

Our ref: SSI-48323210-PA-18

John Fisher
Post-Approvals Lead
Energy Corporation of New South Wales
by email
4/12/2024

Subject: CWO REZ Transmission – Biodiversity Management Plan Staging Request

Dear Mr Fisher,

I refer to your submission dated 11 November 2024, requesting the Planning Secretary's approval to stage the Biodiversity Management Plan, as required by Schedule 2, Condition B26 of the Infrastructure Approval, for the CWO REZ Transmission Project.

It is understood your staging request is to address:

- the different types of clearing or disturbance activities during the construction stage of the project separately (Stage 1 and 2).
- impacts during operations, upgrading and decommissioning (Stage 3).

The current request is in addition to the previous staging request for additional Offset Measures Biodiversity Management Plan approved on 30 August 2024 (reference SSI-48323210-PA-12).

I note your submission requests the following stages for the Biodiversity Management Plan:

- Stage 1 would be for Disturbance Area A, being land within the operation area where complete vegetation removal would be required (to be completed during construction), including areas at and around the transmission line towers in the permanent easement, new/upgraded access tracks, energy hubs, switching stations and associated infrastructure, as well as temporary areas required for brake and winch sites, construction compounds, workforce accommodation camps, energy hubs, switching stations and associated infrastructure.
- Stage 2 would be for:
 - o Disturbance Area B, being all other land within the operation area that does not form part of disturbance area A, including land in between transmission line towers in the permanent easement, in which removal of vegetation would be required if the vegetation has the potential to exceed a height of two metres. It is assumed no ground disturbance would occur in this area, except for vegetation which has the potential to exceed a height

of two metres. Clearance of vegetation with the potential to exceed two metres in height would include either removal of the root ball or stump grinding. Vegetation clearance heights are set for operational and safety requirements, including bushfire risk management.

- o Disturbance Area HZ, being an area adjacent to Disturbance area B (generally 10 metres wide) along the 500 kV transmission lines where there would be impacts to selected trees or part of a tree that are within the risk category height range 20-30 metres and have been identified as having poor structural stability (i.e. which pose a risk of falling). A structurally sound tree with no obvious risk of falling within this zone would not be removed.
- Stage 3 would address the remaining development being operation, upgrading and decommissioning of the CWO Transmission Project.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 Biodiversity Management Plans are to address the specific requirements of Condition B26 as detailed in Table 1 of your letter dated 11 November 2024.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve the staging of the Biodiversity Management Plan in accordance with Schedule 2, Condition C3(a) of the Infrastructure Approval for the CWO REZ Transmission Project.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Katie Weekes on (02) 4927 3223.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Nicole Brewer".

Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary