction	Compliant
D31	The proponent must ensure the development does not cause any harm to heritage items identified for avoidance in the approved Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy or any Aboriginal heritage items located outside the approved development footprint.	Audit Interview Everick Heritage Report 18/12/21	No harm to any heritage items at this stage in the project has been reported. SEJV have a number of procedures and controls in place to prevent harm to aboriginal heritage items including implementation of "no go" signage and exclusion zones as well as unexpected finds protocol.	Compliant
D32	Prior to carrying out any activity that could harm heritage items, the Proponent must salvage and relocate all heritage items identified for salvage and relocation in the updated and approved Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy to a suitable alternative location, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation	Pre-clearing Inspection surveys (refer to D30 above)	Pre- clearance surveys were undertaken prior to the commencement of ground disturbance activities. To date, no heritage items have been discovered within clearing areas therefore salvage has not been	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010)		required at this stage of the project. Noted that at the time of the audit the updated Cultural Heritage Strategy (stages 2a and b) required by Condition 29 was under development and yet to be approved, no activities that could harm known heritage items or construction within the additional risk zones' referred to in condition D29a) had yet commenced.	
D34	Heritage CEMP Sub-Plan The Heritage CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must: a) Be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person whose appointment has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary; b) Include a description of the measures that would be implemented for: - Addressing the outcomes of the of the additional assessment, testing and surveys identified in condition D29; - Protecting the heritage items identified in conditions D31 and D33, including fencing off the heritage items (where required) prior to carrying out any development that could harm the heritage items, and protecting any items located outside the approved development corridor; - Salvaging and relocating the heritage items identified in condition D32: - Minimising and managing the impacts of the development on heritage items within the development corridor including: • A strategy for the long-term management of any heritage items or material collected during the test excavation or salvage works; - A contingency plan and reporting procedure if: • Heritage items outside the approved disturbance area are damaged;	Heritage Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW- Western Section Stage 1) - 17/12/21 DPE Letter of approval dated 4/2/22	Heritage Management Plan approved by DPE on 4/2/22.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	 Previously unidentified heritage items are found; or Aboriginal skeletal material is discovered; Ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site and that records are kept of these inductions; and Ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders during the implementation of the plan; and Include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and any heritage impacts of the development. 			
Traffic and	l Transport			
D35	Designated Heavy and Over-Dimensional Vehicle Routes All over-dimensional vehicles associated with the development must only travel to and from the site via the Primary Access Routes described in the EIS, as identified in the figure in Appendix 2, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. Notes: The proponent is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of over-dimensional vehicles on the road network.	Driver Code of Conduct EnergyConnect Rev C dated	Driver code of conduct.	Compliant
D36	All heavy and light vehicles associated with the development: a) Must travel to and from the site via the Primary Access Route described in the EIS, as identified in the figure in Appendix 2; and b) May travel to and from the site via the Secondary Access Routes and Water Supply Routes, subject to the requirements in conditions D37 and D38, to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. Notes: • The proponent is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of over dimensional vehicles on the road network	Audit Interview Site observations	No non compliances reported, or complaints received regarding vehicle routes.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
D37	Traffic Strategy Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must prepare a Traffic Strategy, in consultation with the relevant roads authority, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary, which: - For all access routes: - Identities the location and types of any necessary road upgrades (including roads, intersections, crossing points and access points), including consideration of relevant amenity impacts; - Ensures that any road upgrades comply with the Austroads Guide to Road Design (as amended by TFNSW supplements), unless the relevant roads authority agrees otherwise; - Includes a detailed assessment of potential impacts of any necessary road upgrades (such as heritage and biodiversity impacts), including consideration of appropriate mitigation measures; - Identifies whether intersections, crossing points and access points would be permanent or temporary; and - Includes measures for notifying, seeking feedback from and addressing the concerns of impacted residents along the routes; - For Secondary access Routes and Water Supply Routes: - Provides detailed usage of the routes, including maximum daily numbers of heavy and light vehicles and approximate durations of use; - includes an assessment of dust impacts to any residences along the routes and identifies mitigation measures to minimise any impacts; and - identifies any residences along the routes that would experience road traffic noise above the relevant assessment criteria from Table 3 in NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011) due to project-related traffic and identifies mitigation measures to minimise impacts.	Traffic Strategy EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 rev F dated 11/2/22 Traffic Strategy EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 2 Rev D dated 28/4/22 DPE letter of approval (stage 1) dated 24/2/22	Traffic Strategy (stage 1) prepared and approved prior to construction commencement. Stage 2 has been subsequently approved.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
D38	Prior to commencing construction, the proponent must implement the road upgrades and the mitigation measures identified in the Traffic Strategy in condition D37, to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority and the Planning Secretary, respectively.	Condition D38 Compliance Report – Stage 1 Package 1 Road Upgrades dated 18/5/22 TransGrid Letter dated 5/5/22 DPE Letter of Approval dated 20/5/22	Transgrid have written to DPE to confirm their approach to meeting the requirements of this condition. DPE approved the requested approach on 20/5/22.	Compliant
D39	 Road Maintenance The Proponent must: a) undertake an independent dilapidation survey to assess the: existing condition of all local roads on the transport route (including local road crossings) prior to construction, upgrading or decommissioning works; and condition of all local roads on the transport route (including local road crossings) within 1 month of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, or within a timeframe agreed to by the relevant roads authority; On an annual basis during construction, or within a timeframe agreed to be relevant roads authority; b) Repair (or pay the full costs associated with repairing) any damage to local roads on the transport route (including local road crossings), if dilapidation surveys identify that the road has been damaged by the development during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works; in consultation with the relevant roads authority, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. 	SP1 Dilapidation Condition Report Part 1 Dated 6/5/22 Email to Wentworth Council dated 17/5/22	Independent Survey undertaken prior to construction.	Compliant
D40	Traffic and Transport CEMP Sub-Plan The Traffic and Transport CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include a) Details of the transport route to be used for all development related traffic; b) Details of the road upgrade works required by condition D38 of this approval; c) Details of the measures that would be implemented to; - Minimise traffic safety impacts of the development and	Stage 1 - Traffic and Transport Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Stage 1 Rev H dated 24/2/2022 - ER Letter of endorsement dated 13/1/22 - DPE letter of approval dated	Stage 1 - TTMP endorsed by the ER on 24/12/22 and approved by DPE on 28/2/22 Stage 2 - TTMP endorsed by the ER on 28/4/22 and approved by DPE on 15/7/22	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	disruptions to local road users during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, including; • A description of the proposed dilapidation surveys required by condition D39 of this approval; • A description of the proposed measures for managing traffic flow around the work sites, construction compounds and accommodation camps; • Temporary traffic controls, including detours and signage; • Procedures for stinging cables and transmission lines across roads; • Notifying the local community about development related traffic impacts • Procedures for receiving and addressing complaints from the community about development related traffic. • Minimising potential cumulative traffic impacts with other projects in the area; • Minimising potential conflict between development related traffic and rail services, stock movements and school busses, in consultation with local schools, including preventing queuing on the public road network; • Implementing measures to minimise development related traffic on the public road network outside of standard construction hours; • Minimising dirt tracked onto the public road network from development related traffic; • Details of the employee shuttlebus service (if proposed), including pick-up and drop-off points and associated parking arrangements for construction workers and measures to encourage employee use of this service; • Encouraging car-pooling or ride sharing by employees;	Stage 2 - Traffic and Transport Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Stage 2 Rev E dated 24/2/2022 - ER Letter of endorsement dated 28/4/22 - DPE letter of approval dated 15/7/22		



