



Independent DPE Compliance Audit

SSI-9172452 – Project EnergyConnect (NSW Eastern Section)

Trigalana Environment Pty Ltd
10 November 2023



Independent DPE Compliance Audit

SSI-9172452 – Project EnergyConnect (NSW Eastern Section)

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Executive Summary

Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd has been engaged to undertake an independent audit of Project EnergyConnect (NSW Eastern Section), which consists of the construction of a 330 kV and 500 kV high voltage energy connector between Buronga and Wagga Wagga. Transgrid are the Proponent, Secure Energy (SE) are the Construction Contractor.

The Project is being delivered in 2 stages with details of construction activities for each stage provided in the Staging Report.

Infrastructure Approval (SSI 9172452) covers both the construction and operational phases of the Project and requires independent audits to be undertaken in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environments (DPE) Independent Post Approval Requirements (2020).

This is the first ongoing audit and covers the period from the initial audit on the 28th of March 2023 to the 11th of September 2023. The audit included a site inspection, consultation with relevant project stakeholders and a review of management plans, project documents and management records.

The findings of the audit are:

- Construction activities being undertaken at the time of the audit include final establishment works for the Lockhart camp 2 site, transmission line easement clearing, access points and establishment work at the Wagga Wagga substation
- Key environmental issues are being managed effectively with key mitigations summarised below:
 - Erosion, sediment, and dust controls consisting of stabilised site access, street sweeper and water cart for dust suppression
 - Storage of chemicals and fuels in secure bunds
 - Limits of disturbance, endangered ecological communities and habitat trees were clearly marked in the field to prevent unauthorised clearing
 - Implementation of a pre-clearing process with authorisation by SE environment manager (or delegate)
- Compliance with all conditions of approval relevant to the current activities has been achieved, noting that further assessments will be undertaken during subsequent audits as construction progresses
- Three recommendations are made relating to bushfire preparedness and best practice dust control.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

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

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

EnergyConnect involves constructing a new high voltage electricity interconnector, approximately 900km long, between the power grids of SA (starting at Robertstown) and NSW (finishing in Wagga Wagga). EnergyConnect comprises several sections (as shown on Figure1), being:

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

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

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

On the 2nd of September 2022, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces determined the NSW Eastern Section with Conditions of Approval. The NSW Western Section was approved on the 28 September 2021.

1.2 Construction Activities

EnergyConnect NSW Eastern Section is being delivered in two stages as summarised in Table 1. Construction commenced on 31 of January 2023.

Table 1: Construction Details by Stage

Project Stage	Key Activities
Stage 1	• Environmental investigations, including biodiversity and heritage protection, salvage, and recordings • Other survey work, such as road dilapidation surveys, and surveys of the general alignment and existing utilities • Preconstruction minor works access point installation and installation of environmental controls • Bulk earthworks at Wagga Wagga substation upgrade and expansion site and at Dinawan substation site • Establishment of the accommodation camps at Lockhart, Dinawan and Cobb Highway • Upgrade of Wagga Wagga substation and construction of Dinawan substation • Establishment and use of water supply points

Project Stage	Key Activities
	• Site establishment and construction works at Wagga Wagga substation upgrade • Site establishment and construction works at the Dinawan substation site • Site establishment of accommodation camps • Traffic haulage routes and access points • Water supply points, establishment and/or use • Utility adjustments and protection.
Stage 2	• Pre-construction minor works • Continuation of any outstanding Stage 1 construction activities • Establishment of other ancillary facilities on the transmission line construction corridor • Property adjustment work including adjustments to property fencing • Water supply points establishment and/or use • Traffic haulage routes and access points • Construction access tracks • Temporary works • Transmission line construction • Earthworks and transmission tower footing construction • Assembly and erection of transmission line towers • Utility adjustments and protection • Construction of optical repeater sites at Balranald, Boorooban and Lockhart • Pre-commissioning • Decommissioning of existing infrastructure • Progressive site rehabilitation and landscaping • Demobilisation.

