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PARTNERING ON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

CENTRAL-WEST ORANA RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE

CONSTRUCTION BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

CWO-PRO-050-ENV-PLN-000005 REV 03

Docusign Envelope ID: E650D64E-5D84-42DE-9975-8D7B34396822

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Document Control

This Biodiversity Management Plan is a controlled document, approved by the ACJV D&C Project Director. The Project Wide Lead is responsible for ensuring this plan is kept up to date for the Project, Project risks, activities and legislative requirements.

PROJECT AUTHORISATION

Authorisation				
Document Title	CENTRAL-WEST ORANA RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE – CONSTRUCTION BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN			
Revision Number	REV 03			
Document Number	CWO-PRO-050-ENV-PLN-000005			
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Originator	Acciona Construction Australia			
	Name	**Position**	**Date**	**Signature**
Review	Anthony Lusher	Environmental Approvals and Compliance Lead	11/12/2025	
	Jack Tatler	Principal Ecologist & Technical Review	11/12/2025	
	Alex Graham	Principal Ecologist & Technical Review	11/12/2025	
Approval	Lorryn Williamson	Environment and Sustainability Manager	18/12/2025	Signed by: Lorryn Williamson 12B46C439F5743E...
Principal Endorsement	Grant Andersen	Project Director	18/12/2025	Signed by: 76C0982E0FB74E2...

DOCUMENT STATUS

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Rev A	21/02/2024	All	Anna Doak	For NO review, for EnergyCo review
Rev B	09/07/2024	All	Anna Doak	Updated to address EnergyCo comments and Approved Ministers

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Revision	Date	Pages	Revised by	Description
				Conditions of Approval and EPBC Approval
Rev C	27/11/2024	All	Anna Doak	Update for EnergyCo comments; for ER and External consultation
Rev D	07/01/2025	All	Sarah Klocke	Update for ER and External consultation comments
Rev 00	20/02/2025	All	Catherine Curlewis	Update for ER and External consultation comments. For ER endorsement.
Rev 01	23/04/2025	All	Catherine Curlewis	Update to address DPHI comments.
Rev 02	30/07/2025	36,37,48	Catherine Curlewis	Minor administrative updates for clarification.,
Rev 03	11/12/2025	All	Sarah Klocke	Update following Modification 2 and 3 determination, template update

CONTROL AND RECORDS

The approved CWO-PRO-050-ENV-PLN-000005 Biodiversity Management Plan will be signed, and a pdf version will be uploaded and stored on the Project's document management system in accordance with CWO-PRO-050-DOC-PLN-000001 the CWO Document and Records Management Plan.

UNCONTROLLED COPIES

Any uncontrolled hard copy documents are up to date at issue and are only issued to outside organisations, customers, etc., upon request and approval by a Workplace Manager. Such uncontrolled documents will be clearly marked "Uncontrolled Copy When Printed or Downloaded" and will not be subject to an update.

DISTRIBUTION

The Integrated Management System – Systems Representative on the Project is responsible for the controlled internal distribution of this document and changes. Personnel have access to the latest revision of the Plan through RIBCX.

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Terms and definitions

Abbreviations	Expanded text
ACEREZ	Network operator, a partnership of ACCIONA, COBRA and Endeavour Energy
ACJV D&C	A design and construction unincorporated joint venture of ACCIONA and COBRA
AIMS	ACCIONA Integrated Management System
AR	Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Project Amendment Report
AS	Australian Standard
Assumed Presence	A threatened species is assumed to occur in an area based on the presence of suitable habitat or potentially suitable habitat only rather than through confirmation during survey.
BAM	Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020
BAM-C	Biodiversity Assessment Method calculator. The web application that provides decision support to assessors and proponents by applying the BAM, and which calculates the number and class of biodiversity credits required to offset the impacts of a project or created at a biodiversity stewardship site.
BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW)
BCT	Biodiversity Conservation Trust (NSW)
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (Revision D, updated March 2024)
BMM	Biodiversity mitigation measures
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
CEP	Communication and Engagement Plan
CoA (Commonwealth)	Commonwealth Conditions of Approval
Construction area	The area that would be directly impacted by construction of the project including (but not limited to) transmission towers and lines, brake and winch sites, access roads to switching stations and energy hubs, access tracks, energy hubs, switching stations, communications infrastructure, workforce accommodation camps, construction compounds and laydown and staging areas.
Construction	All physical work to enable operation, including but not limited to the construction of transmission infrastructure and ancillary facilities carried out before the commencement of operation, excluding pre-construction minor works, road upgrades and operation of the accommodation camps
CPHR	Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group of the NSW DCCEEW
CSSI	The Critical State Significant Infrastructure, as described in Schedule 1, the carrying out of which is approved under the terms of the SSI-48323210 approval
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth)
Decommissioning	The deconstruction and removal of the: • Switchbays and substation

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Abbreviations	Expanded text
	• Ancillary facilities • Transmission structures, overhead conductors, earth wires and earthing strips
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment (NSW) (now known as DPHI, however reference remains for existing documents).
DPHI	NSW Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure
DPI (Fisheries)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) (NSW)
Disturbance area	Land within the construction area where vegetation removal or impacts would be required to be disturbed during construction
EIS	The Environmental Impact Statement titled *Environmental Impact Statement – Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project*, prepared by WSP, dated February 2023, including the Proponent's: • Amendment Report, dated March 2024 • Submissions Report, dated March 2024 • Additional Information dated 14 June 2024 • Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project Modification 1 – Request for minor modifications to the condition of approvals, dated September 2024 and additional information dated 11 October 2024 • Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project Modification 2 – Request for modification to allow establishment of an additional operations facility, dated 22 October 2025 • Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project Modification 3 – Request for minor administrative changes to reflect Strategic Offset delivery Agreement, dated 15 August 2025
EMS	Environmental Management Strategy
EnergyCo	The Energy Corporation of New South Wales constituted by Section 6 of the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987* as the NSW Government statutory authority responsible for the delivery of NSW's Renewable Energy Zones.
Environmental Representative (ER)	A suitably qualified and experienced person independent of Project design and construction personnel employed for the duration of construction. The principal point of advice in relation to environmental performance of the Project and has the responsibility listed in condition A12 of the MCoA
EP&A Act	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
EWMS	Environmental work method statement
FM Act	*Fisheries Management Act 1994*
GDE	Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
LCVIMP	Landscape Character and Visual Impact Management Plan
MCoA (NSW)	NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces' Conditions of Approval
Minister, the	Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Natural regeneration	Allowing or assisting the bush to grow back by itself (NSW Conservation Management Notes – Natural Regeneration (OEH, 2011))

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Abbreviations	Expanded text
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
Operation	The carrying out of the approved purpose of the development upon completion of construction but does not include commissioning trials of equipment or use of temporary facilities. Note: There may be overlap between the carrying out of construction and operation if the phases of the development are staged. Commissioning trials of equipment and temporary use of any part of the development are within the definition of construction.
PCT	Plant Community Type
Pre-construction minor works	Includes: 1. the following activities: • Surveys • Building and road dilapidation surveys • Investigative drilling, contamination investigations, excavation or salvage • Establishing and operating temporary accommodation camps (as described in the EIS) • Establishing and operating temporary site office (in locations meeting the criteria identified in the conditions of this approval) • Installation of environmental impact mitigation measures, fencing, enabling works • Property acquisition adjustment work including installation of property fencing • Archaeological testing under the Code of practice for archaeological investigation of Aboriginal objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010) or archaeological monitoring • Maintenance of existing buildings and structures required to facilitate the carrying out of the CSSI 2. construction of minor access roads and minor adjustments to services/utilities, etc, for the activities identified in (1) above; and 3. minor clearing or translocation of native vegetation for the activities that does not impact biodiversity values that require offsetting
POEO Act	*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
PAP	Property Access Plan
PMP	Property Management Plan
Project, the	The construction and operation of new electricity transmission infrastructure, new energy hubs and switching stations and ancillary works required to connect new renewable energy generation and storage projects within the Central-West Orana REZ to the NSW transmission network (referred to herein as 'the Project' or 'Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Transmission project')
REMM	Revised Environmental Mitigation Measure, also known as Updated mitigation measure. For clarity, this refers to those measure listed in Appendix E of the Amendment Report.
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
Rehabilitation	The restoration of land disturbed by the development to a good condition, to ensure it is safe, stable and non-polluting (as per the Planning Approval)

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Abbreviations	Expanded text
Revegetation	Where planting or direct seeding is required for the purpose of regeneration (NSW Conservation Management Notes – Natural Regeneration (OEH, 2011))
RtS	Response to Submissions Report
RVMP	Riparian Vegetation Management Plan
SAP	Sensitive Area Plans
Secretary	Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure or nominee, whether nominated before or after the date on which this approval was granted
TEC	Threatened Ecological Communities
Work area	Discreet sections of land within the Construction Area where works are occurring at any particular time. Note, Construction Area is defined within/by the Planning Approval documents.
WIRES	Wildlife Information Rescue Service
WP	Weed Procedure

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1 Introduction

1.1 CONTEXT

This Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP or plan) has been prepared for the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Transmission project (the Project).

This BMP has been prepared to address the requirements of the:

- NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces' Conditions of Approval (MCoA (NSW)) for the Project (SSI-48323210) (dated 14 October 2024)
- Commonwealth Conditions of Approval (CoA (Commonwealth)) for the Project (EPBC 2022/09353)
- The Project Environmental Impact Statement (dated September 2023) (EIS), including environmental mitigation measures (EMMs)
- The Project Response to Submission report (dated March 2024) (RtS)
- The Project Amendment Report (AR) including revised environmental mitigation measures (REMMs)

In totality, the MCoA (NSW), CoA (Commonwealth) and REMMs are referred to as 'Project requirements'.

This plan describes how ACJV Design and Construct (ACJV D&C) proposes to manage potential impacts on biodiversity during the construction of the Project.

1.2 BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project comprises the construction and operation of new electricity transmission infrastructure, new energy hubs and switching stations and ancillary works required to connect new renewable energy generation and storage projects within the Central-West Orana REZ to the NSW transmission network.

The EIS was prepared to assess the impacts of construction and operation of the Project. As part of the EIS development, a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (Technical paper of the EIS) was prepared. The findings of the assessment were summarised in Chapter 10 (Biodiversity) of the EIS.

A RtS was prepared in response to submissions received on the EIS. The RtS includes clarifications as well as further detail relating to biodiversity management issues of the Project.

An AR was subsequently prepared to address Project changes resulting from submissions and

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design progress. The AR was submitted on 8 March 2024 and the proposed amendments of the application was approved on 11 March 2024.

The Project was declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (the Minister) on 23 November 2020 (amended in February 2023) under Section 5.13 under the EP&A Act and Section 2.15 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*. The Project was approved by the Minister on 26 June 2024.

The approval was updated to accommodate Modification 1 on 14 October 2024, Modification 2 on 22 October 2025 and Modification 3 on 15 August 2025.

The Project is also a controlled action and requires a separate approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water (or its delegate) under the EPBC Act (Commonwealth). This approval was granted 8 August 2024.

The documents listed in the planning approval concluded that while efforts have been made to avoid impacts to biodiversity, some impacts could not be avoided due to competing environmental and technical constraints. These impacts would be managed through the implementation of mitigation and management measures described in this BMP.

1.3 SCOPE

All ACJV D&C staff and subcontractors are required to comply with the requirements of this plan and related sub-plans, over the full duration of the construction program.

1.3.1 Staging of BMP

Operational biodiversity impacts, and operation measures and monitoring do not fall within the scope of this BMP and therefore are not included within the processes contained within this BMP. This plan addresses the pre-construction minor works, road upgrades and construction stage of works (for the purpose of this document and ease of reading, this may be collectively referred to as ‘construction’ within this document).

Remaining stages, including operation, upgrading and decommissioning, will be addressed in a separate document prior to the commencement of the operational phase.

Further separation of content between the majority of requirements of MCoA B26 and biodiversity offset requirements, as follows:

- Condition B26 of the project approval requires the preparation and implementation of a Biodiversity Management Plan. While the majority of Condition B26 applies to the management of delivery activities associated with the development, Condition B26(d)(xi) and (xii) relate to biodiversity offset measures.

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- Condition B24 requires additional ecological surveys to be carried out for koala, leafless indigo and rough eyebright to confirm whether additional or reduced offset measures are required and to revise the Biodiversity Management Plan and Biodiversity Offset Package accordingly.

An Offset Measures Biodiversity Management Plan will be prepared to address the above, separate to this document.

This staging has been approved by the Planning Secretary in accordance with MCoA (NSW) C3.

1.3.2 Conditions of Approval Relevant to this BMP

1.3.2.1 MCoA (NSW) B24 – Species Survey Verification

The BDAR assumed that two species, and potential serious and irreversible impact (SAII) entities, *Euphrasia arguta* and *Indigofera efoliata*, are present with the biodiversity study area for the Project and factored both species into the predicted impacts of the Project and the associated biodiversity offset credit liability. Both are extremely rare species. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) noted in the Assessment Report that SAII were unlikely to occur for both species if further targeted surveys were undertaken to demonstrate that they are not present (i.e. impacts would be avoided). Condition B24 was included in the Project approval accordingly.

This BMP assumes that habitat for *Euphrasia arguta* and *Indigofera efoliata* is present (i.e. assumes the worst-case scenario). The BMP will be reviewed at the completion of these further targeted surveys, to determine if the document is required to be updated to reflect survey outcomes.

In response to the BDAR, during the public exhibition phase of the EIS the Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD) raised concerns about the adequacy of surveys and associated assumptions for koalas. In the Assessment Report, DPHI considered it highly unlikely that koalas would be present in the remaining unsurveyed, small fragment patches less than 5 ha, but considered that precautionary approach was warranted. Accordingly, condition B24 requires additional koala surveys in relevant unsurveyed patches of vegetation prior to impacting those patches.

If koalas are identified during further targeted survey, the additional credit liability will be addressed, consistent with the Assessment Report and the commitment in REMM B15.

The clearing limits for koala habitat in MCoA (NSW) Table 2-3 of Appendix 2, as imposed by condition B21, still apply regardless of the outcomes of the additional surveys required condition B24.

In the unlikely event that the further targeted surveys confirm the presence of koalas and associated habitat, the project would seek agreement from the Planning Secretary per MCoA (B21) to adjust for the additional clearing requirements. This would occur prior to impacting any more koala habitat than the current clearing limit.

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1.3.2.2 MCoA (NSW) B25 – Biodiversity Assessment Verification Report

In the review of the BDAR during the public exhibition of the EIS, BCD raised concerns about assumptions concerning loss of habitat for certain species in the parts of the Project that would be subject to selective removal of larger forms of vegetation (partial clearing). Further, BCD raised concerns about the categorisation of certain areas of vegetation as Plant Community Type (PCT 0) and category 1-exempt land, based on survey effort. To address these concerns, a conservative assumption has been applied about assumed presence and the PCT 0/category 1-exempt land polygons in question into the initial Biodiversity Offset Package in Appendix 9 of *additional information dated 14 June 2024* that forms part of the EIS (as defined in the Project approval).

Further, conservative assumptions were adopted into the worst-case assessment of biodiversity impacts (refer to section 6.4.1 (Biodiversity assessment process) in the Assessment Report for further details). MCoA (NSW) B25 was included so that an independent expert could review the assumptions. The outcomes of assessment under MCoA (NSW) B25 will be reported as part of a separate document, as described in Section 1.3.1.

This BMP adopts the conservation assumptions concerning assumed species presence and PCT 0/category 1-exempt land (worst-case) referred to in section 6.4.1 of the Assessment Report. The BMP will be reviewed at the completion of the independent peer review required under MCoA (NSW) B25, to determine if the document is required to be updated to reflect review outcomes.

1.3.2.3 MCoA (NSW) B26- Biodiversity Management Plan

This BMP addresses (NSW) B26, excluding the following sections of MCoAB26(d) as detailed below:

- The following content of MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(xi):

  …including ensuring that an additional 241.16 hectares of Box Gum Woodland and 132.58 hectares of regent honeyeater habitat is securely conserved within a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement within 3 years (over and above the relevant credit obligations)

- MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(xii): offsets to replace the obligations of existing offsets on Moolarben, Wilpinjong and Ulan mines

The excluded sections of MCoA (NSW) B26 above are addressed instead in the Offset Measures Biodiversity Management Plan.

1.3.2.4 CoA (Commonwealth) 9 – Biodiversity Management Plan

This BMP addresses CoA (Commonwealth) 9 in full.

1.4 INTERFACE WITH OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS

This BMP is a component of a suite of documents, prepared as part of the implementation of the Project's Environmental Management System. The key documents that interface with the BMP are

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outlined in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1: Key documents interfacing with the BMP

Plan	Interface
Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) (MCoA (NSW) C1)	• Provides the strategic framework for environmental management of the development • Identifies all statutory approvals that apply to the development • Describe key roles, responsibilities authority and accountability • Sets out procedures to inform the of the environmental performance of the development, manage complaints, resolve disputes, response to any non-compliance or emergencies • Details the links to any strategies, plans and programmes • Details monitoring and reporting required under the approval
Emergency Plan (MCoA (NSW) B46)	• Details access provisions for emergency vehicles and contact details for both a primary and alternative site contacts • Includes procedures for the storage and maintenance of any flammable materials • Includes fire emergency management planning
Waste Management Plan (MC0A (NSW) B51) (REMM WM1/4-6)	• Details the quantity, type and quality of waste produced and their intended fate • Management of construction waste, including green wastes from clearing works • Proposed avoidance, reduction, reuse or disposal of wastes including green wastes • Management and disposal method of weeds that present a biosecurity risk
Biosecurity Management Plan (REMM B7)	• Protocols for the identification of priority weed species, relevant pests and diseases of concern, and mandatory reporting obligations • Weed and pest animal management and monitoring, where relevant • Locations, timing and methods for removing soil and plant matter from vehicles and machinery
Riparian vegetation management plan (REMM B13)	• Identifies measures to be implemented to minimise impacts from construction activities (such as temporary and permanent waterway crossings) within riparian and aquatic environments
Connectivity strategy (REMM B5)	• Describes provision of connectivity corridors in the form of installation of under-transmission line glider poles (in accordance with clearance requirements for transmission lines and infrastructure) where the construction area will impact habitat connectivity for arboreal species • Nominates the exact location and design of under-transmission line glider poles and/or rope bridges • Guided by the locations of habitat connectivity outlined in Figure 14-14 and 14-15 of Technical Paper 4 – Biodiversity Development Assessment Report.
Supplementary hollow and nest strategy (REMM B6)	• Outlines nest boxes or other hollow creation methods to provide alternative roosting and/or nesting habitat for threatened fauna displaced during clearing

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1.5 PURPOSE

The purpose of this BMP is to describe how ACEREZ will manage potential impacts to biodiversity during construction of the Project. The Project requirements specifically relevant to the preparation of the BMP are provided in Table 1-2.

Refer to Appendix B Conditions of Approval (Commonwealth) and Appendix C Revised Environmental Mitigation Measures for other requirements relevant to the management of biodiversity.

This BMP has been prepared to address applicable statutory requirements and aims to ensure that the commitments in the planning approval are met with regard to impacts to biodiversity.

In accordance with MCoA (NSW) B26(a), this plan was prepared jointly with the following suitably qualified and experienced biodiversity experts:

- Alex Graham (BAAS19040), BSc (Biology), Grad. Dip. (Bushfire Protection)
- Dr Jack Tatler (BAAS21006), BSc (Zoology & Entomology), Hons (Zoology), PhD (Ecology)

Alex Graham and Jack Tatler are Principal Ecologists and accredited assessors under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW) (BC Act). A statement of confirmation from the above-mentioned authors is provided in Appendix K.

Table 1-2 Project requirements relevant to this BMP

Ref.	Requirement	Document reference	How addressed
MCoA (NSW)			
B26	Prior to carrying out any development that could impact biodiversity values that require offsetting, the Proponent must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must:	BMP	This document.
a)	Be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced biodiversity expert/s	Section 1.5	This document was prepared jointly with a suitably qualified and experienced biodiversity expert.
b)	Be prepared in consultation with CPHR and NPWS	Section 3	Section 3 details the consultation undertaken with CPHR and NPWS in the preparation of this document.
c)	Be prepared generally in accordance with the BDAR	Section 1.5	BMP Section 5.1.5 details measures to avoid and minimise impacts to biodiversity values, based on the measures listed in the BDAR Table ES-9

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Ref.	Requirement	Document reference	How addressed
d)	Include a description of the measures that would be implemented for:		
	(i) Meeting the biodiversity mitigation requirements in condition B21 *B21: Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must:* *(a) ensure that the vegetation and habitat clearing limits specified in Table 2-1, Table 2-2 and Table 2-3 of Appendix 2 are not exceeded; and* *(b) minimise:* *(i) the impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees;* *(ii) the impacts of the development on threatened species; and* *(iii) the clearing of native vegetation and key habitat.*	Section 5.2 and 5.3 BMM14	Clearing will be managed in accordance with the procedure in Section 5.2 and 5.3
	(ii) minimising: • The amount of vegetation clearing on site	Section 5.2 and 5.3	Vegetation clearing and impacts to key fauna habitat will be minimised through implementation of clearing limits as set in the MCoA (Section 5.2), the ongoing review of detailed design (Section 5.3) and the implementation of clearing permits (Section 6.2.3).
	• The loss of key fauna habitat (including tree hollows)	Section 5.2 and 5.3	
	• The impacts of fauna on site, including undertaking pre-clearance surveys	Sections 5.3 and 5.4	Pre-clearance inspections as detailed in Section 5.3 will be undertaken.
	• Potential indirect impacts on threatened flora and fauna species	BMM2-5 BMM9, BMM24	Indirect impacts to threatened flora and fauna species will be managed through the implementation of erosion and sediment controls (BMP section and biosecurity controls, the management procedure which will be included in the Biosecurity Management Plan (Section 5.11) and the engagement of an ecologist to determine the presence of the Little Eagle, Large-eared Pied Bat, Eastern Cave Bat, Large Bent winged Bat within identified buffer areas (Section 5.3) A Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy will also be developed as

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Ref.	Requirement	Document reference	How addressed
			discussed in Section 5.6 which will detail methods to provide alternative roosting and/or nesting habitat for threatened fauna displaced during clearing.
	(iii) Ensuring the development does not adversely affect the native vegetation and habitat outside the disturbance footprint	Sections 5.2 and 5.3	Construction clearing will be undertaken in accordance with the clearing limits set in the MCoA (Section 5.2 and the pre-clearing procedure in Section 5.3)
	(iv) Protocols for unexpected finds of threatened species and threatened ecological communities within the disturbance footprint including the requirements for: • All work in the associated location to stop to prevent further impact • Notification (in writing) and consultation with the Planning Secretary and CPHR (and AG DCCEEW where relevant) on any additional measures to be implemented • The Planning Secretary to endorse the recommencement of work	Appendix E Unexpected Species Find Protocol	An unexpected threatened species find protocol is included in Appendix E Unexpected Species Find Protocol
	(v) Rehabilitation of temporary disturbance areas to facilitate natural regeneration with suitable native species	Appendix G Rehabilitation of Temporary Disturbance, Appendix H Natural Regeneration	Rehabilitation of ancillary facilities, accommodation camps and earthwork material sites would be carried out in accordance with the requirements outlined in Appendix G Rehabilitation of Temporary Disturbance, natural regeneration is detailed in Appendix H Natural Regeneration.
	(vi) Monitoring the areas of partial clearance within three months of the commencement of construction and provision of a verification report to confirm if any changes are required to this plan	Section 6.3	Areas subject to partial clearance will be monitored within three months from commencement of construction (Section 6.3)
	(vii) Maximising the salvage of resources within the approved disturbance area – including vegetative and soil resources – for beneficial reuse (such as fauna habitat enhancement) during the rehabilitation and revegetation of the site	REMM B6 Section 4, 6.2 Section 5.6	The salvage of resources and natural regeneration is detailed in Section 4 and 6.2 A Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy will also be developed as discussed in Section 5.6

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Ref.	Requirement	Document reference	How addressed
	(viii) Collecting and propagating seed (where relevant)	Appendix H Natural Regeneration	Seed production and natural regeneration is detailed Appendix H
	(ix) Controlling erosion, weeds and feral pests	Section 5.8 REMM B7	A Weed management procedure is provided in the Biosecurity Management Plan (Section 5.11) 5.8 which also outlines additional measures to control biosecurity risk (REMM B7). BMP Section 5.8 discusses Erosion and Sediment Control.
	(x) Bushfire management	Section 5.10	Bushfire management is detailed in Section 5.10.
	(xi) Minimising impacts on entities at risk of a serious and irreversible impact (SAII), ~~including ensuring that an additional 241.16 hectares of Box Gum Woodland and 132.58 hectares of regent honeyeater habitat is securely conserved within a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement within 3 years (over and above the relevant credit obligations);~~ and	Section 5.3	Serious and irreversible impacts will be avoided through the mitigation measures outlined in this BMP Section 5.3. Note, strikethrough content is addressed through the Offset Measures Biodiversity Management Plan and is not part of this BMP. Refer to staging of this document as described in Section 1.3
	(xii) ~~ensure appropriate offsets have been provided to replace the obligations of existing offsets on Moolarben, Wilpinjong and Ulan mines.~~	Offset Measures Biodiversity Management Plan	Note, strikethrough content is addressed through the Offset Measures Biodiversity Management Plan and is not part of this BMP. Refer to staging of this document as described in Section 1.3
e)	Include a program to monitor, evaluate and publicly report on the effectiveness of these measures.	Section 6.3	Monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of these measures will be undertaken in accordance with Section 6.3 . This will include preclearing inspections, post-clearing inspections and partial clearing verification.
	Following the Planning Secretary's approval, the Proponent must implement the Biodiversity Management Plan.	BMP	Following approval, the BMP, as approved by the Planning Secretary, will be implemented for the duration of the Project
EPBC Act			
6	The approval holder must comply with condition B26 of the NSW Approval in relation to the preparation of a Biodiversity Management Plan to the	BMP	Refer to individual responses against each item of MCoA (NSW) B26.

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Ref.	Requirement	Document reference	How addressed
	extent that it relates to protected matters.		
REMMs			
B8	A Biodiversity Management Plan will be prepared and implemented for the duration of construction. The plan is to include (as a minimum):	This document	-
	• A protocol for identifying and demarcating, prior to clearing commencement at each location, the location and extent of areas of vegetation clearance and habitat disturbance, and how these will be suitably demarcated on site	Section 5.3	Section 5.3 provides a summary of the procedures for removal including confirmation that the clearing extent has been surveyed and marked.
	• A protocol for identifying and demarcating, prior to clearing commencement at each location, the location and extent of areas to be protected (e.g. retained vegetation, hollow-bearing trees, nests, burrows and other habitat features including applicable buffers to habitat features	Section 5.3	Section 5.3 provides a summary of the procedures for removal including confirmation that any exclusion zones, habitat trees, hollow-bearing trees have been identified and marked.
	• Measures to be implemented on site to clearly demarcate areas to be retained as 'no go areas'	Section 5.3	Section 5.3 provides a summary of the procedures for removal including confirmation that any exclusion zones have been surveyed and marked.

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2 Environmental Requirements

2.1 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES

2.1.1 Legislation and Regulatory Requirements

Legislation relevant to biodiversity management for the Project includes:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) (NSW)
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) (NSW)
- *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW)
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) (NSW)
- *Local Land Services Act 2013* (LLS Act) (NSW)
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW)
- *Pesticides Act 1999* (NSW)
- *Pesticides Regulation 2017* (NSW)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (Commonwealth)
- *Water Management Act 2000* (NSW)

2.1.2 Licences and Permits

As this Project has been designated SSI, the requirement for a Scientific Licence under Part 2 of the BC Act (including Animal Ethics Approval under the *Animal Research Act 1985*) is not required for fauna handling/rescue and survey work. For further details about fauna handling refer to Appendix F Fauna Handling Procedure. Where rescued fauna requires rehabilitation and care, only wildlife rehabilitation organisations authorised under Part 2 of the BC Act may be used.

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

2.1.3 Guidelines

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

- Australian Standard AS4970 – 2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites
- Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) (DPIE, 2020)
- Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (DPE, 2018)
- National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (DCCEEW, 2023)
- NSW Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Developments and

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Activities – Working Draft (DEC, 2004)

- Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (DPI, 2013)
- Risk Assessment Guidelines for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (DPI, 2012)
- Why do fish need to cross the road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (DPI, 2003a)
- Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (Fairfull and Witheridge, 2003)
- Fishnote – Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings – (DPI, 2003b)
- Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land (DPI Water, 2012a)
- Guidelines for watercourse crossings on waterfront land (DPI Water, 2012b)
- Guidelines for instream works on waterfront land (DPI Water, 2012c)
- Guidelines for outlet structures on waterfront land (DPI Water, 2012d)
- Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction, Volume 1 (Landcom, 2004)
- Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 2 (DECC, 2008a) (the "Blue Book").
- Hygiene protocol for the control of disease in frogs (DECC, 2008b)

2.2 MINISTER'S CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL (NSW)

The MCoA (NSW) relevant to this plan are listed in Appendix A. A cross reference is included to indicate where the MCoA (NSW) are addressed in this plan or other Project management documents.

2.3 CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL (COMMONWEALTH)

The CoA (Commonwealth) relevant to this plan are listed in Appendix B Conditions of Approval (Commonwealth). A cross reference is included to indicate where the CoA (Commonwealth) is addressed in this plan or other project management documents.

2.4 REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES

Relevant REMMs, as identified in the AR, are listed in Appendix C Revised Environmental Mitigation Measures. A cross reference is included to indicate where the REMMs are addressed in this plan or other project management documents.

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3 Consultation

The following government agencies and stakeholders will be consulted during the development of this plan in accordance with MCoA (NSW) A7 and B25(b):

- Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

Consultation with each stakeholder, including responses received and how any issues raised were addressed in the development of this plan have been provided to the Planning Secretary along with the relevant documentation for submission, in accordance with MCoA (NSW) A7.

Any ongoing consultation with agencies, where required, will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant mitigation measures described in Section 5.1.5 of this plan. Community feedback and complaints relating to biodiversity will be managed in accordance with the Community Communications Strategy and Complaints Management System.

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4 Existing Environment

The Project is located within the Brigalow Belt South (Talbragar Valley, Pilliga, Liverpool Ranges), NSW South Western Slopes (Inland Slopes) and Sydney Basin (Kerrabee, Wollemi) Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia region (IBRA) bioregions.

Most of the study area has been extensively cleared for agriculture, with a scattered mosaic of fragmented patches of woodland. These remnant patches of woodland, while fragmented, provide important habitat for certain threatened species.

The biodiversity values of the Project identified in the Updated BDAR (Appendix G of the Amendment Report) are summarised below. For clarity, the key reference documents from which the following has been sourced include:

- EIS (September 2023)
- RtS (March 2024)
- AR (March 2024)

4.1 NATIVE VEGETATION AND ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

Section 5.5.2 of the AR details that approximately 65 per cent native vegetation covers the Project construction area, with the remaining areas consisting of buildings and roads, cropping land that has recently been ploughed and seeded, and improved pastures dominated by exotic pasture species.

There are 26 Plant Community Types (PCTs) which have been confirmed to occur, totalling 1,227.35 hectares of the Project construction area, as shown in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1: Plant Community Types impacted by the Project

PCT ID	PC name	BC Act	EPBC Act
42	Red gum – Rough-barked Apple +/- tea tree sandy creek woodland (wetland) in the Pilliga – Goonoo sandstone forests, Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	N/A	N/A
81	Western Grey Box – cypress pine shrub grass shrub tall woodland in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	E	E
84	River Oak – Rough-barked Apple – red gum – box riparian tall woodland (wetland) of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and Nandewar Bioregion	N/A	N/A
202	Fuzzy Box woodland on colluvium and alluvial flats in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion (including Pilliga) and Nandewar Bioregion	E	N/A
266	White Box grassy woodland in the upper slopes sub-region of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	CE	CE
277	Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	CE	CE

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PCT ID	PC name	BC Act	EPBC Act
281	Rough-barked Apple – Red Gum – Yellow Box woodland on alluvial clay to loam soils on valley flats in the northern NSW South western slopes Bioregion and Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	CE	CE
330	Mugga Ironbark – Black Cypress Pine – Red Stringybark – Blakely's Red Gum – Red Ironbark woodland on hillslopes and in valleys on ranges in the NSW central western slopes	N/A	N/A
393	White Box shrubby woodland of the western Liverpool Range, Warrumbungle Range and south-west Pilliga forests, Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	N/A	N/A
394	Narrow-leaved Ironbark – White Cypress pine woodland on slopes and flats in the Coonabarabran - Pilliga Scrub regions	N/A	N/A
399	Red gum – Rough-barked Apple +/- tea tree sandy creek woodland (wetland) in the Pilliga – Goonoo sandstone forests, Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	N/A	N/A
401	Rough-barked Apple – Blakely's Red Gum – Black Cypress Pine woodland on sandy flats, mainly in the Pilliga Scrub Region	CE	CE
440	Red Stringybark – Narrow-leaved Ironbark – Black Cypress Pine – hill red gum sandstone woodland of southern NSW Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	N/A	N/A
461	Tumbledown Gum woodland on hills in the northern NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and southern Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	N/A	N/A
468	Narrow-leaved Ironbark – Black Cypress Pine +/- Blakely's Red Gum shrubby open forest on sandstone low hills in the southern Brigalow Belt South Bioregion (including Goonoo)	N/A	N/A
477	Inland Scribbly Gum – Red Stringybark – Black Cypress Pine – Red Ironbark open forest on sandstone hills in the southern Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and northern NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	N/A	N/A
478	Red Ironbark – Black Cypress Pine – stringybark +/- Narrow-leaved Wattle shrubby open forest on sandstone in the Gulgong – Mendooran region, southern Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	N/A	N/A
479	Narrow-leaved Ironbark – Black Cypress Pine – stringybark +/- Grey Gum +/- Narrow-leaved Wattle shrubby open forest on sandstone hills in the southern Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and Sydney Basin Bioregion	N/A	N/A
481	Rough-barked Apple – Blakely's Red Gum – Narrow-leaved Stringybark +/- Grey Gum sandstone riparian grass fern open forest on in the southern Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and Upper Hunter region	N/A	N/A
483	Grey Box x White Box grassy open woodland on basalt hills in the Merriwa region, upper Hunter Valley	CE	CE
589	White Box – White Cypress Pine – Silver-leaved Ironbark grassy woodland on mainly clay loam soils on hills mainly in the Nandewar Bioregion	CE	CE
599	Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box grassy tall woodland on flats and hills in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and Nandewar Bioregion	CE	CE

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PCT ID	PC name	BC Act	EPBC Act
618	White Box x Grey Box – red gum – Rough-barked Apple grassy woodland on rich soils on hills in the upper Hunter Valley	CE	CE
956	Mugga Ironbark – Inland Grey Box shrubby woodland of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	N/A	N/A
1177	Slaty Gum woodland of the slopes of the southern Brigalow Belt South Bioregion	N/A	N/A
1610	White Box – Black Cypress Pine shrubby woodland of the Western Slopes	N/A	N/A

Sixteen scattered trees were also identified in the construction area (refer to Figure 14-10 of Appendix G of the AR).

The PCTs are occurring in varying condition, ranging from poor to excellent condition or are otherwise classified in the biodiversity assessment as moderate/good, thinned, derived native grassland or derived native shrubland.

Three Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) under the BC Act, of which two are TECs under the EPBC Act (refer to Table 4-2), were recorded in the amended Project area. Two TECs are also at risk of a Serious and Irreversible Impact (SAII).

Table 4-2: Threatened Ecological Communities impacted by the Project

Threatened ecological community		PCT	SAII	Direct impact (ha)	
BC Act (status)	EPBC Act (status)			BC Act	EPBC Act
Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Peneplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions (Endangered)	Grey Box (*Eucalyptus acrocarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia (Endangered)	PCT 81	N/A	13.70	5.32
Fuzzy Box Woodland on alluvial Soils of the South Western Slopes, Darling Riverine Plains and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions (Endangered)	N/A	PCT 202	Yes	4.44	-
White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions (Critically Endangered)	White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gun Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (Critically Endangered)	PCTs 266, 277, 281,401,483, 589,599,618	Yes	720.835	441.65

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4.2 THREATENED FLORA SPECIES

Sixteen threatened flora species or listed populations under the BC Act and/or EPBC Act were recorded or assumed to occur (based on the desktop assessment, presence of suitable habitat, and field observations) within the construction area, as shown in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3: Threatened flora impacted by the Project

Species (Common name)	BC Act	EPBC Act	Impact limits (ha)
Ausfeld's Wattle (*Acacia ausfeldii*)	V	N/A	21.13
Austral Toadflax (*Thesium australe*)	V	V	0.54
Bluegrass (*Dichanthium setosum*)	V	V	6.85
Cotoneaster Pomaderris (*Pomaderris cotoneaster*)	E	E	4.35
Eucalyptus camaldulensis population in the Hunter catchment	E	N/A	5.6
Euphrasia arguta (*Euphrasia arguta*)	CE	CE	107.8
Fairy Bells (*Homoranthus darwinioides*)	V	V	3.39
Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans subsp. Tricolor*)	E	E	6 plants
Keith's Zieria (*Zieria ingramii*)	E	E	1.88
Leafless Indigo (*Indigofera efoliata*)	E	E	0.82
Pine Donkey Orchid (*Diuris tricolor*)	V	N/A	26.46
Scant Pomaderris (*Pomaderris queenslandica*)	E	N/A	2.35
Silky Swainson-pea (*Swainsona sericea*)	V	N/A	316
Small Purple-pea (*Swainsona recta*)	E	E	53.64
Tarengo Leek Orchid (*Prasophyllum petilum*)	E	E	76.3
Tylophora linearis (*syn. Vincetoxicum forsteri*)	V	E	12.37

4.3 THREATENED FAUNA SPECIES

Seventeen threatened fauna species listed under the BC Act and/ or EPBC Act were recorded or assumed to occur based on the desktop assessment, presence of suitable habitat or potentially suitable habitat (i.e. assumed, but not surveyed for confirmation) and field observations within the construction area (refer to Table 4-4).

Table 4-4: Threatened fauna impacted by the Project

Species (Common name)	BC Act	EPBC Act	Impact limits (ha)
Eastern Cave Bat (*Vespadelus troughtoni*)	V	N/A	123.98
Eastern Pygmy-possum (*Cercartetus nanus*)	V	N/A	241.69
Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*)	V	V	10

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Species (Common name)	BC Act	EPBC Act	Impact limits (ha)
Key's Matchstick Grasshopper (*Keyacris scurra*)	E	N/A	116.09
Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)	E	E	31.83
Large Bent-winged Bat (Miniopterus schreibersii supsp. Oceanensis)	V	N/A	35.3
Large-eared Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*)	V	V	123.99
Little Eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*)	V	N/A	14.05
Masked Owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*)	V	N/A	10.83
Pale-headed Snake (*Hoplocephalus bitorquatus*)	V	N/A	130.77
Pink-tailed Legless Lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*)	V	V	40.82
Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*)	CE	CE	132.58
Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*)	V	N/A	1.22
Square-tailed kite (*Lophoictinia isura*)	V	N/A	3.63
Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*)	V	N/A	455.72
Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*)	V	V	65.8
Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*)	V	V	3.39

4.4 SPECIES AT RISK OF SERIOUS AND IRREVERSIBLE IMPACTS

Four threatened species are at risk of SAII, as shown in Table 4-5.