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status	
	Scheduling of haulage vehicle movements to minimise convoy length or platoons; Responding to local climate conditions that may affect road safety, such as fog, dust, wet weather and flooding. Ensuring loaded vehicles entering or leaving the site have their loads covered or contained; Responding to any emergency repair or maintenance requirements; Provisions for maintaining emergency vehicle access at all times; A traffic management system for managing overdimensional vehicles: and Fatigue management. Comply with the traffic conditions in this approval; Include a drivers code of conduct that addresses; Traveling speeds; Procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development adhere to the designated over-dimensional and heavy vehicle routes; Procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development implement safe driving practices; and Include a detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and the code of conduct; and R flood response plan detailing procedures and options for safe access to and from the site in the event of flooding.				
Visual Am	Visual Amenity				
D41	Visual Impact Mitigation Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, for a period of 2 years from the commencement of operations, the owners of R1489, R2022 and R2023 may ask the Proponent to implement visual impact mitigation measures of their land to minimise the visual impacts of the development of their residence (including its curtilage).	Audit interview	Condition relates to operations.	Not triggered	



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	Upon receiving such a written request from the owner of these residences, the Proponent must implement appropriate mitigation measures (such as landscaping and vegetation screening) in consultation with the owner. These mitigation measures must be reasonable and feasible, aimed at reducing the visibility of the transmission line and towers from the residence an its curtilage, and commensurate with the level of visual impact on the residence. All agreed mitigation measures must be implemented within 12 months of receiving the written request, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. If the Proponent and the owner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Planning Secretary for resolution. To avoid any doubt, mitigation measures are not required to be implemented to reduce the visibility of transmission lines and towers from any other locations on the property other than the residence and its curtilage.			
D42	Visual Appearance The proponent must: a) Take reasonable steps to minimise the off-site visual impacts of the development; and b) Not mount any advertising signs or logos on site except where it is required for identification or safety purposes.	Site Observations	No advertising signs or logos were observed on site. Site compound locations are a reasonable distance from residential areas and are unlikely to cause any visual impacts.	Compliant
D43	Lighting The Proponent must; a) Take all reasonable steps to minimise the off site lighting impacts of the development; and b) Ensure that any external lighting associated with the development: i) Is installed as low intensity lighting (except where required for safety or emergency purposes); ii) complies with Australian/ New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4282:2019 – Control of Obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Temporary lighting at site compounds is yet to be installed.	Not triggered
Hazard an	l d Risk	!	ı	