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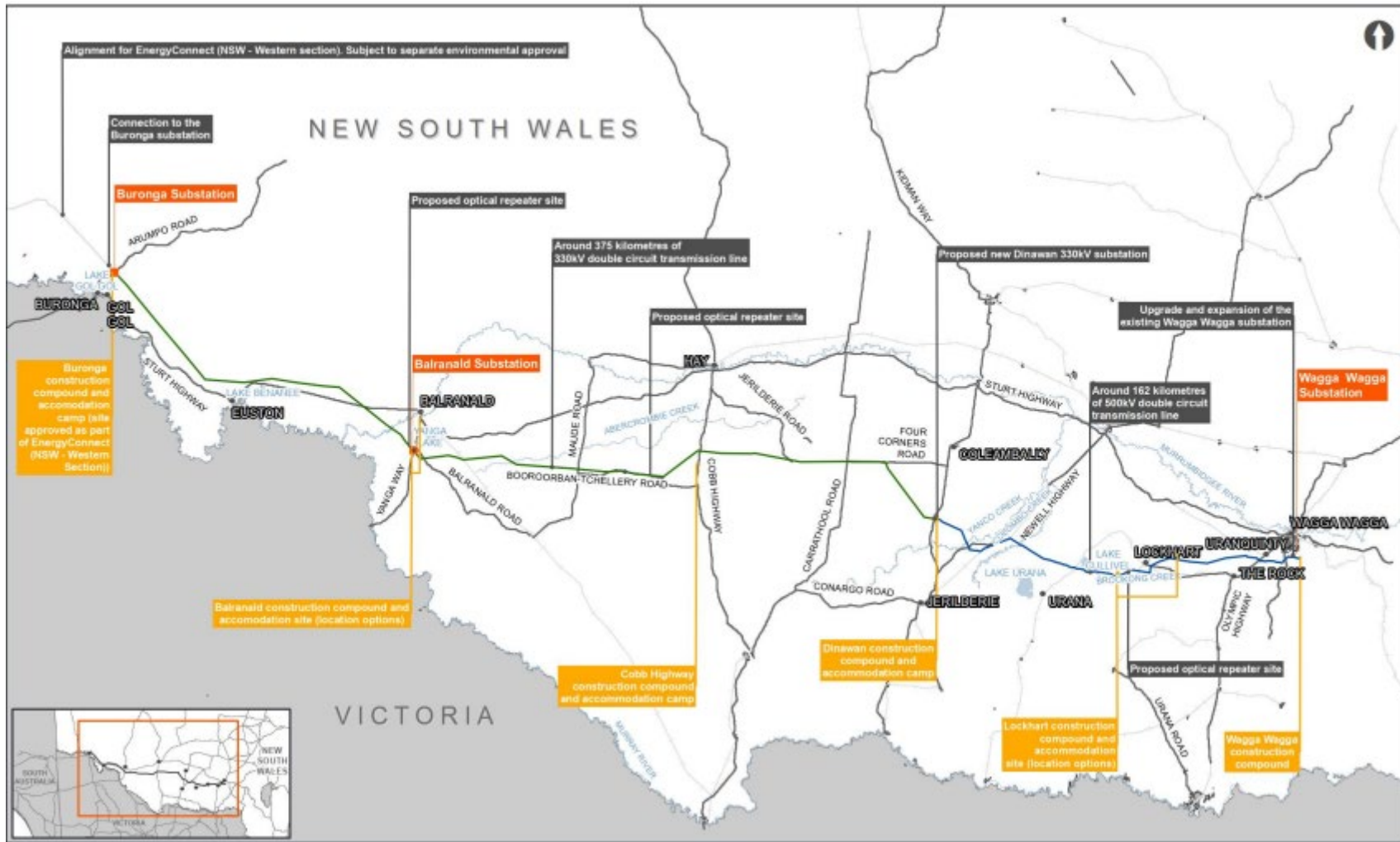


Figure 1: Project Location as described in the EIS

1.3 Auditor

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

Table 2: Auditor Details

Name	Qualifications	Key Experience
Richard Peterson	B. E Civil M. Environmental Management Management Systems Auditing Leading Management Systems Audit teams Exemplar Global Lead Auditor	25 years of environmental management experience in the infrastructure sector. Have undertaken over 100 audits including independent DPE audits for major infrastructure projects including: • EnergyConnect - Western • Crudine Ridge Windfarm • Sapphire Windfarm • Rye Park Windfarm • Albion Park Bypass • Walla Walla Solar Farm • Warrell Creek to Nambucca Heads • Northern Road upgrade • Tweed Valley Hospital • Windsor Bridge

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

1.4 Audit Objectives

The key objective of the Independent Environmental Audit was to assess compliance of the Project with the Ministers Conditions of Approval (MCoA) (SSI 9172452) and the implementation of management plans as outlined in the MCoA. The audit is to recognise good practices while providing practical and reasonable recommendations for improvement that can be implemented throughout the project as construction progresses.