Table 4-5: Serious and Irreversible Impact Entities impacted by the Project (Source: Table ES-8 of the revised Project BDAR)

SAII species name	Impact (ha)
Eastern Cave Bat (Vespadelus troughtoni)	123.98
Euphrasia arguta	107.8 (assumed habitat)
Indigofera efoliata	0.82 (assumed habitat)
Large-eared Pied Bat (Chalinolobus dwyeri)	123.99
Regent Honeyeater (Anthochaera phrygia)	132.58

4.5 MIGRATORY SPECIES

EIS section 10.3.5 found that nine migratory species listed in the EPBC Act are moderately likely to occur in, or adjacent to, the study area based on the presence of suitable habitats:

- Migratory marine birds – Fork-tailed Swift *(Apus pacificus)*
- Migratory wetland species – Common Sandpiper *(Actitis hypoleucos),* Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *(Calidris acuminata),* Latham's Snipe *(Gallinago hardwickii)*

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- Migratory terrestrial species – Satin Flycatcher *(Myiagra cyanoleuca),* White-throated Needletail *(Hirundapus caudacutus),* Black-faced Monarch *(Monarcha melanopsis),* Yellow Wagtail *(Motacilla* flava) and Rufous Fantail *(Rhipidura rufifrons)*

None of these EPBC Act listed migratory species were recorded during the field surveys.

4.6 AQUATIC ECOLOGY

Throughout the Project construction area mapped habitat occurs for the following listed aquatic threatened species and endangered populations which are scheduled under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act):

- Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*) (listed as endangered under the FM Act): habitat mapped in the Talbragar Valley and Inland Slopes IBRA subregions in Sandy Creek, Laheys Creek, Patricks Creek, Tucklan Creek, Tallawang Creek, Huxleys Creek, Slapdash Creek, and White Creek, and some smaller unnamed watercourses
- Eel Tailed Catfish (*Tandanus tandanus*) in the Murray-Darling Basin (listed as an endangered population under the FM Act): habitat is mapped in Talbragar River in the Inland Slopes IBRA subregion. An incidental observation of Eel Tailed Catfish was made in Laheys Creek during nocturnal bird and mammal surveys
- Darling River Hardyhead (*Craterocephalus amniculus*) in the Hunter River Catchment (listed as Endangered Population under the FM Act): habitat is mapped in Turill Creek, Four Mile Creek in the Pilliga and Liverpool Range IBRA subregions

No targeted aquatic threatened species surveys were undertaken as part of the biodiversity assessment, therefore these species were assumed to occur.

4.7 GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

Section 10.3.7 of the EIS assessed there are 17 unique, high priority terrestrial groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) within the study area and five high priority aquatic GDEs as identified in the Bureau of Meteorology's GDE Atlas (Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), 2022) (occurring in nine locations – three in the Macquarie-Bogan River catchment and two in the Hunter River catchment) which occur within the construction area. These are summarised in Table 4-6.

Table 4-6: High Priority GDEs within the Project area

Type	GDE name	Catchment	Area (ha)
Terrestrial	*Angophora floribunda, Eucalyptus blakelyi, Eucalyptus melliodora, Acacia implexa, Dodonaea viscosa*	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers/ Hunter River	61.5 / 0.7
Terrestrial	*Angophora floribunda, Eucalyptus melliodora, Brachychiton populneus subsp. populneus, Callitris endlicheri*	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	6.6

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Type	GDE name	Catchment	Area (ha)
Terrestrial	Black Sallee - Tussock Grass open woodland of the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	0.1
Terrestrial	Blakelys Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple shrubby woodland of central and upper Hunter	Hunter River/ Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	42.9 / 37
Terrestrial	Blakelys Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	21.5
Terrestrial	*Eucalyptus blakelyi, Eucalyptus melliodora, Eucalyptus bridgesiana / Acacia dealbata / Themeda triandra*	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	7.9
Terrestrial	*Eucalyptus camaldulensis, Casuarina cunninghamiana, Callistemon sieberi, Leptospermum polygalifolia*	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	9.3
Terrestrial	*Eucalyptus conica, Eucalyptus blakelyi, Eucalyptus melliodora, Callitris glaucophylla, Acacia decora*	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	15.6
Terrestrial	*Eucalyptus fibrosa, Callitris endlicheri, Eucalyptus sparsifolia, Acacia linearifolia, Phyllanthus hirtellus*	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	2.0
Terrestrial	*Eucalyptus melliodora, Eucalyptus blakelyi, Angophora floribunda / Acacia implexa, Geijera parviflora*	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	5.3
Terrestrial	*Eucalyptus melliodora, Acacia decora, Maireana microphylla, Bothriochloa macra, Austrostipa bigeniculata*	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	0.2
Terrestrial	*Eucalyptus melliodora, Pimelea curviflora var. curviflora, Acacia implexa, Acacia decora*	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	5.2
Terrestrial	*Eucalyptus microcarpa, Callitris glaucophylla, Allocasuarina luehmannii, Maireana microphylla*	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	42.7
Terrestrial	River Oak/Purple Wiregrass/Plains Grass grassy riparian forest of the Merriwa Plateau	Hunter River	3.1
Terrestrial	River Red Gum riparian tall woodland/open forest wetland in the Nandewar Bioregion and Brigalow Belt	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	11.7
Terrestrial	Rough-Barked Apple - red gum - Yellow Box woodland on alluvial clay to loam soils on valley flats	Hunter River/ Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	18.6 / 2.4
Terrestrial	Western Hunter Flats Rough-barked Apple Forest	Hunter River/ Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	238.9 / 7.5
Aquatic	Rouses	Hunter River	0.03
Aquatic	Sportsmans Hollow	Hunter River	11
Aquatic	Stubbo	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	0.7
Aquatic	Talbragar River	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	11.5
Aquatic	Tallawang	Macquarie-Bogan Rivers	4.7

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5 Environmental Aspects and Impacts

5.1 IMPACTS ARISING FROM CONSTRUCTION

Potential impacts to biodiversity associated with construction activities of the Project are discussed in Chapter 10 (Biodiversity) of the EIS and are summarised below.

5.1.1 Clearing of Native Vegetation

EIS Section 6.2.1 assessed the direct clearing impacts of the Project to native vegetation by classifying disturbance in three categories, providing a greater understanding of the likely magnitude of direct impacts. These categories are:

- **Disturbance area A –** 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. All areas, except areas corresponding with temporary disturbance (such as brake and winch sites), would be subject to ongoing maintenance during operation for operational and safety requirements, including bushfire risk management
- **Disturbance area B –** 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 may include either removal of the root ball or stump grinding, except where it is vegetation in riparian areas. Vegetation clearance heights are set for operational and safety requirements, including bushfire risk management
- **Disturbance area HZ –** 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). The number of trees that are likely to be at risk of falling is likely to be minimal, however it has been conservatively assumed that a nominal 10% of this area is likely be impacted. A structurally sound tree with no obvious risk of falling within this zone would not be removed.

The width of the disturbance areas A and B varies for the 330 kV and 500 kV transmission lines, in accordance with the required easement widths and construction methodologies. Figure 1 and Figure 2 show examples of how the disturbance areas are applied for each transmission line type. Based

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on the above classification of disturbance, the AR found that the Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 1,227 hectares of native vegetation comprising:

- Approximately 768 hectares of full clearing (Disturbance area A) within the easement or elsewhere
- Approximately 456 hectares of partial clearing (Disturbance area B) within the easement, where the ground layers remain
- Approximately three hectares within a hazard tree zone (Disturbance area HZ)

Native vegetation directly impacted by clearing includes impacts to TECs listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act and threatened flora species described in Section 4.2. Clearing would also directly impact upon threated fauna species through the removal of foraging and breeding habitat, collisions with work vehicles and plant, and accidental entrapment in plant and trenches (refer to Section 4.3 for species likely to be impacted).

Clearing for the Project would include removing trees containing hollows which could provide habitat for native fauna. It also has the potential to impact upon habitat connectivity for the Squirrel Glider, threatened woodland birds and threatened bat species where the transmission line easement intersects areas of native vegetation including:

- In the Durridgere State Conservation Area and surrounding native vegetation
- Areas adjacent to the Tuckland State Forest
- Along Spring Ridge Road and the nearby riparian corridor
- In large patches of vegetation between the Goulburn River National Park, Cope State Forest and Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve

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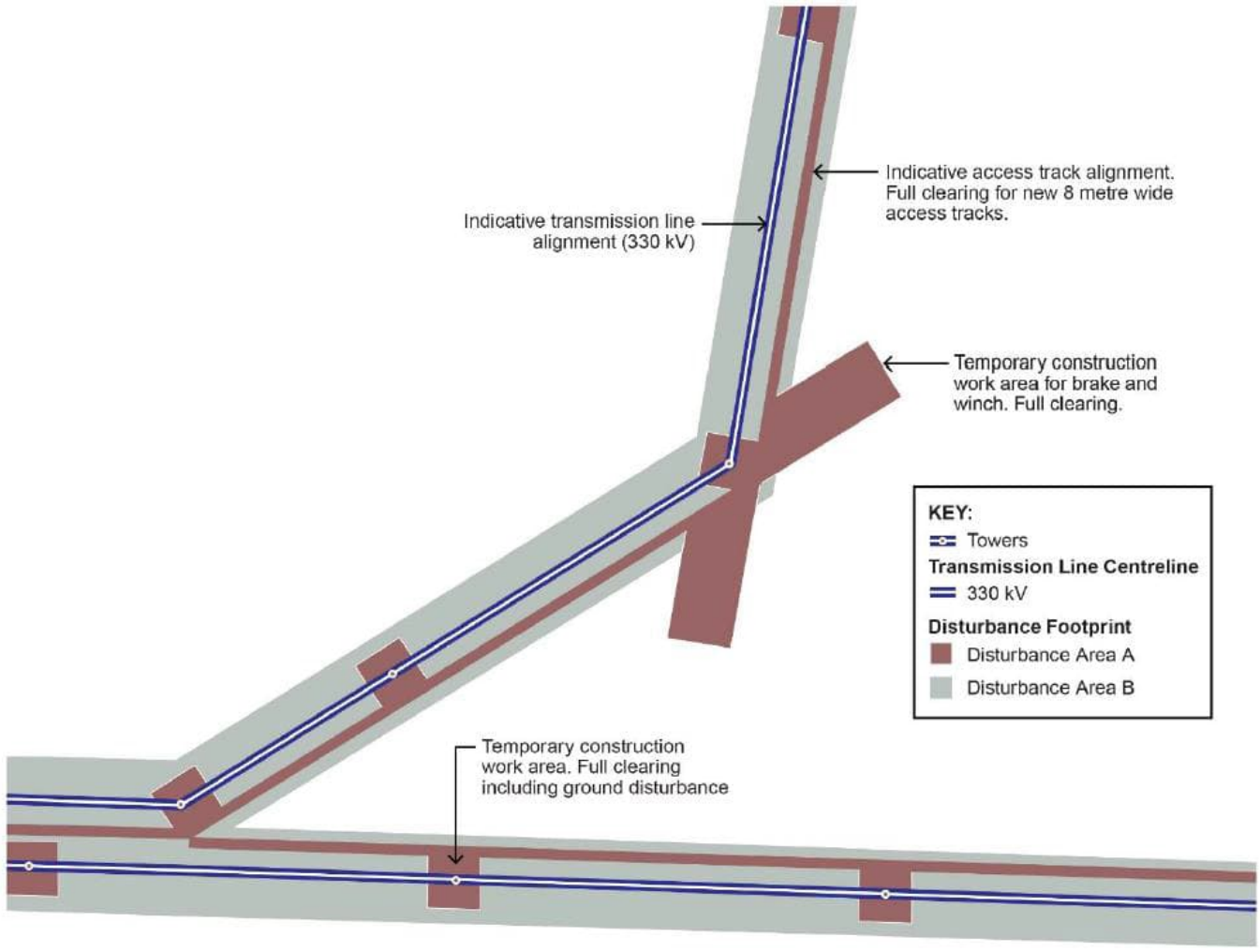

Figure 1 Indicative disturbance area for a typical 330kV transmission line section (Source: EIS)

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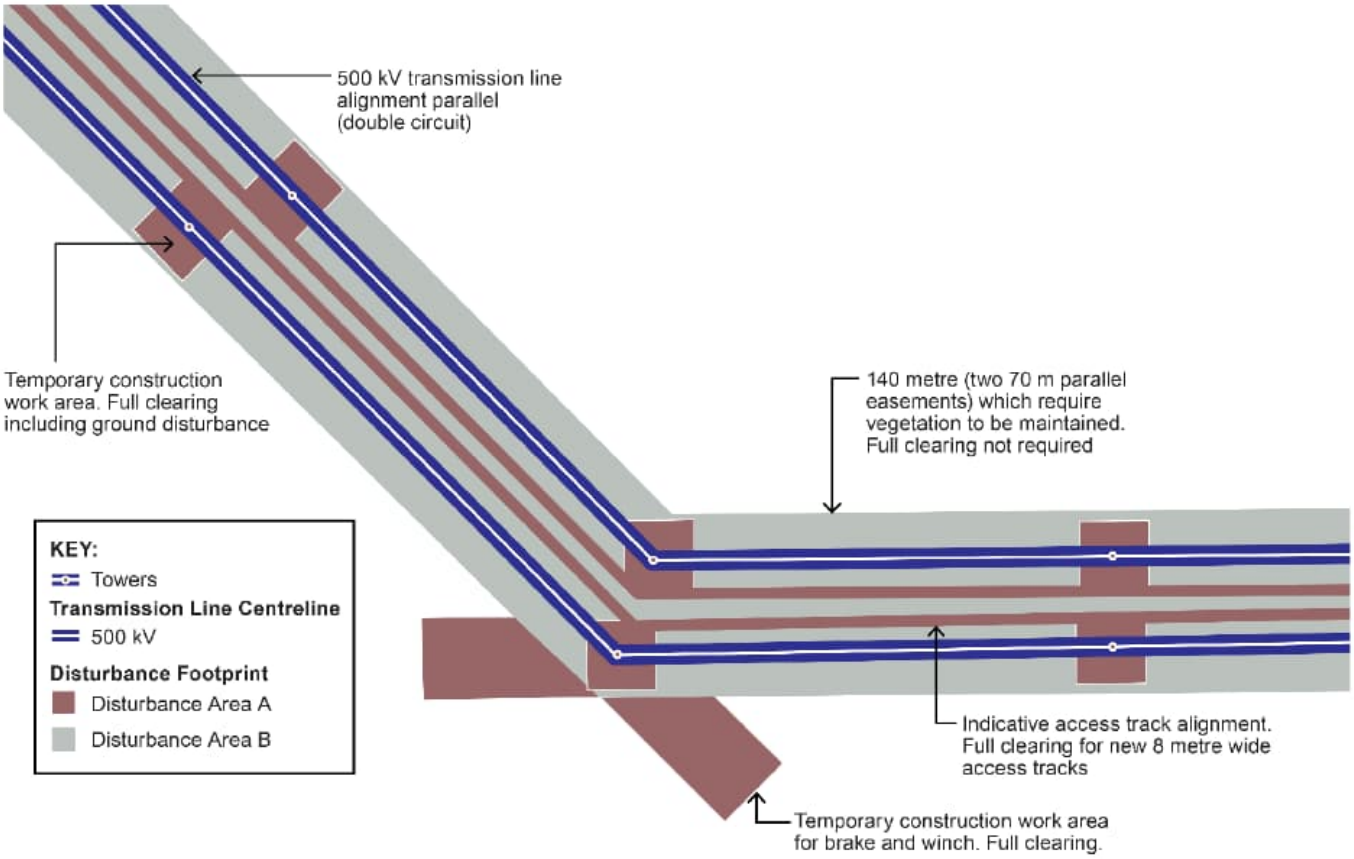

Figure 2: Indicative disturbance area for a typical 500kV transmission line section (Source: EIS)

5.1.2 Inadvertent Impacts on Adjacent Vegetation

Construction will disturb soil through the use of plant and equipment. This has the potential to result in sedimentation, erosion and the mobilisation of contaminants, which could impact adjoining native vegetation and aquatic habitats. Sediment laden runoff and spills could impact water quality and subsequently impact aquatic life. Areas of risk include where the construction area is located near rivers, creek lines and key fish habitat. This has the potential to temporarily reduce the viability of habitat for aquatic and semi aquatic species.

Construction also has the potential to result in the abandonment of nests of threatened bird species (specifically the Little Eagle) if disturbed. In addition, the construction area is within 100 metres of rocky areas containing caves, overhangs, crevices, cliffs or escarpments that may be breeding habitat for threatened micro bat species. Breeding success may be influenced by construction during the breeding season.

5.1.3 Bushfires

A bushfire risk assessment completed as part of the EIS found the Project has a risk of ignition and spreading of a bushfire resulting from construction activities. Most Australian plant species are adapted to specific fire regimes, and different components of the fire regime may have adverse

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impacts on plant persistence, including fire frequency, severity, seasonality, type and spatial extent and patchiness.

High fire frequency can threaten the persistence of plant species reliant on specific fire intervals to facilitate regeneration and altered fire regimes due to the Project may result in impacts to species.

Most faunal groups within the vicinity of the Project are resilient to fire, however fires caused by the Project may have indirect impacts on fauna through habitat modification.

5.1.4 Weeds, Pests and Pathogens

An increase in the movement of people, vehicles, machinery, vegetation waste and soil during and following construction activities may facilitate the introduction or spread of weeds, pests and pathogens that occur within and near the construction area. Disturbed areas, such as those in which earthworks are to be carried out, would be particularly susceptible to weed establishment.

This increase in weeds, pests and pathogens may impact upon biodiversity through the displacement of native species through predation and competition, and damage to vegetation by grazing and trampling. It may also result in an increase in costs and decreased income for agricultural properties within or adjacent to the construction area, including expenses associated with monitoring pests, weeds or diseases and implementing control measures.

Management measures are detailed further in Section 5.12.

5.1.5 Opportunities to retain and protect

Construction associated with the Project has the potential to result in impacts to biodiversity within and adjacent to the construction footprint. In order to avoid, mitigate and/or minimise these potential impacts, a range of environmental requirements and control measures are identified in the various environmental documents, including the EIS and AR.

Opportunities to retain and protect existing vegetation within the disturbance area have been identified during construction planning through a review of design and construction methodologies and in accordance with REMM B2 through micro-siting of temporary construction infrastructure (site offices, compounds and access tracks). This included:

- Prioritising areas of low biodiversity values (PCTs with Vegetation Integrity score <17; particularly within SAIIs)
- Utilising existing access tracks where feasible
- Minimising the quantity of cut and fill activities
- Locating waterway crossings at narrow width locations
- Avoiding sensitive areas (SAIIs, threatened species polygons, buffered threatened species

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locations, TECs, GDEs, hollow-bearing trees)

Further opportunities to retain and protect existing vegetation within the disturbance area will be considered, where practicable, during the pre-clearing process.

5.2 CLEARING LIMITS

The Project is committed to ensuring that the clearing limits stipulated in the MCoA (NSW) and the CoA (Commonwealth) are not exceeded and will ensure that the total predicted clearing value is tracked against the limits to identify potential exceedances within the Clearing Register. In the unlikely event that an exceedance is predicted, the Project will discuss the matter with the Department and will seek the Planning Secretary's agreement, as required by MCoA B21.

The clearing limits per MCoA (NSW) B21 and in accordance with Appendix 2 of the MCoA (NSW), are provided in Table 4-2; in Table 4-3, and in Table 4-4.

These clearing limits apply to the Project as a whole and take into consideration limits stipulated in both the MCoA (NSW) and the CoA (Commonwealth), where applicable.

The clearing extents provided within the pre-clearing survey, detailed in Section 5.3, will be utilised to inform the clearing register. The cumulative permitted clearing detailed in the clearing register will be monitored against the clearing limits defined by MCoA (NSW) B21 and Appendix 2 of the MCoA (NSW).