Hazard and Risk



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
D44	Dangerous Goods The Proponent must ensure that the storage, handling, and transport of dangerous goods is undertaken in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and guidelines, particularly AS1940 The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids and AS/NZS 1596:2014 The storage and handling of LP Gas, the Dangerous Goods Code, and the EPA's Storing and Handling of Liquids; Environmental Protection – Participants Manual.	Site Inspection Audit Interview	Only minor volumes of chemicals/fuels stored at site during the establishment phase. A ventilated and bunded container was provided on site for storage of chemicals and fuels. Further review will be required during subsequent audits to evaluate compliance with these requirements as construction progress and the storage requirements increase during the construction works.	Compliant
D45	Electric and Magnetic Fields The Proponent must ensure that the design, construction and operation of the development is managed to comply with the applicable electric and magnetic fields (EMF) limits in the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for limiting exposure to time varying electric and magnetic fields (1Hz-100Hz) (ICNIRP, 2010).	330kV L1 Border to Buronga – Electric and Magnetic Fields Study (AECOMM) dated 26/11/21 330kV L1 Buronga to Dinewan – Electric and Magnetic Fields Study (AECOMM) dated 22/12/21 220kV L4 Buronga to Red Cliffs – Electric and Magnetic Fields Study 25/1/22	Three design studies have been undertaken for the transmission lines and incorporate the requirements of the (ICNIRP) Guidelines. Each study concludes that the power frequency electric and magnetic field levels near ground level are confirmed to be acceptable to humans, livestock and plants. Further review will be required during subsequent audits to evaluate compliance with these requirements as design and construction progress.	Not triggered
Bushfire	Safety			
D46	Operating Conditions The Proponent must: a) Minimise the fire risks of the development, including managing vegetation fuel loads on site b) Ensure that the development: - Complies with the relevant asset protection requirements in the RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent) and Standards for Asset Protection Zones; - Is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site, including provision of a 20,000 litre water supply tank fitted with a 65	Accommodation Camp Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 rev 0 2/3/22	The Buronga Accommodation camp commits to the provision of a 20,000-litre water supply tank fitted with a 65 mm Storz fitting and a FRNSW compatible suction connection located at each of the construction compounds and accommodation camps however this is yet to be installed as the camp is in its earlys establishment phase. As an interim measure with jet hose attachment to the water tanker is available on site in the event of a fire.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	 mm Storz fitting and a FRNSW compatible suction connection located at each of the construction compounds and accommodation camps; Incorporates the recommendations of a fire risk assessment as per TransGrid's design standards; c) Ensure that buildings within the compounds and accommodation camps comply with Australian Standard AS3959-2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas (or equivalent) and RFS's Planning for Bushfire protection 2019; d) Develop procedures to manage potential fires on site, in consultation with the RFS and FRNSW; e) Assist the RFS, FRNSW and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site; and f) Notify the relevant local emergency management committee following completion of construction of the development, and prior to commencing operations. 		Further assessment will be required during subsequent audits.	
D47	Emergency Plan Prior to commencing construction, the proponent must develop and implement and comprehensive Emergency Plan and detailed emergency procedures for the development, in consultation with the local Fire Control Centre, and provide a copy of the plan to the local Fire Control Centre. The Proponent must keep two copies of the plan on site in a prominent position adjacent to the site entry point(s) to the Buronga Substation at all times. The plan must: a) Be consistent with: RFS's Planning for Bushfire protection 2019(or equivalent); RFS's Development Planning – a Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and evacuation plan; The fire and rescue NSW act 1989; The Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2011; b) Identify the fire risks and hazards and detailed measures for the development to prevent or mitigate fires igniting; c) Include procedures that would be implemented f there is a fire on site or in the vicinity of the site; d) List works that should not be carried out during a total fire	Emergency Plan Agency Consultation Report dated 10/3/22 Emergency Plan, EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Rev 0 dated 14/3/22	A copy of the Emergency plan was provided to the Lower West Rural Fire Service for consultation.