

ATTACHMENT 1

Assessment Requirements Relevant to the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Bulloo Interlink Pipeline – NSW Pipeline Section (SSI-82522960) (EPBC 2026/10546)

Introduction

1. On 14 July 2026, a delegate of the Federal Minister for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) determined that the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline was a controlled action under section 75 of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act controlling provisions for the proposed action are:
 - i. Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A).
2. The proposed action will be assessed for the purposes of the EPBC Act under the Bilateral Agreement with New South Wales. The assessment documentation must include:
 - i. an assessment of all impacts that the action is likely to have on each matter protected by a provision of Part 3 of the EPBC Act;
 - ii. enough information about the proposal and its relevant impacts to allow the Commonwealth Minister to make an informed decision on whether or not to approve; and
 - iii. consideration of relevant requirements of the EPBC Act, and Commonwealth references and guidelines.
3. The Applicant must undertake an assessment of all protected matters that may be impacted by the development under the controlling provisions identified in paragraph 1. The DCCEEW considers that there is likely to be a significant impact on the following:
 - i. Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) – Critically Endangered;
 - ii. Pink Cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*) – Endangered;
 - iii. Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) – Vulnerable;
 - iv. Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) – Vulnerable; and
 - v. Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) – Vulnerable.

These species require further assessment, surveys and analysis to determine whether they are likely to be significantly impacted.

4. The Applicant must consider each of the protected matters under the triggered controlling provisions that may be impacted by the action. Note that this may not be a complete list and it is the responsibility of the Applicant to undertake an analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts and ensure that all protected matters that are likely to be significantly impacted are assessed for the Commonwealth Minister's consideration.

Assessment Requirements

General

5. The Applicant must address the matters outlined in Schedule 4 of the EPBC Regulations and the matters outlined below in relation to the controlling provisions.
6. The Applicant must provide information on how the action forms part of the broader action with the Queensland (QLD) portion of the proposed natural gas pipeline (EPBC 2026/10534), including how the two actions will be coordinated, consultation undertaken with the relevant QLD authorities and the consistency between the assessment approaches for MNES for each portion of the pipeline.
7. The Applicant must provide information on the environmental history of the person proposing to take the action as outlined in section 134(4) of the EPBC Act.

Action Description

8. The title of the action, background of the action and current status.
9. The location and description of all works to be undertaken (including associated offsite works and infrastructure), structures to be built or elements of the action that may have impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).
10. How the action relates to any other actions that have been, or are being taken, in the region affected by the action.
11. How the works are to be undertaken and design parameters for those aspects of the structures or elements of the action that may have relevant impacts on MNES.

Impacts

12. The Applicant must include an assessment of the relevant impacts¹ of the action on the matters protected by the controlling provisions, including:
 - i. a description and detailed assessment of the nature and extent of the likely direct, indirect, consequential and cumulative impacts, including short term and long-term relevant impacts;
 - ii. confirmation of the extent of occurrence of suitable habitat (and habitat types) for listed threatened species and the extent to be impacted (in hectares);
 - iii. the social and economic impacts of the proposed action, including on the local community and First Nations peoples and communities;
 - iv. a statement whether any relevant impacts are likely to be unknown, unpredictable or irreversible;
 - v. analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts; and
 - vi. any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts.

¹ Relevant impacts are those impacts likely to significantly impact on any matter protected under the EPBC Act

Avoidance, mitigation and offsetting

13. For each of the relevant matters protected that are likely to be significantly impacted by the action, the Applicant must provide information on proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to manage the relevant impacts of the action including:
 - i. information on proposed measures or design refinements to reduce the extent of clearing;
 - ii. detailed description and clear commitments regarding proposed mitigation and management measures, including specifics of any proposed translocation methods or locations;
 - iii. an assessment of the predicted effectiveness of the mitigation measures;
 - iv. any statutory policy basis for the mitigation measures;
 - v. the cost of the mitigation measures;
 - vi. an outline of an environmental management plan that sets out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs for the relevant impacts of the action, including any provisions for independent environmental auditing;
 - vii. the name of the agency responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program.
14. Undertake a residual significant impact assessment for each relevant threatened species in accordance with the *EPBC Significant Impact Guideline 1.1*. Where a significant residual adverse impact to a relevant protected matter is considered likely, the Applicant must provide information on the proposed offset strategy, including discussion of the conservation benefit associated with the proposed offset strategy.
15. For each of the relevant matters likely to be impacted by the action the Applicant must provide reference to, and consideration of, relevant Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements including any:
 - i. conservation advice or recovery plan for the species or community;
 - ii. relevant threat abatement plan for a process that threatens the species or community;
 - iii. wildlife conservation plan for the species; and
 - iv. any strategic assessment.

Other matters

16. The Applicant must consider the matters raised by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry including:
 - i. potential impacts of construction on pastoral operations, including land access, grazing activities, reinstatement of disturbed areas and ongoing management of the permanent easement;
 - ii. mitigation measures to ensure adequate management of soil, rehabilitation and biosecurity risks;
 - iii. impacts associated with the traversal of catchment areas and ephemeral watercourses that may have pastoral value;

- iv. measures to protect hydrology and nearby wetland values;
- v. whether further measures are required to support recovery of disturbed pastoral land, ephemeral drainage lines and access areas; and
- vi. continued engagement with affected leaseholders and nearby communities, Traditional Owners, Registered Aboriginal Parties, and relevant council and government agencies on matters of land access, construction disruption, biosecurity, water management, rehabilitation, cultural heritage and long-term easement management.

Relevant References and Guidelines

17. The international conventions, management plans and principles that must be considered in relation to this proposal include:

- Listed threatened species and communities
 - a) Australia's obligations under the:
 - i) Convention on Biological Diversity (Biodiversity Convention);
 - ii) The Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention); and
 - iii) The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and
 - b) relevant recovery plans or threat abatement plans.

18. The policies and plans that must be considered in relation to this proposal include:

- a) [Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance](#);
- b) Relevant conservation advice and other relevant policies available on DCCEEW's Species Profile and Threats Database ([SPRAT Database](#));
- c) All relevant guidance documents for determining avoiding, mitigating and managing likely impacts on MNES;
- d) [Offsets Mitigation Hierarchy](#);
- e) [EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy \(2012\)](#);
- f) Bioregional plans; and
- g) Relevant strategic assessment reports.

Commonwealth Listing Advice, Survey Guidelines and Referral Guidelines contain information on threatened species and ecological communities which may provide further support in considering and evaluating the significance of residual impacts on the action's controlling provisions. These documents may be found in the [SPRAT](#) database.