5.3 PRE-CLEARING

The pre-clearing process consists of three stages, all of which are to be undertaken prior to clearing works in each area. This process is detailed in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: Pre-clearing process

Stage	Scope	Timing	Location
Surveying			
Little Eagle	A suitably qualified ecologist will determine if the species is present. If present: • An impact assessment of proposed activities will be completed to determine what, if any, activities can take place within the buffer area, and what mitigation measures need to be implemented. Measures may include cessation of certain activities, amending the construction methodology including selecting alternative plant or equipment	As early as practicable prior to construction (including clearing) activities taking place within the Little Eagle nest buffer, but survey must be within the species' breeding season (from spring until after young have fledged in early summer)	Within the Little Eagle nest buffer area (as detailed in the Updated BDAR (refer Section 5.2.9, Figure14-13))

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Stage	Scope	Timing	Location
SAII survey: Large-eared Pied Bat, Eastern Cave Bat, Large Bent-winged Bat	A suitably qualified ecologist will determine if the species are present. If present: • An impact assessment of proposed activities will be completed to determine what, if any, activities can take place within the 100 m and what mitigation measures need to be implemented. Measures may include cessation of certain activities, amending the construction methodology including selecting alternative plant or equipment	As early as practicable prior to clearing prior to construction activities (including clearing) taking place within 100 m of rocky areas containing caves, overhangs or crevices, cliffs or escarpments, but survey must be within the species' breeding season (November to February).	Within 100 m of rocky areas containing caves, overhangs or crevices, cliffs or escarpments (as detailed in the Updated BDAR)
Pre-clearing survey	This survey consists of clearly marking each clearing area with known ecological constraints, including: • Marking and recording the spatial extent of the maximum extent of permitted clearing in accordance with the Pre-clearing protocol • Survey of areas of 'Assumed Habitat' for SAII entities and confirmation of marked clearing extent of habitat • Physical demarcation of biodiversity exclusion zones from clearing areas • Marking/tagging of hollow-bearing trees within and adjacent to each clearing area • Installation of tree protection measures for trees to be retained within and in vicinity of energy hubs, construction compounds and accommodation camps in accordance with REMM B9 • Identification of native seed recommended for collection (where species, season and likely viability permits), including methodology as appropriate • The Supervisor is to ensure the clearing extent and any exclusion and protection zones are delineated in accordance with the requirements • Any relevant findings from the pre-clearing survey will be recorded in GIS and used to update and confirm the accuracy of SAPs and/or GIS. Note, this may include implementation of unexpected threatened species finds protocol (Appendix E Unexpected Species Find Protocol)	As early as practicable prior to clearing	Each work site and (where required) suitable locations adjacent to clearing areas
Pre-clearing inspection			
Pre-clearing inspection	The suitably qualified and experienced ecologist engaged for the Project (the Project Ecologist) will	Within 48 hours or immediately prior to clearing	Each work site and suitable locations adjacent to work sites

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Stage	Scope	Timing	Location
	complete pre-clearing inspections, which will consist of: • Confirmation that clearing extent is demarcated in accordance with the Pre-clearing Protocol • Confirmation that biodiversity exclusion zones (SAII, MNES, threatened flora, threatened fauna habitat and habitat trees) are physically demarcated • Confirmation that hollow-bearing trees within and adjacent to the clearing extents are prominently marked/tagged • Refine the final location of proposed nest boxes to be installed prior to clearing where practicable in each construction area in accordance with REMM B6 • Verify the predicted extent of clearing of native vegetation against the extent of clearing as permitted by MCoA (NSW) B21. The predicted extent of clearing will also consider the type of clearing (e.g. temporary or permanent) • Identification of suitable locations for fauna relocation/ release and placement of salvaged habitat features • Confirmation of availability of wildlife carers/vets prior to clearing • Consideration for collection of native seed (where species, season and likely viability permits)		

5.4 CLEARING

All Project areas that need to be cleared will be subject to staged or non-staged clearing. Staged clearing occurs in locations where the Project Ecologist identifies habitat features and is typically referred to as ‘two-stage clearing.’ The two processes are outlined below.

Both two-staged and non-staged areas will be identified in the Clearing Permit. Both areas are subject to the requirements of the disturbance areas per the Clearing Permit.

The Project Pre-clearing Protocol (as approved as Appendix C of the EMS) is included in Appendix J.

5.4.1 Non-Staged Clearing: No Habitat Features Identified

If no habitat features have been identified by the Project ecologist in the pre-clearing surveys, then a two-stage clearing process is not required and clearing can be undertaken in a single step without

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the ecologist present. An example is cropland/ agricultural pasture area. All other demarcation and flagging are to occur as required by the Clearing Permit.

5.4.2 Two-Staged Clearing: Fauna Habitat Features Identified

Two-stage clearing is required where the Project ecologist has identified habitat features (e.g. hollow bearing trees, presence of threatened ecological communities) during the pre-clearing surveys. For these locations, the Project ecologist must inspect the clearing area within 48 hours or immediately before clearing as detailed in Section 5.3 Pre-Clearing prior to commencement of the two stages of clearing and remain present during clearing activities:

Stage 1: Initial clearing – removal of nearby non-habitat vegetation

- In this first stage, nearby non-habitat vegetation will be removed, and all marked habitat features will be retained until the final stage of clearing. This allows respite between the initial disturbance and the final removal of habitat. The changed environment and the disturbance from non-habitat vegetation clearing should encourage residing fauna to relocate voluntarily without human handling
- A respite period of a minimum of 'overnight' after the removal of non-habitat vegetation is required to allow resident fauna the opportunity to vacate the remaining habitat before final clearing commences

Stage 2: Final clearing – removal of habitat vegetation

- The Project ecologist must be onsite to supervise the final clearing works. They will:
  - Thoroughly inspect all hollows that are accessible from the ground immediately before clearing
  - Where hollows are not accessible from the ground and there is evidence that the hollow may be active, consideration will be given to implementing the following where practicable:
    - Inspection of the hollow utilising a drone
    - Adoption of felling techniques that allow the tree to be brought to the ground in a manner that minimises impact to any potential fauna utilising the un-inspected hollow
  - Carefully supervise the removal of habitat features and hollows when trees are dropped to the ground to pre-identified habitat feature relocation sites
  - Ensure detected fauna are encouraged to self-relocate or capture and relocate any encountered fauna to pre-identified release sites
  - Ensure that any injured wildlife are transported to a veterinarian or wildlife carer
  - Where breeding fauna or dependent young are detected during the clearing works, consult with a licensed carer to determine whether the animal/s require ongoing care or can be safely relocated to pre-identified release sites
- Locations of fauna release (including GPS coordinates) will be recorded in a post-clearing report

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as detailed in Section 6.2.5. Once all fauna habitat inspections and any required fauna removal are complete, the remaining vegetation clearing will commence.

- Salvage and relocation requirements of habitat features, including any temporary and permanent habitat feature relocation sites, will be detailed within the Hollow and Nest Strategy.

5.4.3 Careful Clearing Methodology for certain threatened flora species

Where *Acacia ausfeldii*, *Leucochrysum albicans* supsp. *Tricolor* and *Pomaderris queenslandica* are present in partial clearing areas, careful vegetation removal methods will be implemented to retain and avoid impacts to individuals of these species, and minimise disturbance of surrounding shrub and ground layer to the greatest extent practicable. The methods will be developed in consideration of site-specific constraints and safety requirements and could include manual dismantling of trees, whereby sections are lowered to the ground without damaging the adjacent ground or shrub layer.

The specific careful clearing method to be implemented at each relevant work area where the species are present will be included in the EWMS, Work Packs and Clearing Permit of each work area.

5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL WORK METHOD STATEMENT

A detailed clearing and grubbing environmental work method statement (EWMS) will be prepared and implemented for all clearing activities, including those impacting upon or in proximity of threatened species or habitat, to ensure that all required mitigation and management measures are identified and effectively communicated to personnel involved.

The clearing and grubbing EWMS will include:

- Requirements for identifying sensitive area including clearing boundaries and exclusion zones
- Types of flagging and other delineation used for construction footprint, clearing limits, exclusion zones and habitat trees
- Control measures to minimise and manage fauna encountered, including the implementation of the following as a minimum:
  - Reference to the Pre-clearing protocol (Appendix J (Approved as Appendix C of the EMS))
  - Reference to the Unexpected Finds Protocol (Appendix E) to be implemented during clearing and grubbing
  - Reference to the Fauna Handling Procedure (Appendix F) to be implemented during clearing and grubbing
  - Employ trained fauna spotters/handlers during clearing activities to enable safe relocation of encountered fauna

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- Minimise habitat destruction and clearly delineate sensitive areas and prevent fauna from entering work areas
- Manage site to reduce hazards such as open trenches which can trap fauna
- Cease work immediately if fauna is at risk and notify the Environment Manager

- Control measures for the management of weeds and other biosecurity risks where applicable.
- Applicable content from the Supplementary Hollow and Nest Box Strategy

Noting that different clearing methods will be required across the project, the EMWS will provide the relevant clearing methodology to accommodate:

- Site specific conditions such as topography and ground stability
- Access to the clearing locations
- Disturbance Area categories as described in Section 5.1.1

The processes described in section 5.3 will be included in the EWMS along with any biosecurity requirements where relevant.

All personnel in clearing crews must be inducted ('toolboxed') on the EWMS requirements prior to undertaking clearing.

5.6 SUPPLEMENTARY HOLLOW AND NEST BOX STRATEGY

A Supplementary Hollow and Nest Box Strategy will be developed separately to this Plan, in accordance with REMM B6 and implemented for the creation of nest boxes or other hollow creation method to provide alternative roosting and/or nesting habitat for threatened fauna displaced during clearing. The Supplementary Hollow and Nest Box Strategy is a stand-alone document that will be referenced as part of the applicable EWMS.

Nest boxes / hollows are to be installed prior to commencement of clearing works, where practicable, in each construction area.

Where supplementary hollows are proposed to be established on land adjacent to the easement, these will be subject to landowner agreement and captured in any property management plan.

5.7 CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY

A Connectivity Strategy will be developed separately to this Plan, in accordance with REMM B5. The Connectivity Strategy will be developed as a standalone document that supports this BMP and will identify the location of connectivity corridors where the construction area will impact habitat connectivity for arboreal species (see Appendix J of Technical paper 4 – Biodiversity Development

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Assessment Report for an examination of regional and terrestrial habitat connectivity and target species for mitigation). Connectivity for the arboreal species will be maintained in the form of installation of under-transmission line glider poles (in accordance with clearance requirements for transmission lines and infrastructure).The exact location and design of under-transmission line glider poles and/or rope bridges will be guided by the locations of habitat connectivity outlined in Figure 14-14 and 14-15 of Technical paper 4 – Biodiversity Development Assessment Report.

Where poles are proposed to be installed on land adjacent to the easement, they will be subject to landowner agreement and captured in the property management plan.

5.8 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN

A suite of Erosion and Sediment Control Plans (ESCP's) will be prepared to minimise erosion and control sediment generation, and to 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 4th Edition* (Landcom, 2004) (also known as the Blue Book) and the Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (IECA, 2008), in line with MCoA (NSW) B16.

The primary erosion control measure will be the preparation and progressive implementation of Erosion and Sediment Control Plans (ESCPs) and subsequent Progressive ESCPs (PESCPs). These plans will be developed by suitably qualified environmental personnel and updated as construction activities evolve, in consultation with the project's engineering and supervisory teams.

Key erosion control practices to be adopted include:

- Construction areas would be clearly defined, and unnecessary clearing or grading would be avoided to limit exposed soils
- Earthworks would be staged where possible to reduce the extent and duration of bare soil exposure
- Upslope (clean) water would be diverted around disturbed areas to prevent erosion, using temporary catch drains and diversion bunds
- Exposed soils would be stabilised as early as practicable using vegetation, erosion control blankets, geotextiles, or temporary mulching
- On batters and slopes, water would be directed away from the face to reduce the risk of rilling and sheet erosion
- Energy dissipation structures such as check dams and flow velocity controls may be used where reasonable and relevant
- Flow lengths would be reduced using cross-drainage and intermediate diversion banks to control velocity and limit soil movement

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- Where applicable, stormwater pits would be fitted with protective devices to prevent sediment ingress without creating flooding hazards
- Disturbed areas would be progressively rehabilitated using seeding or turfing to promote rapid ground cover and reduce erosion potential

In areas of heightened erosion risk such as steep terrain or work near waterways, erosion control measures may be developed in consultation with a qualified soil conservation expert, who would also assist with inspections and training.

Where long term erosion controls are required, measures such as rock-lined drains, grassed swales, spillways, and scour protection may be incorporated based on final landform, post-construction land use, and may include integration of information from stakeholder approvals.

Regular inspections (typically weekly, prior to and after rainfall events) and maintenance of erosion controls would be conducted to ensure continued effectiveness. Any accumulated sediment would be removed and either reused onsite, stockpiled appropriately, or disposed of at a licensed facility.

These erosion management measures would be implemented in conjunction with sediment control and water management strategies to ensure that soil loss is minimised and that water leaving the site remains clean and compliant with relevant environmental standards.

In addition, the ESCP would provide further detail in relation to:

- Groundwater
- Temporary access across watercourses, creeks, streams and wetland areas
- Riparian vegetation
- Stablisation and rehabilitation measures

5.9 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Property Management Plans (PMPs) will be developed and will include measures to minimise and manage potential biodiversity impacts on private properties. Individual PMPs will be developed in consultation with each landowner directly affected by construction activities.

Each individual PMP will address relevant biodiversity matters, including:

- Pre- and post-condition surveys to determine the existing and final condition of the land (REMM LP3)
- Biosecurity controls consistent with approved Property Biosecurity Plans (where they are in place) (REMM AG3) or consistent with the Project Biosecurity Management Plan (Section 5.11) (where Property Biosecurity Plans are not in place)
- Stabilisation and rehabilitation of disturbed areas (REMM LP9)

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- Locations of any nest boxes (REMM B6) and/or glider poles/ rope bridges (REMM B5) to be installed within the private property, where agreed with the landowner

5.10 BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT

Bushfire risk will be managed through implementation of the recommendations from Bushfire Hazard Assessments, and the implementation of Safe Works Method Statements, which will include controls to minimise risk of starting bushfire, where relevant. This could include consideration of working during High or Extreme Fire Danger periods; working in areas of elevated bushfire risk such as vegetated areas and Hot Works methods.

Additionally, an Emergency Plan and detailed Emergency procedure will be prepared as required under MCoA (NSW) B46 which will be consistent with the NSW Rural Fire Service document: A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan. The Emergency Plan will be updated iteratively as design progresses, as per the approved staging request (SSI-48323210-PA-25).

Bushfire likelihood and impact vary depending on a site's location and landscape features. Key factors influencing fire behaviour include:

- Vegetation type, extent, and continuity
- Topography
- Accessibility for firefighting operations
- Potential fire spread and the area likely to be affected

Where construction activities, site type and use, and consideration of environmental characteristics result in a requirement for Asset Protection Zones (APZ), site specific assessments would consider vegetation type, slope, aspect and asset type, and will be maintained in accordance with *NSW RFS Planning for Bushfire Protection (PBP), 2019*.

Bushfire prevention and management also requires weather monitoring, training and awareness. The Bush Fire Danger Period which is typically from 1 October to 31 March will be monitored more closely. Variations may apply depending on local risk; check with the NSW RFS District Office.

Training and protocols to monitor bush fire weather and events would be integrated into construction management plans and safety measures. These measures would typically include (but may not be limited to):

- Emergency personnel to be trained as per ACJV D&C Training and Skills Management Plan
- All workers briefed via inductions, toolbox talks, and pre-starts on bushfire ignition prevention and emergency response

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- Fire Danger Ratings (FDRs) checked
- FDR and Total Fire Ban (TOBAN) information shared at daily briefings
- Hot Works Permits managed in accordance with fire danger status

5.11 BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Biosecurity Management Plan will be developed to detail the measures that would be implemented to control and minimise the risk of transport or spread of feral pest and weeds, in accordance with MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(iv). The Biosecurity Management Plan will address the following protocols/matters:

- Review of the latest publicly available weed data including relevant Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans
- Consideration of information on weeds identified in biodiversity studies undertaken for the Project
- Weed management controls, including inspection and cleaning of plant and equipment, and management of earthworks and clearing activities
- Development of specific controls where high biosecurity risks are identified. For example, appropriate measures will be implemented with respect to foot and mouth disease to control any risk of introduction of the pathogen as a result of Project activities
- A monitoring program to track the effectiveness of the controls identified in the Biosecurity Management Plan
- Consultation with the owners of organic certified properties will be carried out to identify the specific risks and controls required to be implemented
- Notification of relevant councils of new infestations of priority weeds listed in the relevant Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans if identified (in line with REMM AG6)

The specific controls applicable to a property will be consistent with approved Property Biosecurity Plans biosecurity plans where they are in place. Property- specific protocols will be documented in the relevant PMPs (Section 5.9).

The Biosecurity Management Plan will be prepared in consultation with relevant local council biosecurity officers in relation to the distribution of important weeds and the location of high biosecurity risk areas.

5.12 WEEDS AND PEST MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Weed and pest management is a critical component of the Project's environmental controls, forming an integral part of both the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and the Biosecurity Management

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Plan. These plans would be informed by a Weed Management Strategy to manage risks to biodiversity, ecological and agricultural integrity, and regulatory compliance.

The strategy is underpinned by national, state, and regional guidance, including:

- The Australian Weed Strategy 2017–2027
- NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
- Central Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023–2027
- Mid-Western Regional Council Weed Management Guidelines

These documents inform site-specific weed management actions, including identification and prioritisation of biosecurity risks, particularly for PCTs impacted by edge effects and weed incursion across project disturbance areas.

5.12.1 Biosecurity and Movement Controls

Biosecurity and movement controls would include:

- Stringent hygiene protocols for all machinery, tools, vehicles, and personnel entering or moving between micro-sites or regions
- Detail stipulating all items would be cleaned to ensure they are free of soil, seeds, plant matter, animal waste, and other potential contaminants
- Cleaning and inspection records where required as part of quality control procedures

Where machinery or equipment is mobilised from a Queensland Movement Control Area (fire ant infestation zone) into New South Wales, the following fire ant biosecurity protocols must be strictly followed:

- All plant, vehicles, and materials must be thoroughly cleaned to be free from soil and any fire ant carrier material
- Equipment must be visually inspected and confirmed to be free from fire ants
- A Record of Movement Declaration must be completed for all fire ant carriers
- A Biosecurity Certificate must be uploaded for each load or consignment, in accordance with Queensland Biosecurity regulations
- Movement of fire ant carriers without appropriate documentation is a serious offence subject to penalties
- The party responsible must submit all required forms to the NSW Department and retain movement records for a minimum of four years

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5.12.2 Weed and Pest Management Measures

Management measures to ensure effective weed and pest prevention, control, and long-term site recovery would include training, weed identification and risk-based control hierarchy. These factors include:

- Inductions and site-specific training on weed and pest management including awareness of exclusion zones where reasonable and relevant
- Identification of local, state, and national priority weeds, including Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) during pre-clear surveys
- Use of a risk-based hierarchy of control prevention, eradication, containment and asset protection
- Pest management activities would be coordinated (where reasonable and relevant) with weed and broader biosecurity measures, particularly where the two interact (e.g. soil movement, site access hygiene, or vegetation management)
- Consistency with the Weed Management Strategy and Machinery Hygiene Protocols would reduce the likelihood of cross-contamination or pest transport between sites

5.12.3 Selection and Approval of Control Measures

Management measures may include:

- Manual removal, mechanical removal, or targeted chemical application
- All chemical applications require prior approval from the Environmental Manager and must comply with the NSW DPI Weed Control Handbook (6th Ed., 2014)

5.12.4 Implementation of Weed Control

Approved weed control measures would include:

- Focused treatment on priority species within disturbance areas
- Removed weed material would be disposed of at a licensed waste disposal facility where reasonable and relevant
- Chemical treatments would be applied in accordance with the Weed Management Strategy and DPI Weed Wise where required
- The relevant site supervisor and all personnel would ensure vehicle and plant hygiene before mobilisation or demobilisation to and from the site

5.13 RIPARIAN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Riparian Vegetation Management Plan will be developed to detail the measures that would be implemented to control and minimise impacts to existing and natural riparian and aquatic

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environments, including ecological functions, in accordance with MCoA (NSW) B19, REMM B12 and B13.

The plan will be prepared prior to and implemented during any disturbance to a riparian area.