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	ban; e) Include availability of fire suppression equipment access and water; f) Include procedures for the storage and maintenance of any flammable materials; g) Detail access provisions for emergency vehicles and contact details for both a primary and alternative site contract who may be reached 24/7 in the event of an emergency; h) Include a figure showing site infrastructure, any Asset Protection Zones and the on site water supply tank(s) i) Include location of hazards (physical, chemical and electrical) that may impact on fire fighting activities and procedures to manage identified hazards during fire fighting activities. j) Include details of the location, management and maintenance of any Asset Protection Zone and who is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Asset Protection Zone; k) Include bushfire emergency management planning; l) Include details of how RFS would be notified and procedures that would be implemented, in the event that: - There is a fire on site or in the vicinity of the site; - There are any activities on site that would have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; or - There are any proposed activities to be carried out during a bushfire danger period that have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; and m) Include details on how live transmission infrastructure can be safely isolated in an emergency.			
Waste				
D48	Waste generated during construction, operation upgrading, and decommissioning must be dealt with in accordance with the following priorities: a) Waste generation must be avoided and where avoidance is	Site observations Audit interview Construction Waste Management Plan	Only small quantities of waste have been generated at the project. Recycling facilities (Skip bins) are available on site for both general waste and comingled recycling.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	not reasonable practicable, waste generation must be reduced: b) Where avoiding or reducing waste is not possible, waste must not be re-used, recycled or recovered; and c) Where reusing, recycling or recovering waste is not possible, waste must be treated or disposed of.		Opportunities are currently being explored to re-use vegetation mulch material for erosion control. Any other waste unable to be re-used is disposed of to the Buronga waste disposal facility.	
D49	The importation of waste and the storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing of disposal of such waste must comply with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, the Protection of the Environment Operations (waste) Regulation 2014, and orders or exemptions under the regulation.	Site observations Audit interview	There have not been any waste materials imported to site.	Compliant
D50	Waste must not only be exported to a site licenced by the EPA for the storage, treatment, processing or reprocessing or disposal of the subject waste, or in accordance with a Resource Recovery Exemption or Order issued under the Protection of the Environment Operations (waste) Regulation 2014, or to any other place that can lawfully accept such waste.	Site Observations Audit Interview Waste Tracking Register Environmental Material Tracking form dated 12/12/21 Environment Protection Licence 20209	Only small volumes of waste materials have been generated to date. A waste tracking form and materials register is maintained. Buronga Landfill is operated by Wentworth Council and holds an Environment Protection Licence (EPL 20209).	Compliant
D51	All wasted that is removed from site must be classified in accordance	Site Observations	As above, only small volumes of waste	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines, with appropriate records and disposal dockets retained for audit purposes.	Audit Interview Waste Tracking Register Environmental Material Tracking form dated 12/12/21 Environment Protection Licence 20209	material produced to date.	
Accommo	odation Camp			
D52	Prior to establishing the accommodation camps, the Proponent must prepare the Accommodation Camp Management Plan to the satisfaction of Council, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. The plan must; a) Ensure utilities at the accommodation camps, including water, wastewater, waste and electricity, are designed and located in accordance with Council specifications and relevant standards, in consultation with Council; b) Ensure the accommodation camp complies with conditions D21 and D46; c) Ensure any treated wastewater from the accommodation camps used for dust suppression during construction; - Complies with the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) & Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ) (2000) guidelines for irrigation water quality; - Meets the requirements of the Public Health Act 2010; d) Include measure for dust suppression within the accommodation camps; e) Provide the site layout including building locations, vehicle access and movement, site servicing and utilities infrastructure; and f) Include measures to support local suppliers in servicing the camp where possible. Following approval, the Proponent must implement the Accommodation Camp Management Plan.	- Accommodation Camp Management Plan Rev 0 dated 2/3/22 - Email from Wentworth Council dated 21/2/22	Accommodation plan prepared and submitted to DPE. Wentworth Council have no comments on the management plan.	Compliant

