

John Fisher
Post-Approvals Lead
Energy Corporation of NSW
Via Email

19 June 2025

Subject: Central-West Orana REZ Transmission – B21 request clearing limit for *Pomaderris cotoneaster*

Dear Mr Fisher

I refer to your letter dated 13 May 2025, requesting the Planning Secretary's agreement to clear more habitat for the threatened flora species *Pomaderris cotoneaster* than the clearing limit under Condition B21 and Table 2-2, Appendix 2 of the approval for the Central-West Orana REZ Transmission project (SSI-48323210). I also acknowledge your responses to the Department's requests for additional information.

Your request is to increase the clearing limit for *Pomaderris cotoneaster* from the 4.35 hectares identified in the approval to 9.92 hectares.

I note that:

- the Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR; formerly BCS) of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has been consulted in relation to the request and that CPHR does not object to the request to increase the clearing limit for *Pomaderris cotoneaster* to 9.92 hectares given the information provided and the outcome of their own investigation
- the request is addressing inconsistencies in the project's Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (Revision D, dated March 2024) (BDAR) concerning predicted impacts to *Pomaderris cotoneaster* that have resulted in a clearing limit for that species that is inconsistent with the biodiversity assessment
- recalculation of the impacts to *Pomaderris cotoneaster* using the BDARs biodiversity disturbance model and biodiversity impact assumptions has been undertaken, identifying impacts to 9.92 hectares of *Pomaderris cotoneaster* assumed habitat
- the request does not include additional vegetation clearing to that identified under Table 2-1, Appendix 2 of the approval.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary and in accordance with Condition B21, I agree to the clearing limit for *Pomaderris cotoneaster* to be 9.92 hectares, on the basis that the following requirements, in accordance with Condition A3, are met:

- CPHR are provided the most recent shapefile for *Pomaderris cotoneaster*

- CPHR are provided confirmation of the updated credit obligation for *Pomaderris cotoneaster*
- CPHR are provided evidence that the updated credit obligation for *Pomaderris cotoneaster* has been included in the BAM-C
- the Biodiversity Offset Package required under Condition B22 of the Approval is updated to address the updated clearing limit for *Pomaderris cotoneaster* in consultation with CPHR and BCT.

You are also reminded that if there are any inconsistencies between this agreement and the conditions of approval (noting this agreement with respect to Condition B21), the conditions prevail.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Thomas Minchin, Team Leader Transmission Post Approval.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "REbecca Eddington".

Rebecca Eddington
Director Transmission Post Approval

As nominee of the Planning Secretary