The Riparian Vegetation Management Plan will address the following protocols/matters:

- Ensure all activities on waterfront land are constructed in accordance with the *Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land* (DPE 2022), *Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings* (NSW Fisheries 2003) and the *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat and Conservation and Management* (NSW Fisheries, 2013), unless Water Group agrees otherwise;
- Measures to protect understorey vegetation within vegetated riparian zones where reasonable and feasible (within the definition of Water Management Act 2000), including limiting vegetation clearing to the tree stratum and shrubs above two metres in height only, with root systems and trunk bases being retained insitu
- Provide measures to maintain the existing or natural hydraulic, hydrologic, geomorphic and ecological functions of all watercourses, except for the Talbragar River crossings on Merotherie Road and the Laheys Creek crossing at Spring Ridge Road
- Provide measures to progressively stabilise and rehabilitate riparian areas subject to disturbance, including to remediate as soon as practical, and by no later than construction demobilisation, any changes to the geomorphic condition of the Talbragar River and Laheys Creek during construction

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6 Governance and Implementation

6.1 TRAINING AND INDUCTIONS

6.1.1 Environmental Inductions/Toolbox Talks

All relevant Project personnel, including relevant sub-contractors, are to be trained on biodiversity management protocols and requirements for the Project, through inductions, toolbox talks and targeted training, and updates as required, in accordance with REMM B11.

Inductions must be completed prior to commencement of work for all relevant personnel, and will include:

- Existence and requirements of this plan
- Relevant legislation and guidelines
- Information (including images) about all threatened species known to occur or likely occur within the clearing areas
- Potential impacts
- The unexpected threatened species finds protocol (Appendix E Unexpected Species Find Protocol)
- Site flagging protocol
- Sensitive area plans
- Specific requirements for property access to the construction area (e,g, access to NPWS managed lands)
- All components of the Clearing and Grubbing Work Pack
- Relevant EWMS

The supervisor, clearing operators and environment team will discuss any findings from the pre-clearing survey during the daily pre-start meetings as required including changes to the sequence of clearing, exclusion zones, avoidance areas, or habitat features.

6.1.2 Training

Targeted training will be provided to personnel with a key role in biodiversity management. Examples of training topics include:

- Clearing procedures
- No-go zones
- Threatened species within the Project area

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- Special biodiversity protection zones
- Unexpected finds procedure for threatened species
- Biosecurity procedures

6.2 REPORTING

6.2.1 Construction Work Methods and Packs

Development of typical construction methodology for each of the Disturbance Areas will be undertaken. This consists of the preparation of the clearing and grubbing work pack (or similar) for each site, including:

- Construction Work Method Statement
- EWMS, Sensitive Area Plans, showing the location clearing boundaries and boundaries of sensitive areas to be avoided, including threatened species polygons, buffered threatened species locations; areas of Threatened Ecological Communities; and habitat trees, using spatial data
- Clearing Permits (approved by the Environment/ Sustainability Manager or delegate) and/or other relevant activity specific Permits

6.2.2 Pre-Clearing Survey Reports

Following the completion of pre-clearing surveys in each work area covered by a clearing permit, a pre-clearing survey report is to be prepared which will include:

- Description of the presence of threatened flora species
- Description of the presence or evidence of threatened fauna species (including fresh scats, scratches and remains of prey)
- Description and photographs of identified fauna habitat, including any salvageable habitat
- Description of identified priority weeds
- Recommended actions to avoid the potential for harm to any fauna during clearing, including protocols for staged clearing of vegetation, safe tree felling, and a two-stage tree and log removal process
- Live animal sightings and identification of suitable release locations
- Measures to avoid disturbance to surrounding vegetation during clearance works.
- Identification of resources that are able to be salvaged during clearing works for future beneficial re-use in either rehabilitation or to enhance fauna habitat

A review of the findings of the pre-clearing survey will be completed with the Environment team, supervisors and subcontractors to discuss findings including any changes to sequence of clearing,

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exclusion zones, avoidance areas or habitat features prior to the commencement of clearing.

6.2.3 Clearing Permits

Clearing Permits will be issued to manage the risks associated with clearing. Clearing Permits will be prepared by the delivery team in consultation with the ecologist and approved by the Environment and Sustainability Manager (or delegate), prior to the commencement of the clearing works. A typical template of the Clearing Permit is included in Appendix D1.

6.2.4 Environmental Site Inspections

Environmental site inspections will be undertaken (typically weekly, in active construction areas) to assess the ongoing effectiveness and suitability of the Project's environmental controls. The outcomes of environmental site inspections will be captured on Environmental Inspection Checklists.

If any maintenance or deficiencies in environmental controls or in the standard of environmental performance are observed, they will be recorded as an environmental action list, describing:

- The nature of the deficiency
- Actions required
- Timeframe for actions to be addressed based on environmental risk

The environmental action list will then be issued to the relevant Supervisor (or delegate) for actioning. Evidence of close out (usually a photograph) may be required for recording.

Deficiencies and required corrective actions will be analysed to evaluate the effectiveness and suitability of the implementation of the applicable mitigation measures. Review may trigger amendments to mitigation measures implemented during construction activities, updates to relevant works pack and/or management plans

6.2.5 Post-Clearing Reports

Project ecologists (or delegate) will prepare post-clearing reports during clearing works and will include:

- Information on clearing operations, dates, procedures, and areas
- The type of clearing (non-staged or two-staged)
- A breakdown of the spatial extent (in GIS file format) of clearing, including clearing of each mapped TEC and threatened flora

[1] This is typical template is subject to change and may not trigger an update to this document.

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- Live animal sightings, captures, any releases or injured/shocked wildlife
- The name of the wildlife carer and/or vet where injured fauna was taken (if occurred)
- The location of any fauna release sites off easement
- Fauna that may have died as a result of clearing
- Photographs of any rescued fauna

A review of the findings of the post-clearing reports will be completed with the Environment team and Project ecologist to assess effectiveness and suitability of the implementation of the applicable mitigation measures.

The type and spatial extent of clearing recorded in the post-clearing report will be compared with the pre-clearing survey and pre-clearing inspection report for the work area to confirm accuracy. Where required, amendments will be made to the Clearing Register to reflect actual clearing as presented in the post-clearing report.

6.3 MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The monitoring and reporting requirements relevant to biodiversity, as required by the applicable MCoA (NSW), CoA (Commonwealth), REMMs and the EMS, is provided in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1: Monitoring and reporting program

Monitoring / Program Item	Scope	Records / reporting	Report timing	Approval Condition
Pre-clearing survey	Project ecologist to inspect work areas as per scope in Table 5-1 prior to clearing commencing in each work area	Pre-clearing inspection report	Within 1 month prior to clearing commencing in each work area.	MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(i – iv, vii – xi) REMM B10
Pre-clearing inspection	Project ecologist to inspect work areas as per scope in Table 5-1 24-48 hours prior to clearing in accordance with 2 Stage clearing process	Clearing Permit	Prior to commencement of clearing in each work area.	MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(i - iii)
Weekly Environmental Inspections	Weekly inspection of work areas during clearing activities	Environmental Inspection Checklist	Weekly in each work area.	MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(i – iv, vii – xi) REMM B5, B6, B9, B12 and B13.
Partial Clearance Monitoring	Monitoring of partial clearance within 3 months of commencement of construction, or within 3 months of	Verification Report	Verification report to be prepared within 1 – 3 months of monitoring and provided to DPHI.	MCoA (NSW) B26(vi)

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Monitoring / Program Item	Scope	Records / reporting	Report timing	Approval Condition
	commencement date of partial clearing where this occurs later than 3 months from construction commencement.			
Post-clearing inspection	After completion of clearing within each work area	Post-clearing report	Within 1 month of completion of clearing within each work area.	MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(i – iii, v, vii, viii, xi) MCoA (NSW) B26(e)
Clearing Register	Monitoring of vegetation clearing to assess actual clearing impacts, including a cumulative tally of vegetation and habitat clearing.	Clearing Register	Prior to and during clearing.	MCoA (NSW) B21(a) MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(i-iii, xi,xii) MCoA (NSW) B26(e)
Weed monitoring: as detailed in the Biosecurity Management Plan (section 5.11)	As part of routine weekly inspections, as detailed in the Biosecurity Management Plan	Refer to the Biosecurity Management Plan	Refer to the Biosecurity Management Plan.	MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(xi) MCoA (NSW) B26(e)
Active Revegetation, and Natural Regeneration	Visual inspections undertaken seasonally for a maximum of 12 months from completion of rehabilitation activities.	Inspection report, including photos	Final report collated following the completion of the visual inspection period.	N/A

6.3.1 Annual Biodiversity Report

The monitoring items, records, and reporting requirements identified in Table 6-1 above will be addressed in an Annual Biodiversity Report, which will assess the effectiveness of the implemented measures in accordance with accordance with MCoA (NSW) B26(e). The report will provide a summary of the outcomes facilitated by the monitoring and reporting program and the report will be made publicly available, as required by MCoA (NSW) B26(e).

In preparation of the annual biodiversity report, and in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the applicable biodiversity management and mitigation measures, consideration will be given to any incidents or non-compliances that have been reported during the reporting period.

6.4 REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT

Continuous improvement of this plan and evaluation and improvement of monitoring requirements will be undertaken in accordance with MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(e).

This BMP will be revised and updated (as required):

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- To incorporate any changes to biodiversity offset measures that may be required following the completion of Species Survey Verification (MCoA (NSW) B24), in consultation with CPHR, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary (MCoA (NSW) B24)
- To incorporate any changes that may be required following the provision of the partial clearing verification report in accordance with MCoA (NSW) B26
- To incorporate any revisions that may be required as a result of the Emergency Plan being iteratively updated
- In accordance with MCoA (NSW) C2, within 3 months of the following:
  - the submission of an incident report under condition MCoA (NSW) C10
  - the submission of an Independent Audit under condition MCoA (NSW) C14
  - any modification of the conditions of this approval
  - the issue of a direction of the Planning Secretary under MCoA (NSW) A3 which requires a review
  - In line with any audit findings, where relevant, following audits as detailed in the EMS

All Project documents, including the EIS, approved strategies, plans, audits or programs required under the conditions of approval, as well as a report on the effectiveness of the BMP monitoring program (as detailed in Section 6.3), will be made publicly available on the Project website.

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7 References

DCCEEW (2023), *National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife*

DEC (2004), *NSW Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Developments and Activities – Working Draft*

DECC (2008a*), Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 2(the "Blue Book").*

DECC (2008b), *Hygiene protocol for the control of disease in frogs*

DPE (2018), *Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land*

DPE (2022*), Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land*

DPI (2013), Policy *and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management*

DPI (2012), *Risk Assessment Guidelines for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems*

DPI (2003a), *Why do fish need to cross the road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings*

DPI (2003b), *Fishnote – Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings*

DPI Water *(2012a), Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land*

DPI Water *(2012b), Guidelines for watercourse crossings on waterfront land*

DPI Water *(2012c), Guidelines for instream works on waterfront land*

DPI Water (2012d), *Guidelines for outlet structures on waterfront land*

DPIE (2020*), Biodiversity Assessment Method.*

Fairfull and Witheridge (2003), *Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings*

International Erosion Control Association (IECA) (2008), Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control

Landcom (2004*), Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction, Volume 1*

NSW Fisheries (2003), *Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings*

NSW Fisheries (2013), *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat and Conservation and Management*

OEH NSW (2011), *Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna*

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Appendix A Minister's Conditions of Approval (NSW)

Table A-1: Additional MCoAs (NSW) relevant to the BMP

MCoA (NSW)	Condition requirement	Document Reference
B21	Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must: (a) ensure that the vegetation and habitat clearing limits specified in Table 2-1, Table 2-2 and Table 2-3 of Appendix 2 are not exceeded; and (b) minimise: (i) the impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees; (ii) the impacts of the development on threatened species; and (iii) the clearing of native vegetation and key habitat.	BMP Section 5.2 and 5.3
B22	Prior to carrying out any development that would impact on biodiversity values that require offsetting, the Proponent must prepare a Biodiversity Offset Package (Package) that is generally consistent with the EIS, in consultation with CPHR and BCT and to the satisfaction of the Planning 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 for each specific biodiversity offset measure, which would be required to be paid into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund if the relevant measure is not implemented and delivered, as determined in accordance with a BCF Charge Quote indexed on a monthly basis in accordance with the Biodiversity Offsets Payment Calculator Order 2022; (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 26 June 2026, unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary. Following the Planning Secretary's approval, the Proponent must implement and deliver the Biodiversity Offset Package. All or any part of the Biodiversity Offset Package may be implemented and delivered by entry into a Strategic Offset Delivery Agreement in accordance with clauses 6.2(2)(f) and 6.3A of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017*.	Refer to the Biodiversity Offset Measures Management Plan
B22a	The Proponent may revise the Biodiversity Offset Package in consultation with CPHR and BCT and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary in writing	Refer to the Biodiversity Offset Measures Management Plan.
B23	The Proponent must comply with the terms of the Deed of Agreement with the Planning Secretary executed on 19 June 2024 to ensure that the biodiversity offset measures are implemented and delivered in accordance with the Biodiversity Offset Package. Prior to carrying out any development that would impact biodiversity values, the Proponent must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that 'Financial Close', as that term is defined in the Deed of Agreement, has occurred.	Refer to the Biodiversity Offset Measures Management Plan.

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MCoA (NSW)	Condition requirement	Document Reference
	Note: this condition seeks to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made for a source of funds to support the performance of the *Proponent's obligations under this approval in relation to biodiversity offsets.*	
B24	Prior to carrying out any development that would impact on the relevant biodiversity values, the Proponent must undertake the following further targeted surveys as committed to in the EIS: (a) for koala, in previously unsurveyed patch sizes of less than 5 hectares; and (b) for *Indigofera efoliata* and *Euphrasia arguta*, in the area of assumed presence; to confirm whether additional biodiversity offset measures are required for the koala, or reduced biodiversity offset measures are required for the *Indigofera efoliata* and *Euphrasia arguta*. Following the completion of the surveys, any required changes to biodiversity offset measures must be incorporated into a revised version of the Biodiversity Offset Package under condition B22 and addressed in a revised version of the Biodiversity Management Plan required under condition B26, in consultation with CPHR, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.	Refer to the Biodiversity Offset Measures Management Plan
B25	Unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary, a Biodiversity Assessment Verification Report must be prepared. The Report must: (a) be prepared prior to carrying out any development that would impact on the relevant biodiversity values specified in condition B25(e); (b) be prepared to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary; (c) be prepared by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent biodiversity consultant with Biodiversity Assessment Methodology (2020) (BAM) Accreditation whose appointment has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary; (d) be prepared in consultation with CPHR; (e) review the following matters: (i) whether the application of species polygons in the EIS for the large-eared pied bat, eastern cave bat, large bent-winged bat, southern myotis, squirrel glider, Swainsona sericea, pink-tailed legless lizard, little eagle and square-tailed kite are reasonable; (ii) whether complete loss of habitat value should be assumed for the squirrel glider, pale-headed snake, and southern myotis in areas of partial impact, including consideration of the basis for the generation of the species credits for those species; and (iii) whether the 63.61 hectare of land that was classified as PCT 0 in the BDAR should be included as Category 2 – Regulated land; with reference to the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology (2020) or any other guidance document that is relevant and applicable at the time surveys were undertaken or the BDAR was prepared; and provide findings and recommendations relating to the matters in (e), including, but not limited to, options of undertaking additional surveys or reducing the relevant credit obligations.	Refer to the Biodiversity Assessment Verification Report.

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MCoA (NSW)	Condition requirement	Document Reference
B56	Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, within 12 months of commencing operation of the project, the Proponent must decommission and rehabilitate the accommodation camps to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives: • Safe, stable and non-polluting • All infrastructure including above and below ground to be decommissioned and removed to a depth of 500 mm, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise • Restoring land capability to pre-existing productive capacity • Ensure public safety at all times	Appendix G Rehabilitation of Temporary Disturbance

B57	Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, within 6 months of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning, the Proponent must rehabilitate the areas where ancillary facilities and earthwork material sites are located. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives for:
	• Ancillary features:
	  ○ Safe, stable and non-polluting
	  ○ Progressively rehabilitate the site as soon as possible following disturbance
	  ○ To be decommissioned and removed, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise
	• Land Use:
	  ○ Restore or maintain land capability to pre-existing use
	• Community:
	  ○ Ensure public safety
		Appendix G Rehabilitation of Temporary Disturbance

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Appendix B Conditions of Approval (Commonwealth)

Table B-1: Additional CoAs (Commonwealth) relevant to the BMP

CoA	Condition requirement	Document reference
2	To avoid and mitigate harm to protected matters, the approval holder must comply with condition B21 of the NSW approval to the extent that it relates to protected matter: • CoA (NSW) B21: Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must: a) ensure that the vegetation and habitat clearing limits specified in Table 2-1, Table 2-2 and Table 2-3 of Appendix 2 are not exceeded; and b) minimise: (i) the impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees; (ii) the impacts of the development on threatened species; and (iii) the clearing of native vegetation and key habitat.	Clearing limits are detailed in Table 4-2; in Table 4-3, and in Table 4-4. Impact minimisation is detailed in Sections 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4
3	The approval holder must comply with condition B24 of the NSW approval in relation to targeted surveys where it relates to Koala.	Addressed in Offset Measures Biodiversity Management Plan and/or Biodiversity Assessment Verification Report.
4	The approval holder must prepare a Biodiversity Assessment Verification Report in accordance with condition B25 of the NSW Approval to the extent that it relates to protected matters and, within 5 business days of the NSW Planning Secretary approving the Biodiversity Assessment Verification Report, submit to the department a copy of the Biodiversity Assessment Verification Report.	Addressed in Biodiversity Assessment Verification Report
5	If the approval holder detects the presence, where likely to be directly impacted by the action, of any protected matter or the habitat of any protected matter not previously reported to the department as part of the referral of this action or in accordance with this condition, the approval holder must: a) Notify the department in writing of the presence and likely extent of any protected matter or the habitat of any protected matter not previously reported to the department within 10 business days of detecting the presence of any protected matter or the habitat of any protected matter not previously reported to the department, and b) not clear any area where the protected matter or the habitat of the protected matter is located unless the impact is permissible under the NSW Approval.	Appendix E Unexpected Species Find Protocol Clearing limits are detailed in Table 4-2; in Table 4-3, and in Table 4-4.
6	The approval holder must comply with condition B26 of the NSW Approval in relation to the preparation of a Biodiversity Management Plan to the extent that it relates to protected matters.	This BMP

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Appendix C Revised Environmental Mitigation Measures

Table C-1: Revised Environmental Management Measures relevant to the BMP

REMM	Requirement	Document reference
AG3	Individual Property Management Plans will be developed in consultation with each landowner directly affected by construction activities. The intent of the plans is to provide a flexible approach which balances the needs of existing agricultural operations and construction activities. The plans will address relevant matters including • Pre-and post-condition surveys • Access arrangements and protocols • Proposed timing and location of construction works, particularly where some restriction on vehicular, equipment, grazing or livestock movements will be necessary • Grazing and cropping activities on and adjacent to the construction area during the construction period • Farm infrastructure arrangements • Any required adjustments to property infrastructure (fences, access tracks, etc) • Noise intensive activities during sensitive periods of the livestock production cycle (e.g. lambing/calving) • Vehicle movements and other activities within the vicinity of livestock • Movement of stock away from potential stressors created by construction activities • Details of any access tracks or other infrastructure provided for temporary construction activities that are to be retained and not restored to the preexisting condition (where requested by the landholder prior to the completion of construction within the applicable area) • Biosecurity requirements • Contact details for the person who will liaise with landowner to provide direct avenues of enquiry for information and issues management Property Management Plans will be developed prior to the commencement of relevant works which will impact the applicable property, activity, equipment and/or property infrastructure. The requirements of the plans will be adhered to/implemented throughout the construction period	Section 5.9, PMP
LV1	Vegetation clearance for the project will be limited to the minimum extent necessary for construction and operation to maximise existing visual screening and retention of the existing landscape character. Retained vegetation will be clearly demarcated on site as 'no-go zones' prior to the commencement of construction. Construction personnel will be made aware of no-go zones as part of environmental site induction(s).	Section 5.2, section 5.3, -BMM10 and BMM12
B1	The locations of threatened ecological communities and habitat for threatened species will be considered and potential impacts avoided or minimised to the greatest extent practicable during finalisation of the detailed design and construction methodology. The detailed design process will avoid and minimise impacts on sensitive areas where feasible and reasonable including: • Micro siting of transmission line infrastructure within the biodiversity study area	BMP Section 5.3 and Table -BMM2 and BMM3