Local Business and Employment Strategy



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
D53	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must prepare a Local Business and Employment Strategy for the development in consultation with Council. This strategy must investigate options for prioritising the employment of local Aboriginal workforce and suppliers for the construction of the development, where feasible. The proponent must implement the Accommodation and Employment Strategy.	Local Business and Employment Strategy EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) 45860-CM-PL-G-1002) Audit Interview Project EnergyConnect, Monthly Progress Report Excerpts Local Industry and Participation Monthly Slipp reporting Table Project Energy Connect Strategic Working Group Minutes Notes	SEJV have appointed an engagement manager who oversees the implementation of the strategy and is supported by a team of land and property access managers, a community and stakeholder manager and an Indigenous Business Participation officer. Local industry and indigenous participation is monitored and reported internally on a monthly basis. Further assessment will be required throughout the project to confirm ongoing compliance.	Compliant
Rehabilita	tion			
D54	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 materials sites are located, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives in Table 3. [refer to infrastructure approval for table]	Audit Interview Site Observations	This condition won't be triggered until 6 months following the completion of construction.	Not triggered



Part E – Environmental Management, Reporting and Auditing

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
Revision	Of Strategies, Plans and Programs			
E1	The Proponent must review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans or programs required under this approval to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within 3 month of the: - Submission of an incident report under condition E6; - Submission of an audit report under condition E11; or - Any modification to the conditions of this approval.	Audit Interview Site Observations	A review of these plans is not required at this stage however it is noted that this will be triggered following the submission of this audit report.	Not triggered
Staging, (Combining and Updating Strategies, plans or Programs			
E2	 With approval of the Planning Secretary, the Proponent may: a) Prepare and submit any strategy, plan or program required by this approval on a staged basis (if a clear description is provided as to the specific stage and scope of the development to which the strategy, plan or program applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the strategy plan or program; b) Combine any strategy, plan or program required by this approval (if a clear relationship is demonstrated between the strategies, plans or programs that are proposed to be combined); and c) Update any strategy, plan or program required by this approval (to ensure the strategies, plans and programs required under this approval and updated on a regular basis and incorporate additional measures or amendments to improve the environmental performance of the development). If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan or program may be staged or updated without consultation being undertaken with all parties required to be consulted in the relevant condition in this approval. If approved by the Planning Secretary, updated strategies, plans or 	EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Staging Report Rev C dated 24/11/21 Letter to DPE dated 26/11/21 DPE letter of approval of approach to staging dated 24/12/21	DPE approved the approach to staging the project as follows: Stage 1 – commencing the upgrade of the existing substation at Buronga (Arumpo Road, Buronga), establishing the Buronga accommodation camp and construction compound, and using and accessing two water supply points off Corbett Avenue, Buronga to supply raw water for construction and potable water for the accommodation camp. Stage 2 – all other construction activities.	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	programs supersede the previous versions of them and must be implemented in accordance with the condition that requires the strategy, plan or program. If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan or program may be staged without addressing particular requirements of the relevant condition of this approval if those requirements are not applicable to the particular stage.			
Notification	ns			
E3	Notification of Department Prior to commencing construction, operations, upgrading or decommissioning of the development or, the Proponent must notify the Department in writing via the Major Projects website portal of the date of commencing relevant phase. If any of these phases of the development are to be staged, then the Proponent must notify the Department in writing prior to commencing the relevant stage, and clearly identify the development that would be carried out during the relevant stage.	Transgrid Letter dated 23/6/22 Transgrid Letter dated 18/7/22 DPE Portal Lodgment Receipt	DPE were notified of Construction commencement of both stages 1 and 1. Evidence of DPE Portal submission provided.	Compliant
E4	Final Layout Plans Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must submit detailed plans of the final layout of the development to the Department via the Major Projects website, including: a) Details on sitting of transmission towers, ancillary infrastructure and / or ancillary facilities; and b) Showing comparison to the approved layout. The Proponent must ensure that the development is constructed in accordance with the Final Layout Plans.	Final Layout plan sketches (45860-SK-26000-C-series) BRG Series of Plans Stage 2 Final Layout Plans DPE Email dated 18/7/22 DPE Email dated 19/7/22	DPE confirmed receipt of the final layout plans for stages 1 and 2.	Compliant
E5	Work as Executed Plans Prior to commencing operations, the Proponent must submit plans that confirm the constructed layout of the development and showing comparison to final layout plans to the Planning Secretary, via the Major Projects website.	Audit Interview Site Observations	Not applicable until operational phase.	Not triggered
E6	Incident Notification The Department must be notified via the Major Projects website portal immediately after the Proponent becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the development	Audit Interview	There have not been any incidents reported to date.	Not triggered



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status		
	application number and the name of the development if it has one), and set out the location and nature of the incident. Subsequent notification requirements must be given, and reports submitted in accordance with the requirements set out Appendix 3.					
E7	Non-Compliance Notification The Planning Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after the Proponent becomes aware of any non-compliance.	Audit Interview	There have not been any non - compliances reported to date.	Not triggered		
E8	A non-compliance notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of approval that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.	Audit Interview	There have not been any non - compliances reported to date.	Not triggered		
E9	A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.	Audit Interview	There have not been any non-compliances reported to date.	Not triggered		
E10	Notification of Landowners Prior to the commencement of construction, the Proponent must notify the owners of the owners of R1489, R2022 and R2023 of their rights under the condition D41. Transgrid Letter to Landowners dated 15/7/22 Landowners of R2022, R149, R2023 were formally notified in accordance with this condition.		Compliant			
Independe	Independent Environmental Audit					
E11	Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out at the frequency described and in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020), unless otherwise agreed or directed by the Planning Secretary.	This audit report	Initial audit undertaken on 17 and 18 August 2022, within 3 months of construction commencement.	Compliant		
Access to Information						
E12	The Proponent must: a) Make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development: (i) The EIS (ii) Current approved statutory approvals for the development	EnergyConnect Transgrid	Relevant documents are included on the project website.	Compliant		



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	(iii) Approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this approval (iv) The proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, decommissioning and/or operation of the development is to be staged (v) A comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, which have been reported in accordance with the various programs and plans approved under the conditions of approval (vi) A record of complaints, which is to be updated on a monthly basis (vii) Any independent environmental audit, and the Proponents response to the recommendations in the audit (viii) Any other matter required by the planning secretary b) Keep this information up to date.			



Appendix C Site Photographs





Photo 1: No Go Zone Signage and fencing – Buronga Substation



Photo 2: Buronga Substation Extension worksite



Photo 3: Buronga Camp/Laydown Area



Photo 4: Buronga Camp/Laydown Area Waste Facilities





Photo 5: Water cart used for dust suppression and highpressure cleaning for weed hygiene



Photo 6: Excavator following weed hygiene cleaning



Appendix D Auditor Declaration



Project name	Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section)	
Consent Number	SSI 10040	
Description of Project	Development of a new 330 kV transmission line connecting the NSW and SA transmission networks (via Buronga substation) and upgrading the existing transmission line between Buronga substation and the NSW / Vic border. The land on which the project is constructed is within the Wentworth Shire	
Proponent	Transgrid	
Date	14 October 2022	

I declare that I have undertaken the Independent Audit and prepared the contents of the attached Independent Audit Report and to the best of my knowledge:

I declare that

- (i) the audit has been undertaken in accordance with relevant condition(s) of consent and the Independent Audit Compliance Requirements (Department 2019);
- (ii) the findings of the audit are reported truthfully, accurately and completely;
- (iii) I have exercised due diligence and professional judgement in conducting the audit;
- (iv) I have acted professionally, objectively and in an unbiased manner;
- (v) I am not related to any proponent, owner or operator of the project neither as an employer, business partner, employee, or by sharing a common employer, having a contractual arrangement outside the audit, or by relationship as spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or child;
- (vi) I do not have any pecuniary interest in the audited project, including where there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation of financial gain or loss to me or spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or child:
- (vii) neither I nor my employer have provided consultancy services for the audited project that were subject to this audit except as otherwise declared to the Department prior to the audit; and
- (viii) I have not accepted, nor intend to accept any inducement, commission, gift or any other benefit (apart from payment for auditing services) from any proponent, owner or operator of the project, their employees or any interested party. I have not knowingly allowed, nor intend to allow my colleagues to do so

Notes:

- a) Under section 10.6 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) in a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit. If the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The proponent of an approved project must not fail to include information in (or provide information for inclusion in) a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit if the person knows that the information is materially relevant to the monitoring or audit. The maximum penalty is, in the case of corporation, \$1 million and for an individual, \$250,000; and
- b) The *Crimes Act 1900* contains other offences relating to the false and misleading information; section 307Bv (giving false or misleading information maximum penalty 2 years imprisonment or 200 penalty units, or both).

Name of auditor Richard Peterson

Signature

Qualification BE Civil, M Environmental Management

Company: Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd