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REMM	Requirement	Document reference
	• Prioritising areas with a Vegetation Integrity score <17 as per section 9 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method (2020) Sensitive areas to be avoided during detailed design and sensitive areas (including species polygons, buffered threatened species locations and areas of Threatened Ecological Communities) will be identified on sensitive area plans using spatial data.	
B2	Prior to construction activities taking place within the Little Eagle nest buffer and during the breeding season (from Spring until after young and fledged in early Summer), an ecologist will be engaged to determine if the species is present. If present, an impact assessment of proposed activities will be completed to determine what, if any, activities can take place within the buffer area, and what mitigation measures need to be implemented. Measures may include cessation of certain activities, amending the construction methodology including selecting alternative plant or equipment.	BMP Section 5.3 and Table -BMM4
B3	Prior to construction activities taking place within 100 m of rocky areas containing caves, overhangs or crevices, cliffs or escarpments and during the breeding season for the Large-eared Pied Bat, Eastern Cave Bat, Large Bent winged Bat (November to February), an ecologist will be engaged to determine if the species are present. If present, an impact assessment of proposed activities will be completed to determine what, if any, activities can take place within the 100 m and what mitigation measures need to be implemented. Measures may include cessation of certain activities, amending the construction methodology including selecting alternative plant or equipment.	BMP Section 5.3
B4	Micro-siting of temporary construction infrastructure (including site offices, compounds and access tracks) will be undertaken to minimise vegetation clearing and disturbance of watercourses. This will include: • Prioritising areas of low biodiversity value • Utilising existing access tracks, where feasible • Locating waterway crossings at located at narrow width locations • Minimising the quantity of cut and fill activities	Section 5.3 and Table I-1: Biodiversity management and mitigation measures-BMM2
B5	Connectivity corridors in the form of installation of under-transmission line glider poles (in accordance with clearance requirements for transmission lines and infrastructure) where the construction area will impact habitat connectivity for arboreal species (see Appendix J of Technical paper 4 – Biodiversity Development Assessment Report for an examination of regional and terrestrial habitat connectivity and target species for mitigation), are to be investigated and installed in appropriate locations. The exact location and design of under-transmission line glider poles and/or rope bridges will be nominated as part of a Connectivity Strategy guided by the locations of habitat connectivity outlined in Figure 14-14 and 14-15 of Technical paper 4 – Biodiversity Development Assessment Report. Where poles are proposed to be installed on land adjacent to the easement, they will be subject to landowner agreement and captured in the property management plan. This strategy will require ongoing management of connectivity corridors.	Connectivity Strategy; Property Management Plan
B6	A Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy will be developed and implemented for the creation of nest boxes or other hollow creation method to provide alternative roosting and/or nesting habitat for threatened fauna displaced during clearing.	Section 5.6 and Table I-1: Biodiversity management and

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REMM	Requirement	Document reference
	Nest box/hollows are to be installed prior to commencement of clearing works where practicable in each construction area. Where supplementary hollows are proposed to be established on land adjacent to the easement, these will be subject to landowner agreement and captured in any property management plan.	mitigation measuresBMM27; Hollow and Nest Strategy
B7	A Biosecurity Management Plan will be prepared an implemented to ensure biosecurity risks are suitably controlled. The plan will include protocols to be followed to minimise biosecurity risks including, but not limited to the cleaning of vehicles and machinery (incl. floor pans), boots and clothing to remove and/or kill pathogens and remove weed seed and/or plant bodies. All trucks containing loads of weed contaminated material will be covered. Mechanical and chemical weed control will be done in consultation with landowners.	Section 5.11, Biosecurity Management Plan
B8	A Biodiversity Management Plan will be prepared and implemented for the duration of construction. The plan is to include (as a minimum): • A protocol for identifying and demarcating, prior to clearing commencement at each location, the location and extent of areas of vegetation clearance and habitat disturbance, and how these will be suitably demarcated on site • A protocol for identifying and demarcating, prior to clearing commencement at each location, the location and extent of areas to be protected (e.g. retained vegetation, hollow-bearing trees, nests, burrows and other habitat features (including applicable buffers to habitat features) • Measures to be implemented on site to clearly demarcate areas to be retained as 'no go areas'	This plan
B9	Tree protection measures are to be installed and maintained as necessary for trees to be retained within and in the vicinity of energy hubs, construction compounds and accommodation camps, in accordance with *AS 4970-2009 – Protection of Trees in Development Sites* throughout construction.	Table I-1: Biodiversity management and mitigation measures BMM12
B10	Pre-clearing surveys are to be completed prior to clearing at each location by a suitability qualified ecologist. The proposed clearing extents will be marked out on site prior to the pre-clearing surveys. Pre-clearing surveys are to be carried out prior to the commencement of clearing works in each construction area. During the surveys, the ecologist will: • Survey areas of 'Assumed Habitat' for SAII entities and confirm clearing extent of habitat • Survey the proposed clearing extent • Within 48hours prior to clearing, identify any fauna that will require relocation prior to clearing, including inspection of any built structures and wooden fence posts to be demolished • Confirm that any biodiversity exclusion zones are physically demarcated • Confirm that hollow-bearing trees within and adjacent to the clearing extents are prominently marked/tagged • Confirm that nest boxes are in place (where required) in suitable locations adjacent to areas to be cleared, or suitable locations for installation have been identified	Section 5.3; Table I-1: Biodiversity management and mitigation measuresBMM10;
B11	All relevant project personnel, including relevant subcontractors are to be trained on biodiversity management protocols and requirements for the project, through inductions, toolbox talks and targeted training, and provided with sensitive area	BMP Section 6.1

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REMM	Requirement	Document reference
	maps (showing clearing boundaries and exclusion zones) and updates as required. Inductions and training must be completed prior to commencement of work for all relevant personnel.	
B12	Understorey vegetation is to be protected within vegetated riparian zones where reasonable and feasible (within the definition of *Water Management Act 2000*). Vegetation clearing will be limited to the tree stratum and shrubs above two metres in height only, with trunk bases being retained in-situ.	Table I-1 BMM19; Section 5.13 Riparian vegetation management plan
B13	A Riparian Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) will be developed and implemented for the project to manage activities within vegetated riparian zones to minimise impacts to aquatic environments. The plan will be prepared prior to and implemented during any disturbance to a riparian area. The plan will identify the measures to be implemented to minimise impacts from construction activities (such as temporary and permanent waterway crossings) within riparian and aquatic environments. Riparian areas subject to disturbance will be progressively stabilised and rehabilitated.	BMP Table I-1: Biodiversity management and mitigation measures BMM18, Section 5.13 Riparian vegetation management plan
B14	Bird diverters will be installed on transmission lines within one kilometre (at a minimum) of wetland/riverine habitats to reduce impacts on aerial fauna species from collision with transmission lines and infrastructure. The exact position and diverter model will be finalised during detailed design. Installation of the bird diverters will occur within two weeks of transmission line installation or as soon as practical, and will remain in place and/or replaced as required.	Table I-1 BMM17
B15	The predicted clearing of native vegetation by the project identified in Chapter 8 of the updated Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (in Appendix G of the Amendment Report) will be monitored against the recorded clearing. A revised Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM-C) calculation on the project's final disturbance to biodiversity post construction will be completed. Any additional credit liability identified will be met as part of the biodiversity offset requirements within the biodiversity offset package.	Biodiversity Offset Package
B16	A species unexpected finds protocol will be implemented if threatened ecological communities or flora and fauna species, not assessed in the biodiversity assessment, are identified in the disturbance area.	Appendix E Unexpected Species Find Protocol
B17	Watercourse crossings will be designed to minimise disturbance and harm within riparian corridors and rehabilitate aquatic habitat to achieve a 'no net loss' of habitat within the affected area and catchment as a whole, in accordance with the following guidelines: • *Guidelines for controlled activities on waterfront land* (DPE, 2018) • *Why do fish need to cross the road? Fish passage requirements for waterway crossings* (Fairfull & Witheridge, 2003) • *Policy and guidelines for fish habitat conservation and management* (DPI, 2013)	Table I-1 BMM21, Section 5.13 Riparian vegetation management plan

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Appendix D Typical Clearing Permit Template

VEGETATION CLEARING PERMIT DETAILS

Permit Number:		**Permit Valid Until (if applicable):**	
Area/Location: (Attach SAPs)			
Proposed scope of works:			
Supervisor/Engineer Responsible:			
Clearing Subcontractor Company:			
Date permit opened:		**Date permit closed:**	

PLANNING REVIEW

Detail any Project specific conditions that are required to be completed prior to the commencement of clearing activities.

Requirement	Status	Comments	Initial/ signature
Is the proposed vegetation clearing within the Project Approval or equivalent approval document? Are the works within the construction boundary?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Have all adjacent sensitive areas been clearly identified and delineated on the ground (heritage and/or biodiversity)? Attach relevant/marked up Sensitive Area Plans (SAP)	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Does the clearing involve removal of any sensitive vegetation that requires additional control?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Have clearing limits been clearly delineated on site by the Project surveyor (using relevant flagging)?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Has the Project ecologist undertaken a pre-clearing survey within the nominated area?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Are Project fauna spotter/catchers required during clearing activities (2 stage clearing)? Have they been scheduled to be present during clearing?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Are there any Hollow-bearing trees within the clearing limits? Have these been clearly	☐ YES ☐ NO		

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Requirement	Status	Comments	Initial/ signature
identified onsite and protected/managed where required?			
Have proposed areas for relocation of fauna and/or salvaged habitat features been identified?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Where any unexpected finds of threatened species or ecological communities identified during pre-clearing survey?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Has the Cultural Heritage Management Plan or similar specified monitoring during clearing/ground disturbance?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Have all declared weeds been identified/flagged for adequate management?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
For priority weeds, has a removal plan been determined?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Are clearing activities within vicinity of watercourses/water bodies or riparian zones?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Have controls been installed where works are in vicinity of waterway or riparian zones and permits acquired?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
If soil disturbance is to occur, has an erosion and sediment control plan (ESCP) been created and have these controls been scheduled for installation?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Others (insert as appropriate)	☐ YES ☐ NO		

IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO CLEARING ACTIVITIES

Detail any Project specific conditions that are required to be completed prior to the commencement of clearing activities.

Requirement	Status	Comments	Initial/ signature
Have all personnel (including sub-contractors) involved in clearing operation been toolboxed on the Clearing and Grubbing EWMS and location of sensitive areas in the vicinity of works?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Has survey confirmed the clearing limits are accurate and have these been appropriately delineated onsite?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Has a site walk through of the clearing boundary been completed with the following	☐ YES		

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Requirement	Status	Comments	Initial/ signature
personnel to ensure that the extent of clearing is understood by all – Supervising Foreman, Environmental Officer and Clearing Contractor Operators.	☐ NO		
Have all sensitive areas (including hollow-bearing trees) been clearly delineated and protected onsite to prevent impact?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Has the Project ecologist undertaken a pre-clearing inspection within the nominated area within 48hr of clearing activities?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
If any hollow-bearing trees are present and require removal, is the ecologist present on site to inspect the hollow and relocate any displaced fauna?	☐ YES ☐ NO		
Others (insert as appropriate)	☐ YES ☐ NO		

APPROVAL AND AUTHORISATION

Conditions of permit (valid for 7 days unless task and/or environment conditions change that affect validity of the permit): • The original copy of this permit is to be retained at the ACCIONA site office. • A copy of the permit including all supporting documentation is to be retained at site. • Work must cease if the scope of work changes.			
	Signature	**Date**	**Comments**
ACCIONA PERMIT ISSUER (i.e. HSE Personnel, Project Engineer) *I confirm that all work control measures made to ensure the safety of those working under this PTW are in place. The work area has been checked and it is safe for work to proceed under the conditions stated in this PTW.*			

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Environment Manager: *I have reviewed this document and relevant attachments and permit to be used on site.*			
Engineer Responsible:			
Supervisor Responsible:			
Subcontractor Representative: *I understand and accept the conditions and precautions detailed above. I shall implement all controls and ensure all personnel have been instructed.*			
Acknowledgement and understanding of all details contained within this permit and approval to commence works			

- PERMIT HANDOVER

Relinquishing Supervisor/Engineer	Initial and Date	Accepting Supervisor/Engineer	Initial and Date	Comments/Instructions

-

- PERMIT CLOSE OUT

Were all clearing and disturbance activities completed within the designated clearing area?		☐ YES ☐ NO
Has any implementation of erosion and sediment controls and/or rehabilitation been installed for disturbed areas?		☐ YES ☐ NO
Has the works area been left in a clean and tidy manner (e.g. plant and equipment demobilised, waste been removed)?		☐ YES ☐ NO
Any additional information regarding works or works area required to be provided? Provide details.		☐ YES ☐ NO
Permit relinquished by:	Supervisor/Engineer Name	Date and Time
Permit Closed by:	Environment Manager/Delegate	Date and Time

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Appendix E Unexpected Species Find Protocol

An Unexpected Threatened Species Find is the discovery of a new species not previously identified as part of the Planning Approval. The unexpected finds protocol consists of the following steps:

Step 1: Stop Works

If a potential unexpected find occurs during an activity, including during pre-clearing surveys, the following steps will be implemented:

- Immediately stop all physical works likely to impact on the unexpected find in that location
- Isolation of the area with physical delineation and signage, to prevent further inadvertent impact and/or stress (if dealing with an unexpected fauna species).
- Immediate notification to the Site Supervisor and the Environment Manager
- The Environment Manager (or delegate) will arrange for the Project Ecologist to:
  - Confirm identification of the species, ecological community or feature
  - Assess the nature and severity of the likely impact
  - Advise immediate management recommendations to prevent impact

Step 2: Initial Ecologists Assessment

An assessment will be undertaken by the Project Ecologist to determine the following:

Step 2a

- Confirm identification of the species, ecological community or feature
- Confirm if the species is a listed threatened species under State or Commonwealth legislation
- Confirm if impact to the species in the location of the find was assessed in the Updated Biodiversity Assessment Report (Updated BDAR) and will the total clearing extent be within the clearing limits defined in the MCoA (NSW) and CoA (Commonwealth)

Step 2b – assessed in Updated BDAR

- Ecologist confirms that impact to the species was assessed in the Updated BDAR, is permissible at the location of the find and the absolute clearing extent falls within the clearing limits defined by the MCoA.
- Record outcomes of assessment
- Proceed to Step 6

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Step 2c – not assessed in Updated BDAR

- Ecologist confirms that impact to the species was not assessed (either at all or at the location at which the find has been recorded) in the Updated BDAR, is unable to be avoided and follow up investigation is required
- ACEREZ to consult with the Project Ecologist and EnergyCo when developing actions to assess and manage the find. EnergyCo are to provide instruction related to the find
- Written notification of the find will be made to:
  - Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Ground of the NSW DCCEEWW (CPHR)
  - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), in the case of a federally listed threatened entity
  - NSW Planning Secretary (DPHI)
- Proceed to Step 3

Step 3: Significance Review

- For EPBC Act listed species, and as required under the BC Act, an assessment of significance and review of controls to mitigate impacts is to be undertaken. Additional controls may be required to minimise impacts to the unexpected find
- Determine if the proposed action would have a significant impact on the species.
- Yes, significant impact likely – Proceed to Step 4
- No, significant impact not likely – Proceed to Step 5

Step 4: Notification / Consultation with Agencies

Where identified as required by Step 2 and Step 3:

- Consult with DPHI/CPHR/Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) as relevant regarding the proposed management measures, impacts and any proposed follow up actions.
- Confirm with DPHI, CPHR and DCCEEW, as relevant, that the proposed controls are adequate to proceed.
- Records of the find to be submitted to BioNet.
- Update BMP as required and submit updated BMP to DPHI for Planning Secretary approval.
- Proceed to Step 5

Step 5: Re-commencement of Works

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Following the completion of the steps above, and unless otherwise directed by the Project Ecologist, the Environment and Sustainability Manager (or delegate) may consider whether the works can recommencement, and will seek the **endorsement from the Planning Secretary** in accordance with MCoA B26(d)(iv), with updated controls as necessary. Works can not re-commence until this endorsement has been received.

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Appendix F Fauna Handling Procedure

Purpose

This procedure is applicable to the handling of any fauna encountered during construction, where intervention is required.

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

Should any threatened species be identified, the *Unexpected Species Find Procedure* would be implemented.

Scope

This procedure applies to the entirety of works as defined in the Biodiversity Management Plan, including:

- All activities conducted by site personnel (including subcontractors) that have the potential to encounter fauna
- Vegetation clearing and land disturbance

This document provides detail on:

- Permits or licenses that are required
- The fauna handling procedure that will be followed (when an ecologist is not present at the site) when fauna handling must occur
- The procedure that will be followed when fauna is encountered, including immobilisation of machinery
- How different animals will be handled and contained until they can be released
- Hygiene protocols to be implemented
- Specific experience or training that may be required (e.g. venomous snakes, raptors)
- When euthanasia should be considered and applied

Permits and Licensing

Advice on permits and licensing will be obtained by the Project Ecologist, to ensure all requirements are in place for the handling and euthanasia (if required) of unexpected finds of fauna.

Note, in all cases, any reference to the Project Ecologist herein also includes their nominated delegate or fauna rescue services as advised by the Project Ecologist.

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General Procedure

If fauna are found within or at risk of entering the construction area, the following steps will be implemented:

- Wherever possible, fauna handling will be undertaken by a suitably qualified person (e.g. Project Ecologist, recognised wildlife rescue service, or fauna spotter), to reduce the risk of injury to both animal and worker person. In some cases however handling may be required by ACJV workforce, which will be undertaken under the guidance of the Fauna Ecologist or in accordance with the 'specific fauna handling requirements' described below. Guidance will include details on any permits or licences required, and hygiene protocols to be implemented.
- Works will cease within the immediate vicinity, until the fauna handling process is complete. This includes immobilisation of machinery and clearing the area of unnecessary personnel, to minimise stress on the fauna. Where appropriate, a buffer zone will be demarcated around the fauna, should the fauna be left in situ to self-relocate, under the guidance of the Project Ecologist.
- Fauna will only be handled when necessary; it is preferable to avoid fauna handling unless the welfare of the animal or workers are at risk. If necessary, fauna may need to be trapped or captured and relocated to nearby suitable habitat for release
    - Where fauna require removal/relocation during clearing activities, care will be taken to remove the fauna either by hand or by mechanically removing the hollow and fauna intact and relocating to a nearby suitable habitat
    - Where nocturnal fauna requiring relocation during the day, they will be kept in accordance with recommendations by project ecologist/fauna spotter for release at an appropriate time for the species
    - Where juvenile fauna is displaced or cannot be reunite with the parent(s), it will be taken to wildlife carer and/or vet by project ecologist/fauna spotter
    - Where fauna is required to be handled, appropriate safety equipment (as guided by the Project safety team) will be utilised, including PPE. Clean gloves must be worn at all times.
- Injured fauna will be transported to the nearest appropriate facility, such as a veterinary surgery or wildlife carer, for treatment; or contact made with Wildlife Information Rescue Service (WIRES). WIRES 24/7 rescue office contact phone number: 1300 094 737
    - The ecologist veterinary or wildlife carer will be responsible for the relocation and release of displaced fauna upon their recovery
    - In some cases, euthanasia may be deemed necessary and will be carried out in accordance with NSW Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna
- Release sites for fauna released by the Project ecologist are to be within close proximity to the site where the fauna were originally captured, if possible, or as otherwise guided by the Project

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ecologist.

- Where fauna is handled, relocated or taken to vet/wildlife carer, this information will be recorded in the post-clearing reports (where applicable, i.e. where the fauna handling is undertaken as part of clearing activities).
- Handling of dangerous or venomous fauna is not permitted under any circumstance. If dangerous (including raptors) or venomous (including arachnids and snakes) fauna is found, the Project Safety Manager will be informed and will provide further guidance on required actions to ensure worker (and/or public) safety.

Specific fauna handling requirements

The approach for handling specific types of fauna is provided below. There may be times when changes to the approach is required due to recommendations from the ecologist / fauna handler or, for example, different resources being readily available.

Birds

General rescue approach for birds:

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

Ground dwelling mammals: Echidna

General rescue approach for echidnas:

- If an echidna is within the construction zone, activities in the area which may impact the echidna may need to cease until the echidna is no longer within the work area.
- Echidnas should be calmly encouraged or left to leave the work area.
- If echidnas are found during habitat removal, they will need to be captured and relocated.
- Dig echidna out by hand or carefully by shovel to the side of the echidna. The aim is to get a hand(s) beneath the echidna and to lift the echidna from the soil.
- Place in a container, such as a ventilated plastic box or garbage bin. Captive echidnas will be kept in a cool, well ventilated location, out of direct sun. Uninjured echidnas will be translocated and released as soon as possible.

Ground dwelling mammals: Native rodents

General rescue approach for native rodents:

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

Ground dwelling mammals: Kangaroos, wombats and wallabies

General rescue approach for kangaroos, wallabies and wombats:

- If a macropod is within the construction zone, activities in the area which may impact the macropod may need to cease until the macropod is no longer within the work area.
- Macropods should be calmly encouraged of left to leave the work area.
- In the event that a juvenile macropod is displaced (thrown from a pouch) and cannot be re-united with it's parent, orphaned macropods will be taken to a vet or wildlife carer.

Reptiles: Snakes and lizards

Dangerous or venomous fauna are not to be handled by untrained personnel, and must only be handled (if required) by the Project Ecologist.

General rescue approach for reptiles:

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

Amphibians: Frogs

General rescue approach for frogs:

- The capture and relocation of frogs require specific attention to minimise disease transmission. The following hygiene protocol applies:
- Capture, handling and housing of wild frogs will be minimised or avoided where possible;
- Single-use latex, nitrile or vinyl gloves or single-use plastic bags will be used when handling/capturing frogs (where available);
- Hand washing with 70% ethanol (allowing hands to dry) between handling individual frogs is acceptable if no gloves are available (note, repeated use on human skin is not recommended). Alcohol is toxic to frogs so hands must be washed thoroughly in water after treatment with alcohol;

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- Each frog is to be housed in plastic containers or zip lock bags (with air holes punched into the bag prior to frog capture). Frogs are to be kept in a cool, quiet location and released into suitable habitat at the earliest opportunity.

Arboreal mammals: Possums

General rescue approach for arboreal mammals:

- If possums are found during vegetation clearing, the project ecologist / fauna handler will determine if capture and relocation is warranted.
- Possums will be captured either by hand or net and placed into a suitable cage.
- Captured possums will be released at a location deemed suitable by the project ecologist.
- In the event that juvenile possums/gliders are displaced and cannot be re-united their mother, they will be managed in accordance with the recommendations of the project ecologist or fauna handler. As required the juvenile will be taken to a vet or wildlife carer.

Other mammals: Bats (including microbats)

General rescue approach for bats:

- There is potential for bats to carry the Australian Bat Lyssavirus (a rabies like virus), a disease potentially fatal to humans. To reduce the risk of infection, only experienced and vaccinated personnel be authorised to handle bats.
- Bats will be captured by hand using protective gloves.
- As soon as possible, captured bats will be placed into a cloth bag hung vertically in a quiet, cool, dark place until released.
- All captured bats will be relocated into adjacent suitable habitat.
- In the event that a juvenile bat is displaced and cannot be re-united with its parent, orphaned bats will be managed in accordance with the recommendations of the project ecologist or fauna handler. As required the juvenile will be taken to a vet or wildlife carer.

Euthanasia

In some cases, rehabilitation and/or relocation of fauna will not be possible. In keeping with the NSW Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna (Office of Environment and Heritage, 2011), fauna must be euthanised without exception when:

- Death is imminent or highly likely regardless of the treatment provided.
- The animal is suffering from chronic, un-relievable pain or distress.
- The animal is carrying (or suspected to be carrying) an incurable disease that may pose a health risk to wild animals.

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- Its ability to consume food unaided is permanently impaired due to a missing of injured jaw, teeth or beak.
- Fauna must be euthanised when one or more of the following circumstances apply:
- There is no suitable release location.
- Its ability to reproduce is lost due to an injury, disease or procedure.
- Its ability to locomote normally (i.e. run, climb, crawl, hop, fly or swim) is permanently impaired due to a missing or injured limb, wing, foot, back bone or tail.
- Its ability to sense its environment (i.e. see, hear, smell, taste or feel) is permanently impaired due to a missing or injured organ (e.g. eye, ear or nose).
- Its ability to catch or handle food is permanently impaired due to a missing or injured digits (e.g. missing rear toe in raptors).
- Its advanced age renders it unable to survive in its natural habitat.
- It is an amphibian (due to the risk of spreading chytrid fungus).

How to euthanise

A method appropriate for the species and circumstances should be utilised to ensure minimal pain and suffering. These methods could include:

- Stunning followed by decapitation and/or destruction of the brain for reptiles and amphibians.
- Stunning followed by cervical dislocation for small birds and mammals (less than 0.5 kg).
- Any euthanasia methods utilised will be in accordance with those identified in the NSW Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna (Office of Environment and Heritage, 2011).
- Fauna that requires euthanasia should not be exposed to additional stressors such as large numbers of onlookers, people touching it, loud noises or extreme temperatures.
- Death must be confirmed prior to disposal of the carcass. The absence of a heart beat and the loss of corneal reflexes indicate death has occurred.
- The decision to euthanise an animal can only be made by the project ecologist and/or fauna handler.

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Appendix G Rehabilitation of Temporary Disturbance

A definition of rehabilitation is provided in the Planning Approval for the Project as "The restoration of land disturbed by the development to a good condition, to ensure it is safe, stable and non-polluting". The rehabilitation requirements for the Project are detailed in MCoA (NSW) B56 and B57.

MCoA (NSW) B56 states that within 12 months of operation commencing, the rehabilitation objectives for the accommodation camps area(s) are:

- Safe, stable and non-polluting
- All infrastructure including above and below ground to be decommissioned and removed to a depth of 500 mm, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise
- Restoring land capability to pre-existing productive capacity
- Ensure public safety at all times

MCoA (NSW) B57 states that the rehabilitation of the areas where ancillary facilities and earthwork material sites are located, is undertaken within 6 months of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning. The rehabilitation objectives are:

- Safe, stable and non-polluting
- Progressively rehabilitate the site as soon possible following disturbance
- To be decommissioned and removed, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise
- Restoring or maintain land capability to pre-existing use
- Ensure public safety

MCoA (NSW) B26 (d)(v) requires rehabilitation of temporary disturbance areas is undertaken to facilitate natural regeneration with suitable native species; additional information is included in Appendix H on natural regeneration.

As per the above requirements, ancillary facilities, access tracks/access points, accommodation camps, storage and laydown locations and other areas subject to temporary disturbance as a result of construction will be rehabilitated upon cessation of disturbance associated with construction, and following decommissioning and removal of temporary infrastructure. Sufficient rehabilitation is equivalent to 60% groundcover, in accordance with the *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* (the Blue Book) (Landcom, 2004).

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Appendix H Natural Regeneration

In accordance with NSW Conservation Management Notes – Natural Regeneration (OEH, 2011) "Natural regeneration means allowing or assisting the bush to grow back by itself. It is the most effective and most economical way to expand patches of native vegetation and improve their condition".

The process of natural regeneration includes the germination of seedlings from seedfall, seed-bank, or existing nearby vegetation, and it is an effective method of establishing a large number of plants, particularly where establishment is required at a large scale. Natural regeneration is a form of rehabilitation and is the preferred rehabilitation method. When planting or direct seeding is required it is generally referred to as 'revegetation', as described in the NSW Conservation Management Notes – Natural Regeneration (OEH, 2011)

Natural regeneration provides the following advantages:

- Genetics are appropriate and relevant to the location of the site
- It ensures that indigenous species are established rather than non-indigenous species
- It ensures that regeneration is reflective of the vegetation present within the adjacent plant community types
- Heavy machinery or vehicles won't necessarily be required to traverse the existing site following placement of topsoil. This is of particular benefit given the number of Aboriginal heritage sites on the Project
- It establishes vegetation with random spacing, reflective of natural processes which would occur
- With the surrounding plant community types
- It provides a greater chance of long-term success

The seed source for natural regeneration can be from parent trees, residual native plant seed within the soil, wind-blown seed and fauna that transfer and deposit seeds in an area. This supply seed is then dispersed by a combination of actions including wind, water and animal movements. Water and nutrients are captured in fertile patches of natural vegetation, where these seeds can germinate and grow.

Remnant vegetation is the starting point to encourage natural regeneration, and will occur in various locations adjoining areas of temporary clearing including, for example, vegetation adjoining the access tracks and vegetation adjacent to the laydown areas (temporary disturbance areas). In undertaking natural regeneration, the following will typically occur:

- Material resources from the area will be salvaged and stockpiled for beneficial reuse in future where possible, in accordance with MCoA B26(vii), including soil, mulch, and salvageable fauna habitat features such as logs or hollows
- Topsoil will be stripped and stockpiled for future reuse;decommissioning and rehabilitation in

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accordance with progressive erosion and sediment control plan and/or in consultation with the landowners, where relevant

- Rehabilitation would occur progressively, as any of the sections of the site are no longer required (i.e. upon completion of ground disturbance associated with construction) and/or in consultation with the landowners, where relevant
- On completion of ground disturbance associated with construction, topsoil shall be re-spread over the disturbed surface in order to promote natural regeneration from the topsoil
- Material resources that have been collected during clearing activities will be placed in the progressive rehabilitation areas following placement of topsoil
- To create a fertile patch, branches can be laid across a slope or the soil can be physically manipulated using mechanical intervention to create divets or depressions where water and nutrients can be retained
- Vehicle movement will be restricted to the greatest extent possible
- Areas of natural regeneration may be demarcated on site, to prevent inadvertent access or disturbance (dependant on the existence and nature of any surrounding works)
- Any other recommendations from the Project ecologist and/or a restoration ecologist, such as scarification of area and use of smoke water

Where remnant or adjacent vegetation is not available, the Project may execute active revegetation (meaning, planting or direct seeding for the purpose of regeneration (NSW Conservation Management Notes – Natural Regeneration (OEH, 2011)), in consultation with the Project ecologist and/or a restoration ecologist. This may include a seed collection program, taking into account species type, location, seasonal seeding times, any specialist requirements, propagation methodologies, etc. For example, seed collection for *Acacia ausfeldii* which is known to only grow along a portion of the overall project area with a flowering time of August to October will be considered with potential for seeds to also be submitted to the Australian PlantBank.

Where identified, collection of seed would occur typically during pre-clearing activities, but may also occur during clearing and post-clearing, depending on recommendations by Project ecologist and/or restoration ecologist. Recommendations for seed collection will be provided by the Project ecologist in the Pre-Clearing Survey report. Such seed collection will be undertaken in general accordance with Conservation Management Notes – Seed Collecting (OEH, 2011). Where seed is collected, records will be retained and will include the species type, quantities, and location of collection. Note, if seed is purchased, it will be certified as clean in accordance with a natural certification scheme. If purchased, the type of seed would be utilised in agreement with the landowner where required.

Active revegetation is not intended to occur across all locations of project disturbance, nor as an ongoing rehabilitation activity. Where seed has been collected and propagated, this will be spread/planted in the vicinity of the seed production areas/seed-bank source following placement of topsoil, or in accordance with Project ecologist and/or a restoration ecologist recommendations. Prior

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to undertaking any active revegetation activities, guidance will be sought from the Project ecologist and/or restoration ecologist on an appropriate methodology to be adopted.

Natural regeneration and active revegetation (where utilised) areas will be visually inspected seasonally until sufficient rehabilitation has occurred, to a maximum of 12 months post completion of the rehabilitation activities Any weed infestations identified during the seasonal inspections would be managed as required.

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Appendix I Biodiversity Mitigation and Management Measures

The management and mitigation measures relevant to the Project are outlined in Table I-1. These will be implemented to minimise impacts to biodiversity and ensure all commitments and requirements of the Project approval are met.

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Table I-1: Biodiversity management and mitigation measures

ID	Measure / requirement	Resources needed	Timing	Responsibility	Source
	General				
BMM1	Training will be provided to all personnel involved in clearing activities, including relevant sub-contractors on flora and fauna requirements from this plan through site inductions, toolbox talks and training sessions. The training will cover (as a minimum): • Biodiversity conservation significance • Sensitive area maps (showing clearing boundaries and exclusion zones), including any updates to mapping • Pre-clearing and fauna translocation protocols • Clearing protocols • Unexpected finds protocols	Training materials	Prior to construction During construction	Environment and Sustainability Manager Site Supervisor	REMM B11
	Design and pre-construction				
BMM2	Micro-siting of temporary construction infrastructure (including site offices, compounds and access tracks) will be undertaken to minimise vegetation clearing and disturbance of watercourses. This will include: • Prioritising areas of low biodiversity value • Utilising existing access tracks where feasible • Locating waterway crossings at narrow width locations • Minimising the quantity of cut and fill activities	Sensitive area maps GIS/GPS tools	Detailed design Prior to construction	Design Manager	REMM B4
BMM3	The locations of threatened ecological communities; SAII and habitat for threatened species and SAII will be considered and potential impacts avoided or minimised to the greatest extent practicable during finalisation of the detailed design and construction methodology. This will include: • Micro siting of transmission line infrastructure within the biodiversity study area	Sensitive area maps GIS/GPS tools	Detailed design Prior to construction	Design Manager	REMM B1

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ID	Measure / requirement	Resources needed	Timing	Responsibility	Source
	• Prioritising disturbance in areas with a Vegetation Integrity score <17 as per section 9 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method (2020) Sensitive areas to be avoided during detailed design and sensitive areas (including species polygons, buffered threatened species locations and areas of Threatened Ecological Communities) will be identified on sensitive area plans using spatial data.				
BMM4	An ecologist will be engaged to determine if the Little Eagle species is present prior to works within the nest buffer area (refer to sensitive area maps). If present, an impact assessment of the proposed construction activities will be completed to determine what, if any, activities can take place within the buffer area, and what mitigation measures need to be implemented, e.g. cessation of certain activities, amending the construction methodology including selecting alternative plant or equipment.	Ecologist	Prior to construction (including prior to clearing) during the breeding season (from Spring until after young have fledged in early Summer)	Environment and Sustainability Manager	REMM B2
BMM5	An ecologist will be engaged to determine if the Large-eared Pied Bat, Eastern Cave Bat, Large Bent winged Bat species are present in rocky areas (caves, overhangs or crevices, cliffs or escarpments) within 100 m of construction activities (refer to sensitive area maps). If present, an impact assessment of proposed construction activities will be completed to determine what, if any, activities can take place within the 100 m and what mitigation measures need to be implemented, e.g. cessation of certain activities, amending the construction methodology including selecting alternative plant or equipment.	Ecologist	Prior to construction activities (including prior to clearing) taking place within 100m of potential habitat during the breeding season (November to February)	Environment and Sustainability Manager	REMM B3
	Pre-clearing				

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ID	Measure / requirement	Resources needed	Timing	Responsibility	Source
BMM6	Pre-clearing surveys will be completed prior to clearing works at each location by a suitability qualified ecologist, as described in Section 5.3	Ecologist	Prior to clearing	Environment and Sustainability Manager Ecologist	REMM B10
BMM7	A species unexpected finds protocol will be implemented if threatened ecological communities or flora and fauna species, not assessed in the biodiversity assessment, are identified in the disturbance area.	Unexpected threatened species protocol	During construction	Environment and Sustainability Manager Site Supervisor	REMM B16
	Vegetation clearing and management				
BMM8	An environmental work method statement will be developed for clearing of vegetation, as described in Section 5.3.	This plan Sensitive area maps	During construction	Environment Officer	Best practice
BMM9	Clearing of vegetation, including the clearing of native vegetation and fauna habitat, will be minimised where feasible and reasonable (e.g. through detailed design, adjusting construction footprints, selecting plant to avoid impact on retained trees, retaining perimeter vegetation where possible and not in conflict with other mitigation measures or works). This includes the retention of trees to maximise existing visual screening and retain the existing landscape character.	Detailed design	Design	Environment and Sustainability Manager Design Manager Project Manager	REMM LV1
BMM10	A protocol will be prepared for identifying and demarcating the location and extent of clearing and habitat disturbance; location and extent of areas to be protected; buffers for habitat features and ‘no-go zones’ prior to the commencement of construction.	Sensitive area maps Materials to demarcate retained vegetation (e.g. flagging and tape)	Prior to construction	Environment and Sustainability Manager Site Supervisor	REMM B8

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ID	Measure / requirement	Resources needed	Timing	Responsibility	Source
BMM11	Construction personnel will be made aware of no-go zones as part of environmental site induction(s).	Sensitive area maps Visual markers to demarcate (e.g. flagging and signs)	During construction	Environment and Sustainability Manager Site Supervisor	REMM B11 & LV1
BMM12	Tree protection measures will be installed and maintained as necessary for trees to be retained within and in the vicinity of energy hubs, construction compounds and accommodation camps, in accordance with *AS 4970-2009 – Protection of Trees in Development Sites* throughout construction.	Appropriately qualified arborist	Prior to construction During construction	Site Supervisor	REMM B9
BMM13	Direct impacts to threatened flora species and trees which have been identified for preservation and are not included in the project approval clearing limits will be avoided by: • Installing fencing around trees clear of the canopy line • Ensuring no materials are stockpiled and no vehicles are parked under the canopy • Avoiding excavation or the placing of fill near any tree without advice from an ecologist • Routing haul roads and access tracks clear of the canopy	Sensitive area maps	During construction	Site Supervisor	Best practice
BMM14	All clearing of vegetation and habitat will be undertaken to not exceed the limits specified in [Table 2-1 and Table 2-2 of Appendix 2]; and minimise: • The impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees • The impacts of the development on threatened species • The clearing of native vegetation and key habitat	Vegetation clearing permits EWMS Ecologist Sensitive area maps	Prior to construction During construction	Environment and Sustainability Manager Site Supervisor	MCoA (NSW) B21

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ID	Measure / requirement	Resources needed	Timing	Responsibility	Source
	Impacts to terrestrial fauna				
BMM17	Bird diverters will be installed on transmission lines within one kilometre (at a minimum) of wetland/riverine habitats to reduce aerial fauna species from collision with transmission lines and infrastructure. The exact position and diverter model will be finalised during detailed design.	Detailed design	Within 2 weeks of transmission line installation or as soon as practical	Environment and Sustainability Manager Design Manager	REMM B14
	Riparian areas				
BMM18	A Riparian Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) will be developed and implemented for the project to manage activities within vegetated riparian zones to minimise impacts to aquatic environments. The plan will be prepared prior to and implemented during any disturbance to a riparian area. The plan will identify the measures to be implemented to minimise impacts from construction activities (such as temporary and permanent waterway crossings) within riparian and aquatic environments. Riparian areas subject to disturbance will be progressively stabilised and rehabilitated.	EIS	Prior to and implemented during any disturbance to a riparian area	Environment and Sustainability Manager	REMM B13
BMM19	Understorey vegetation within vegetated riparian zones will be protected where reasonable and feasible (within the definition of *Water Management Act 2000*). Vegetation clearing will be limited to the tree stratum and shrubs above two metres in height only, with root systems and trunk bases being retained in-situ.	Sensitive area maps EIS	During construction	Site Supervisor	REMM B12
BMM20	Work within a riparian zone, including waterway crossings will be constructed to minimise erosion in accordance with *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* (the Blue Book) (Landcom, 2004).	Sensitive area maps EIS	During construction	Design Manager Site Supervisor	Best practice
BMM21	Watercourse crossings will be designed to minimise disturbance and harm within riparian corridors and rehabilitate aquatic habitat to achieve a 'no net loss' of habitat within the affected area and catchment as a whole, in accordance with the following guidelines: • *Guidelines for controlled activities on waterfront land* (DPE, 2018)	Sensitive area maps EIS	Design During construction	Design Manager Environment and Sustainability Manager	REMM B17

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ID	Measure / requirement	Resources needed	Timing	Responsibility	Source
	• *Why do fish need to cross the road? Fish passage requirements for waterway crossings* (Fairfull & Witheridge, 2003) • *Policy and guidelines for fish habitat conservation and management* (DPI, 2013)				
	Invasion and spread of weeds, pests, pathogens and disease				
BMM22	Where the works will impact locations of high biosecurity risk, consultation will be undertaken with the affected landowner to identify opportunities to avoid or minimise these impacts, where practicable.	Sensitive area maps	Prior to the commencement of works which will impact the applicable area	Project Manager Communications and Stakeholder Director	REMM AG2
BMM23	The weed management protocol (within the Biosecurity Management Plan) will be implemented throughout construction.	Weed management procedure	During construction	Site Supervisor	REMM AG5
BMM24	Biosecurity controls will be implemented during construction to minimise the risk of transport or spread of disease, pests or weeds	Biosecurity Management Plan	During construction	Superintendent	REMM AG5
	Residual impacts				
BMM25	Connectivity corridors, in the form of installation of under-transmission line glider poles (in accordance with clearance requirements for transmission lines and infrastructure) where the construction area will impact habitat connectivity for arboreal species are to be investigated and installed in appropriate locations. The exact location and design of under-transmission line glider poles and/or rope bridges will be nominated as part of a Connectivity Strategy. Where poles are proposed to be installed on land adjacent to the easement, they will be subject to landowner agreement and captured in the property management plan.	Detailed design Ecologist	During construction	Environment and Sustainability Manager	REMM B5

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ID	Measure / requirement	Resources needed	Timing	Responsibility	Source
BMM26	A Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy will be developed and implemented for the creation of nest boxes or other hollow creation method to provide alternative roosting and/or nesting habitat for threatened fauna displaced during clearing. Nest box/hollows are to be installed prior to commencement of clearing works where practicable in each construction area. Where supplementary hollows are proposed to be established on land adjacent to the easement, these will be subject to landowner agreement and captured in any property management plan.	Pre-clearing surveys	Prior to construction During construction	Environment and Sustainability Manager	REMM B6
BMM27	Lighting will be designed in accordance with the National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (DCCEEW, 2023).	Detailed design	Design	Design Manager	REMM B19

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Appendix J Approved Pre-Clearing Protocol

A Pre-Clearing Protocol was developed as part of the Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) that was required by condition C1 of the MCoA (NSW). The EMS was approved by the Planning Secretary on 31st January 2025, therefore also approving the Pre-Clearing Protocol.

A copy of the approved Pre-Clearing Protocol is attached within this appendix.

ACEREZ
design & construct

acciona cobra

PARTNERING ON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

CENTRAL-WEST ORANA RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

PRE-CLEARING PROTOCOL

JANURAY 2025

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Document Control

This Pre-clearing Protocol is a controlled document, approved by the ACEREZ D&C Project Director. The Project Wide Lead is responsible for ensuring this plan is kept up to date for the Project, Project risks, activities and legislative requirements.

PROJECT AUTHORISATION

Authorisation				
Document Title	CENTRAL-WEST ORANA RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE – PRE-CLEARING PROTOCOL			
Revision Number	REV 00			
Discipline/Department	Project Wide Construction			
Originator	Acciona Construction Australia			
	Name	**Position**	**Date**	**Signature**
Prepared	Kirsten Velthuis	Environmental Approvals Manager	22/10/24	*K. Velthuis*
Review	Erran Woodward	Environment and Sustainability Manager	22/10/24	*E. Woodward*
Approval	Lorryn Williamson	Environment and Sustainability Manager	09/12/2024	*Lorryn Williamson*

DOCUMENT STATUS

Revision	Date	Pages	Revised by	Description
Rev A	22/10/2024	All	K. Velthuis	For EnergyCo review
Rev B	24/10/2024	All	E. Woodward	For EnergyCo review and external consultation
Rev C	12/11/2024	All	K. Velthuis	Update following external consultation
Rev00	4/12/2024	All	E. Woodward	Update following external consultation; for DPHI approval (as part of EMS)
Rev01	22/01/2024	All	E. Woodward	Update following DPHI review; for DPHI approval (as part of EMS)

CONTROL AND RECORDS

The approved Pre-clearing Protocol will be signed, and a pdf version will be uploaded and stored on the Project's document management system in accordance with CWO-PRO-050-DOC-PLN-000001 the CWO Document and Records Management Plan.

UNCONTROLLED COPIES

Any uncontrolled hard copy documents are up to date at issue and are only issued to outside organisations, customers, etc., upon request and approval by a Workplace Manager. Such uncontrolled documents will be clearly marked “Uncontrolled Copy When Printed” and will not be subject to an update.

DISTRIBUTION

The Integrated Management System – Systems Representative on the Project is responsible for the controlled internal distribution of this document and changes. Personnel have access to the latest revision of the Plan through RIBCX.

1. Introduction

1.1 CONTEXT

This Pre-clearing Protocol has been prepared for the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Transmission project (the project). This Pre-clearing Protocol is part of the Environmental Management Strategy, and will be applied to all works undertaken prior to the approval of the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP). The BMP will be prepared to address the requirements of the:

- NSW Minister for Planning's Conditions of Approval (MCoA (NSW)) for the project (SSI-48323210)
- Commonwealth Conditions of Approval (CoA (Commonwealth)) for the project (EPBC 2022/09353)
- Central-West Orana REZ Transmission project environmental impact statement (dated September 2023) (EIS), including environmental mitigation measures (EMMs)
- Central-West Orana REZ project Response to Submission report, including revised environmental mitigation measures (REMMs) and updated Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) (March 2024) (dated March 2024) (RtS),
- Central West Orana REZ Transmission Project Amendment Report (AR) including revised environmental mitigation measures (REMMs)

In totality, the MCoA (NSW), CoA (Commonwealth) and REMMs are referred to as 'project requirements'.

1.2 BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Central-West Orana REZ Transmission project comprises the construction and operation of new electricity transmission infrastructure, new energy hubs and switching stations and ancillary works required to connect new renewable energy generation and storage projects within the Central-West Orana REZ to the NSW transmission network.

The Central-West Orana REZ Transmission project was declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (the Minister) on 23 November 2020 (amended in February 2023) under Section 5.13 under the EP&A Act and Clause of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021. The Central-West Orana REZ Transmission project was approved by the Minister for Planning and Open Spaces on 26 June 2024.

The project is also a controlled action and requires a separate approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water (or its delegate) under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) (Commonwealth). This approval was granted 8 August 2024.

1.3 SCOPE

REMM B10 commits to carrying out pre-clearing surveys before clearing at each location. The pre-clearing provisions in this protocol apply specifically to the clearing of vegetation that doesn't require offsetting.

The pre-clearing requirements for vegetation and biodiversity values that do require offsetting are outside the scope of this protocol and will be addressed in a Biodiversity Management Plan prepared in accordance with MCoA B26. This version of the protocol will be superseded by any pre-clearing provisions in an approved Biodiversity Management Plan and cease to apply to clearing generally.

Biodiversity values that do not require offsetting include areas designated as Plant Community Type 0 and Category 1-Exempt land. When determining whether biodiversity values that require offsetting are present, the BDAR and associated biodiversity mapping, as updated for the initial Biodiversity Offset Package (Appendix 9 in the additional information dated 14 June 2024 lodged with DHI to support the SSI approval) will be consulted, considering matters such as:

- Plant Community Type

- Vegetation integrity scores (noting section 9.2.1 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method)
- Category 1-exempt land
- Scattered trees
- Serious and irreversible impact entities.

The locations of the biodiversity values relevant to condition B24 and B25 will also be considered, noting that the relevant locations and biodiversity values that require offsetting cannot be impacted until such time as the project has complied with condition B24 and B25 and a Biodiversity Management Plan prepared and approved per MCoA B26 is in place (as relevant).

All ACEREZ D&C staff and sub-contractors are required to comply with the requirements of this procedure over the full duration of the construction program.

1.4 CONSULTATION

The following government agencies and stakeholders were consulted during the development of this Protocol:

- Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (NSW)

Consultation with each stakeholder, including responses received and how any issues raised were addressed in the development of this plan have been provided to the Planning Secretary along with the relevant documentation for submission, in accordance with MCoA (NSW) A7.

2. Pre-clearing procedure

The following tasks are required to occur before clearing:

1) Opportunities to retain and protect existing vegetation within the disturbance area will be identified during construction planning through a review of design and construction methodologies
2) A suitably qualified and experienced ecologist will be engaged for the Project (the Project Ecologist)
3) Nest box/hollows are to be installed prior to commencement of clearing works where practicable in each construction area, in accordance with REMM B6.
4) For any construction work commencing between November through to February and within 100m of rocky areas containing caves, overhangs or crevices cliffs or escarpments (as mapped in the BDAR) undertake survey to determine presence of the Large-eared Pied Bat, Eastern Cave Bat and Large Bent-winged Bat, in accordance with REMM B3. Note, if present, an impact assessment of proposed activities will be completed to determine what, if any, activities can take place within the 100 m and what mitigation measures need to be implemented. Measures may include cessation of certain activities, amending the construction methodology including selecting alternative plant or equipment.
5) A clearing and grubbing work pack, Environmental Work Method Statement (EWMS) and/or Sensitive Area Plans (SAPs) will be developed for construction teams
6) The extent of clearing required for construction of infrastructure is to be surveyed and marked out on site
7) The Project Ecologist is to undertake pre-clearing surveys to confirm that no biodiversity values that require offsetting are present within the proposed clearing extent or are adequately delineated and identified by appropriate Biodiversity Exclusion Zones. Biodiversity Exclusion Zones include areas of retained vegetation and retained threatened species habitats such as SAII, MNES, threatened flora and fauna, retained habitat trees etc. Following completion of the survey, as pre-clearing report will be prepared.
8) The Supervisor is to ensure the clearing extent and any Biodiversity Exclusion and protection zones are still correct and delineated in accordance with the requirements of the pre-clearing report, before clearing works commence.
9) In areas that are not adjacent to exclusion zones, the clearing limits will be delineated using regularly placed pegs or identification markers at a maximum distance of 3 metres apart. In locations adjacent to exclusion zones or where pegs and identification markers will not be suitably visible (for example, if obscured by existing vegetation), highly visible barrier or star pickets with tape such as colour-coded UV-stabilised rope, bunting, nightline, or other similarly robust and durable materials will be used ensuring a clear marking line.
10) Any relevant findings from the pre-clearing survey will be used to update and confirm the accuracy of SAPs and/or geospatial information systems (GIS).
11) The construction workforce will be supplied with SAPs showing clearing boundaries, exclusion zones and the location of threatened flora or vegetation that is to be retained through the relevant Work Packs and/or Work Method Statements
12) The Supervisor, clearing operators and Environment team will discuss any findings from the pre-clearing survey during the daily pre-start meetings as required including changes to the sequence of clearing, exclusion zones, avoidance areas, or habitat features
13) A Clearing Permit will be approved by the Environment and Sustainability Manager or delegate before clearing activity commences
14) Post clearing inspection and reporting will be undertaken by the Project Ecologist or delegate.

Key elements of the above are described in further detail below.

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL WORK METHOD STATEMENT

A detailed clearing and grubbing EWMS will be prepared and implemented for all clearing activities, including those impacting upon or in proximity of threatened species or habitat/s, to ensure that all required mitigation and management measures are identified and effectively communicated to personnel involved.

The clearing and grubbing EWMS will include:

- Requirements for identifying sensitive areas, including any clearing boundaries and exclusion zones
- Types of flagging and other delineation used for construction footprint, clearing limits, exclusion zones and habitat trees
- Control measures to minimise and manage fauna encountered, including the implementation of the following (as a minimum):
    - The following processes:
        - This Pre-clearing Protocol (this document)
        - The Unexpected Finds Protocol (EMS Appendix F)
        - Fauna Handling Procedure (Section 2.6)
    - Employ trained fauna spotters/handlers during clearing activities to enable the safe relocation of encountered fauna
    - Establish protocols for the safe capture and release/relocation of encountered fauna to suitable habitats
    - Minimise habitat destruction and clearly delineate sensitive areas to avoid
    - Manage the site to reduce hazards such as open trenches which can trap fauna
    - Use fencing and other barriers to prevent fauna from entering any work areas
    - Cease work immediately if fauna is at risk and notify the Environment Manager
- Control measures to manage weeds and other biosecurity risks, where applicable.

All personnel in clearing crews must be inducted (i.e., ‘toolboxed’) on the EWMS requirements prior to undertaking any clearing activities.

2.2 PRE-CLEARING INSPECTION

Pre-clearing inspections will be undertaken within and immediately adjacent to the construction footprint where clearing is required in accordance with REMM B10, by a suitably qualified project ecologist. The following steps will be completed prior to clearing commencement by the Project Ecologist who will:

- Survey the clearing extent, ensuring delineation of Biodiversity Exclusion Zones
- Identify, document (include GPS coordinates) and demarcate any features that are suspected to accommodate fauna (‘unexpected habitat features’) such as nests, rocky outcrops, dead wood, logs) for possible retention or relocation
- Survey and confirm the presence of raptor nests within and adjacent to the clearing extent
- Survey and identify priority weed species per the Biosecurity Management Plan
- Confirm the presence of any built structures and wooden fence posts to be demolished
- Identify the exitance of any fauna located in the proposed clearing area and an appropriate fauna relocation and release area, and coordinate for removal in consultation with an appropriate qualified fauna handler.

If any unexpected finds, the unexpected finds protocol will be followed,

If any biodiversity values that require offsetting are identified with the proposed clearing extents, the Project Ecologist will communicate detail to the Environment team promptly following survey completion.

The Environment and Sustainability Manager will confirm, in consultation with the Project Ecologist and construction team, whether works can continue around the biodiversity values (i.e. incorporating the area of biodiversity values into a Biodiversity Exclusion Zone) or if works should be undertaken elsewhere.

2.3 PRE-CLEARING REPORTS

Following the completion of the pre-clearing surveys, a pre-clearing report is to be prepared that summarises the findings of the pre-clearing survey and confirm that no biodiversity values the require offsetting would impacted, provided the clearing is limited to the proposed and marked out clearing extents and adheres to any Biodiversity Exclusion Zones.

2.4 TWO-STAGED CLEARING

All Project areas that need to be cleared will be subject to staged or non-staged clearing. Staged clearing occurs in locations where the Project Ecologist identifies habitat features and is typically referred to as 'two-stage clearing.' The two processes are outlined below.

Non-staged Clearing: no habitat features identified

If no habitat features have been identified by the Project Ecologist in the pre-clearing surveys, then a two-stage clearing process is not required and clearing can be undertaken in a single step without the ecologist present. An example is cropland/ agricultural pasture area, outside of threatened species habitat (i.e. species polygons).

Two-staged Clearing: habitat features identified

Two-stage clearing is required where the Project Ecologist has identified habitat features during the pre-clearing surveys. For these locations, the Project Ecologist must survey the clearing area within 48 hours or immediately before clearing prior to commencement of the two stages of clearing:

Stage 1: Initial clearing – removal of nearby non-habitat vegetation

- In this first stage, nearby non-habitat vegetation will be removed, and all marked habitat features will be retained until the final stage of clearing. This allows respite between the initial disturbance and the final removal of habitat. The changed environment and the disturbance from non-habitat vegetation clearing should encourage residing fauna to relocate voluntarily without human handling.
- A respite period of a minimum of 'overnight' after the removal of non-habitat vegetation is required to allow resident fauna the opportunity to vacate the remaining habitat before final clearing commences.

Stage 2: Final clearing – removal of habitat vegetation

- The Project Ecologist must be onsite to supervise the final clearing works. They will:
  - Thoroughly inspect all hollows that are accessible from the ground immediately before clearing
  - Carefully supervise the removal of habitat features and hollows when trees are dropped to the ground
  - Ensure detected fauna are encouraged to self-relocate or capture and relocate any encountered fauna to pre-identified release sites
  - Ensure that any injured wildlife are transported to a veterinarian or wildlife carer
  - Where breeding fauna or dependent young are detected during the clearing works, consult with a licensed carer to determine whether the animal/s require ongoing care or can be safely relocated to an adjacent habitat.
- Locations of fauna release (including GPS coordinates) will be recorded in the post-clearing report. Once all fauna habitat inspections and any required fauna removal are complete, the remaining vegetation clearing will commence.
- Salvage and relocation requirements of habitat features will be included in EWMS and communicated to staff.

2.5 CLEARING PERMITS

Clearing permits will be prepared by the delivery team in consultation with the ecologist and approved by the Environment and Sustainability Manager (or delegate), prior to the commencement of the clearing works.

2.6 FAUNA HANDLING

If fauna is found within or at risk of entering the construction boundary, the following steps will be followed:

- All fauna rescues will be undertaken by a suitably qualified person, under a Scientific License, to reduce the risk of injury to both animal and worker.
- Fauna will only be handled when necessary; it is preferable to avoid fauna handling unless the welfare of the animal or workers are at risk
- If necessary, fauna may need to be trapped or captured and relocated to nearby suitable habitat for release
- Injured fauna will be transported to the nearest appropriate facility, such as a veterinary surgery or wildlife care, for treatment, or contact made with Wildlife Information Rescue Service (WIRES) on 24/7 rescue number 1300 094 737
- The ecologist or wildlife carer will be responsible for the relocation and release of displaced fauna upon their recovery
- In all cases, the fauna release sites for fauna will be determined by the project ecologist, and are to be within close proximity to the site where the fauna was originally captured, or the most appropriate location for fauna release success.

2.7 POST-CLEARING REPORTS

Project Ecologists will prepare post-clearing reports monthly during clearing works and will include:

- Information on clearing operations, dates, procedures, and areas
- The type of clearing
- A breakdown of the spatial extent and type of clearing, confirming no Biodiversity Exclusion Areas or clearing boundaries have been breached
- Live animal sightings, captures, any releases or injured/shocked wildlife
- The location of any fauna release sites off easement
- Fauna that may have died as a result of clearing
- Photographs of any rescued fauna.

2.8 MONITORING, INSPECTIONS AND REPORTING

The proposed monitoring program, frequency, responsibility and reporting requirements relevant to clearing is provided within Table 2-1. The monitoring program detailed within this plan will commence upon the commencement of clearing. Monitoring will continue during clearing activities and at the timing or frequency detailed within Table 2-1 for each of the monitoring items.

Table 2-1 Monitoring program.

Item		Scope	Frequency	Responsibility	Records / reporting
1	Weekly Inspections	Inspections of the exclusion zones waterway crossings and access tracks	Weekly	Environmental Advisor and Supervisors	Weekly Environmental inspection checklist
2	Pre-clearing inspections	Inspecting work areas before clearing in accordance with Section 2.1	Prior to clearing as required by Section 2.1	Ecologist Environmental Advisor	Clearing Permit Pre-clearing report
3	During Clearing supervision	Ecological supervision of clearing operations and removal of habitat features.	During clearing	Ecologist	Post-clearing report
4	Monitoring vegetation clearing	Clearing of native vegetation will be monitored to confirm actual impacts.	Prior to and during clearing	Environmental Manager EnergyCo (offsets) Ecologist	Clearing register

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Appendix K Statement of Confirmation – BMP Authorship

Patrick Costello
Approvals Coordinator
ACCIONA Cobra Joint Venture

23rd April 2025

Biodiversity Letter:
Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Project – BMP Input and Review
Document no. BL05

Dear Patrick,

I can confirm that in accordance with MCoA (NSW) B26(a), the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) was prepared jointly, and reviewed, by the following suitably qualified and experienced biodiversity experts:

- Alex Graham (BAAS19040), BSc (Biology), Grad. Dip. (Bushfire Protection)
- Dr Jack Tatler (BAAS21006), BSc (Zoology & Entomology), Hons (Zoology), PhD (Ecology).

Alex Graham and Jack Tatler are Principal Ecologists and accredited assessors under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW) (BC Act).

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Jack or Alex.

Sincerely,

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