1.5 Audit Scope and Period

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

Table 3: Independent Audit – Requirements

Condition Reference	Condition	Comment
E 11	Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out at the frequency described and in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020), unless otherwise agreed or directed by the Planning Secretary.	This audit was undertaken on 11 th of September 2023 and within 6 months of the initial audit undertaken on 28 th of March 2023.

This is the second audit and the first ongoing audit for Project EnergyConnect (NSW Eastern Section). This audit covers the period from the first audit on 28 March January 2023 to the 11th of September 2023.

2 Audit Methodology

2.1 Scope Development

The audit scope was developed in consideration of:

- The NSW Department of Environment Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (May 2020)
- Project Conditions of Approval (SSI 9172452) as modified dated 2nd September 2022
- Stakeholder feedback from relevant government stakeholders including:
 - Department of Planning and Environment
 - Environment Protection Authority
 - Biodiversity Conservation Division
 - Heritage NSW
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Local Councils
 - DPI Water
 - Local Lands Service/Eastern Lands
 - Federal Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment
 - Transport for NSW.

2.2 Stakeholder Consultation – Key Issues

In undertaking the audit, key issues raised by the government agencies and aboriginal stakeholder groups that are relevant to the audit are summarised in Appendix D1 with the Auditors response to each issue raised.

2.3 Summary of Audit Processes

To complete the audit, the following was undertaken:

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

2.4 Opening Meeting

An opening meeting was held on 12th of September 2023 where the auditor provided an overview of the audit process and confirmed the agenda for the audit.

2.5 Site Inspection

A site inspection was undertaken on Monday 11th of September 2023.

The project was in early stages of development with activities undertaken at the time of the audit including:

- Final establishment works for the Lockhart camp
- Wagga Wagga substation construction compound
- Access points
- Transmission line easement clearing.

Observations made during the site inspection are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Site inspection observations

Issue	Observations	Photographs (refer to Appendix C)
General Construction	- General construction activities undertaken at the time of the audit inspection included: - final establishment work for Camp 2 and the associated construction compound/laydown area - pre-construction early works at the Wagga Wagga Substation - transmission line easement clearing - establishment of access points along the alignment	1-8
Soil, Water and Dust Management	- Robust water management systems have been installed at the Camp 2 site that include perimeter and internal drainage, rock checks, scour protection and coir logs - Runoff at the Camp 2 site was directed to a sediment basin with rock energy dissipator provided at the basin outlet to prevent scour. Chemical flocculants were available to promote rapid settlement of sediment - Perimeter topsoil bunds observed during the initial audit inspection had substantial re-growth providing an effective form of erosion control - The system to prevent mud tracking at the Camp 2 location was consistent with Camps 6 and 7 and included a high-pressure hose wheel wash for vehicles with excessive mud and a rumble grid with stabilised (bitumen) access and egress - Erosion controls installed at site access points included topsoil bunds, rock scour protection and mulch groundcover to minimise erosion - Stockpiles were less than 2 m in height to minimise the risk of erosion and dust generation with perimeter sediment fence installed to capture any sediment - Measures to control dust at the Camp 2 site included vehicle speed restrictions, stabilised site access, graded internal access roads and water cart. A temporary standpipe has been installed so water may be re-used for dust control - A water treatment plant has been established for campsite greywater re-use - There was no dust, mud tracking or evidence of water pollution observed during the audit site inspection	9-16
Spill Control, Bushfire Risk and Waste Management	- All chemical and fuel containers were stored appropriately, there were no waste containers located on site and no evidence of spilt material such as soil staining. - A vehicle refuelling station including designated impermeable concrete bund and spill kits was installed. The refuelling hose had a cutoff feature installed to prevent spillage - Spill kits were available to clean up any spilt material - Appropriate waste and recycling facilities were provided - Chemicals were stored away from the site perimeter boundaries and within a chemical storage container - A water supply tank was installed at Camps 2. The water supply tank was difficult to identify as a fire water tank	17-20
Ecology	- Ecological measures observed included: - No go signage and perimeter fencing - Nest boxes at clearing location	21-24

Issue	Observations	Photographs (refer to Appendix C)
	Tree protection zones installed surrounding the dripline of protected trees.	

2.6 Document Review

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

- Project conditions of approval (SSI 9172452)
- Project Environmental Impact Statement
- Environmental Management Plans, developed in accordance with the Project Conditions
- Correspondence with relevant authorities
- Consultation records
- Specialist reports
- Records of implementation of the environmental management plans including checklists, inspection reports, waste records etc.

2.7 Closing Meeting

The closing meeting was held on 10 November 2023 where a summary of the audit findings was provided, noting areas of good practice and recommendations for improvement.

2.8 Compliance Descriptors

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

Table 5 Compliance Descriptors

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

3 Audit Findings

3.1 Non-Compliances

No non compliances were identified by the audit.

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

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

3.3 Community Complaints

During the audit period, a total of three complaints were received. The complaints are summarised in Table 6.

Table 6: Complaints Summary

Date of Complaint	Details of Complaint	Actions Taken
September 2023	Complaint related to the inappropriate use of the local radio channel for project communications	A discussion was held with the construction team regarding radio etiquette. Further discussions were had with landowners regarding preferred radio channels.
September 2023	Landholder is angry that site crews failed to close two gates on his property with one being a property gate.	Complaint investigated using IVMS data from vehicles. The last contractor to access his property was completing geotechnical testing. The data showed both vehicles involved stopped for an extended period at the time at the property boundary and between properties indicating they would be opening and closing gates in that time frame. We are still awaiting two more subcontractor IVMS records to show their movements on the day. We have again reiterated the closing of gates in prestarts. SEJV have provided updates to the landholder. Landholder providing quote of damage to cattle.
September 2023	A subcontractor driving a low loader along Hanging Rock Road speeding whilst negotiating a bend	The landholder has been contacted numerous times to update her on our actions. The incident has been raised with the SecureEnergy Project Manager who has reported the incident to the subcontractors management. Currently we are awaiting feedback from him on the actions they will put in place to address the complaint and what they will do to ensure their staff attend to the speed restrictions along this road. Investigating reducing the speed limit on Boiling Down Road for all project vehicle movements. Driver in question has been reprimanded for the incident.

3.4 Actions from previous audits

The status of recommendations from the initial audit are provided in Table 7.

3.5 Adequacy of Environmental Management Plans

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

3.6 Assessment of Compliance with Predictions in the Environmental Impact Statement

Based on the observations, audit interviews and records reviewed as part of the audit, it may be reasonably concluded that the environmental impacts of construction activities to date are consistent with predictions made in the Environmental Impact Statement noting that:

- It was observed on site that the ground disturbance activities were within the assessed EIS boundaries with boundary fencing and “no go” signage to prevent work from occurring outside the approved disturbance area
- Clearing activities are being undertaken in a highly controlled manner with technology applications utilised to ensure compliance with clearing limits. A register of clearing undertaken is maintained to track clearing
- There were no observed off-site impacts such as:
 - Evidence or reports of clearing outside the project boundary
 - Dust or mud tracking on local roads
 - Non compliances with approved traffic routes or vehicle limits
 - Excessive noise or vibration emissions, noting that current activities are at a substantial distance from residential or other sensitive receivers with no noise or vibration complaints received to date
- No incidents of fuel, chemical spills, unlawful waste disposal or pollution of waters or complaints relating to environmental emissions or discharges were received or reported.

Table 7: Previous Audit Recommendations

Ref	Observations	Recommendation	Auditor Findings
1	A12 – Environmental Representative The ER is fulfilling their obligations in relation to the Conditions of Approval, however, has not undertaken any formal inspections of the Environmental Management Controls at this stage in the project.	It is acknowledged that the Conditions of Approval do not require the ER to attend site, however given the scale of the project and the substantial environmental risks, it is recommended the ER undertakes an initial site inspection and then develops (in consultation with Transgrid/SE) a program for further inspections to be undertaken for the remainder of the project.	Not implemented as per TransGrid response to audit findings
2	B1 - CEMP There is currently not a mechanism within the CEMP to undertake formal management reviews. Management Reviews are an integral component of the International Standard for Environmental Management Systems (ISO14001) and can contribute towards continual improvement	It is recommended that formal management review meetings involving SE and Transgrid are undertaken that may include the following: • Results and actions of audits • Compliance with project conditions of approval • Stakeholder issues • Project lookahead • Key risks and opportunities • CEMP and Subplan review/update. The recommended frequency for management reviews is quarterly and minutes of the management reviews are kept.	Not implemented as per TransGrid response to audit findings
3	C1 – Site Construction Hours The site construction hours are included in the project induction however are inconsistent with the requirements of this condition.	It is recommended the site induction package is updated so the requirements of this condition are explicitly communicated to all workers.	Recommendation closed
4	C31/C32 – Vehicle Routes	It is recommended the driver code of conduct is updated to include a map showing the approved vehicle routes (as per Appendix 3 of the infrastructure approval).	Recommendation closed

Ref	Observations	Recommendation	Auditor Findings
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Driver's code of conduct does not include a map or clear instruction of the approved vehicle routes.

3.7 Key Strengths

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

3.8 Audit Recommendations

Audit recommendations are provided in Table 8.

Table 8: Audit Recommendations

Ref	Condition (s)	Observations	Recommendation
A2-R1	C44	Condition C44 requires the provision of a 20,000-litre water supply tank fitted with a 65 mm Storz fitting and a FRNSW compatible suction connection located at each of the construction compounds and accommodation camps. A water supply tank has been installed at Camp 2 as required by this condition. It was not clear to the auditor that the tank was the water supply tank as required by this condition.	Install appropriate signage so emergency services can quickly identify the water supply tank in the event of an emergency. Notify RFS of the location of and access arrangements to the fire tank. Commission testing of the FRNSW suction connection with RFS equipment should also be offered to RFS to ensure effectiveness in a fire emergency.
A2-R2	C44	The project is entering a high-risk period for bushfire with the Bushfire Danger Period declared for NSW on the 1st of October. Given the heightened bushfire risks across NSW due to increased fuel loads and the declaration of an El Nino in September 2023 there is a need to ensure the project is fully equipped to prevent and respond to any fire related incidents	Conduct a pre-bushfire season readiness review to ensure all obligations and commitments relating to Fire and Emergency are implemented and are compliant. It is recommended the review should focus on the activities noted in the Bushfire Management including (but not limited to): • Onsite Preparedness Activities • Firefighting water supplies and equipment • Access and egress for emergency vehicles • Emergency Response • Communication Protocols Involve suitably qualified personnel in the review as required. A record of the review should be kept.
A2-R3	D6	The dust controls at Camp 6 are very good, and include the provision of a polymer spray to prevent dust generation of exposed areas	Consider utilising the same polymer-based dust suppression used at Camp 7 for Camp 2 and all other camp and compound sites along the PEC East alignment.

Appendix A DPE Auditor Approval

Department of Planning and Environment

Mr John Fisher
Environment Manager – Delivery
NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Limited
180 THOMAS STREET
HAYMARKET NSW 2000
30 May 2023

Dear Mr Fisher

**Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern Section) - SSI-9172452
Independent Environmental Audit # 2 Team approval request**

I refer to your request (SSI-9172452-PA-39) submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment (the department) on 30 May 2023 for the Secretary's approval of suitably qualified person/s to undertake the second Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) and prepare the IEA Report for the Project EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) (SSI-9172452).

The department has reviewed the nomination and information you have provided and is satisfied that the expert is suitably qualified and experienced. In accordance with Condition D11 of SSI-9172452 and the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements, I can advise the Secretary approves the appointment of Mr Richard Peterson of Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd.

Please note that this approval of Mr Peterson is conditional upon him maintaining certification as a lead or principal auditor with a relevant industry body and being independent of the project.

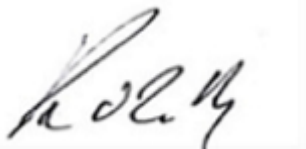
Please ensure this correspondence is appended to the Independent Audit Report.

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

The department reserves the right to request an alternate auditor or audit team for future audits. Notwithstanding the agreement for the above listed audit team for this Project, each respective project approval or consent requires a request for the agreement to the auditor or audit team be submitted to the department, for consideration of the Secretary. Each request is reviewed and depending on the complexity of future projects, the suitability of a proposed auditor or audit team will be considered.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact me on 0429400261 or compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. O'Neil".

As nominee of the Planning Secretary

Appendix B Independent Audit Table

Schedule 2

Part A – Administrative conditions

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
Obligation to minimise harm to the environment				
A1	In meeting the specific performance measures and criteria of this approval, all reasonable and feasible measures must be implemented to prevent, and if prevention is not reasonable and feasible, minimise any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, rehabilitation, upgrading or decommissioning of the development.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview - Documents reviewed as part of the audit and noted below	All reasonable and feasible measures were observed to be implemented at the areas inspected during the audit	Compliant
TERMS OF APPROVAL				
A2	The development must be carried out: - In compliance with the conditions of this approval; - In accordance with all written directions of the Planning Secretary; - generally in accordance with the EIS; and - generally in accordance with the Layouts in Appendix 1.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview - Documents reviewed as part of the audit and noted below	No directions received from the Planning Secretary.	Compliant
A3	The proponent must comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of: - Any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this approval; - Any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this approval; and - The implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview - Documents reviewed as part of the audit and noted below	DPE comments incorporated into the management plans.	Compliant
A4	The conditions of this approval and directions of the Planning Secretary prevail to the extent of any inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict between them and a document listed in condition A2(c), or A2(d). In the event of inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict between any of the documents listed in condition A2(c) or A2(d), the most recent document prevails to the extent of the inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview - Consistency Assessment Camp 2 Access Point Energy Connect- NSW Eastern Rev C dated 8/02/23	Consistency Assessments undertaken to ensure compliance with this requirement. The consistency assessment for the Camp 2 Access point was reviewed by the Auditor.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
A5	Any document that must be submitted within a timeframe specified in or under the terms of this approval may be submitted within a later timeframe agreed with the Planning Secretary. This condition does not apply to the immediate written notification required in respect of an incident under condition D6.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Not triggered, a request for alternative timeframes has not been sought. Although it is noted that the approved Staging Report allows documents to be submitted on a staged basis.	Not triggered
LAPSE OF APPROVAL				
A6	This approval will lapse if the proponent does not physically commence the development within five years of the date on which it is granted.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	The development commenced on 31 st January 2023 within 5 years of the date of approval.	Compliant
EVIDENCE OF CONSULTATION				
A7	Where conditions of this approval require consultation with an identified party, the Proponent must; a) Consult with the relevant party prior to submitting the subject document to the Planning Secretary for approval; and b) Provide details of the consultation undertaken including; (i) The outcome of that consultation, matters resolved and unresolved; and (ii) Details of any disagreement remaining between the party consulted and the proponent has addressed the matters not resolved.	- Consultation records - ER review letters	Consultation records, Environmental Representative review letters and DPE letters of approval demonstrate the necessary consultations have been undertaken.	Compliant
STAGING, COMBINING AND UPDATING STRATEGIES, PLANS, PROGRAMS OR REPORTS				
A8	With the approval of the Planning Secretary, the Proponent may: a) Prepare and submit any strategy, plan, program or report required by this approval on a staged basis (if a clear description is provided as to the specific stage and scope of the development to which the strategy, plan, program or report applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan, program or report); b) Combine any strategy, plan, program or report	- Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Staging Report Rev D 17/10/22 - DPE Letter of Approval for Staging Report dated 20/1/23 - Transgrid Letter dated 15/3/23 requesting DPE approval to stage the Addendum Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Reports	The CEMP and subplans were submitted in stages that are consistent with the approved Staging Report.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	required by this approval (if a clear relationship is demonstrated between the strategies, plans, programs or reports that are proposed to be combined); and c) Update any strategy, plan, program or report required by this approval (to ensure the strategies, plans, programs or reports required under this approval are updated on a regular basis and incorporate additional measures or amendments to improve the environmental performance of the development). If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy plan, program or report may be staged or updated without consultation being undertaken with all parties required to be consulted in the relevant condition of this approval. If approved by the Planning Secretary, updated strategies, plans, programs or reports supersede the previous versions of them and must be implemented in accordance with the condition that requires the strategy, plan, program or report. If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan, program or report may be staged without addressing particular requirements of the relevant condition of this approval if those requirements are not applicable to the particular stage.			
ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE				
A9	Prior to commencing the development, an Environmental Representative (ER) must be approved by the Planning Secretary and engaged by the Proponent.	DPE Letter dated 20/9/2022	Cameron Weller has been approved as the Environmental Representative and Toby Hobbs has been appointed as the alternative ER. DPE approval was provided on 20/9/2022.	Compliant
A10	The Planning Secretary's approval of an ER must be sought no later than one (1) week before commencing the development.	DPE Letter dated 20/9/2022	Approval of the ER was provided on 20/9/2022 construction commenced on 31 January 2023. DPE approval was provided on 20/9/2022.	Compliant
A11	The proposed ER must be a suitably qualified and experienced person who was not involved in the preparation of the documents listed in condition A2 and is independent from the design and construction of the development. The ER must meet only the requirements set out in section 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and	Audit Interview	The ER and alternative have substantial experience working on NSW major projects including roles as ER on several State Significant Infrastructure Projects.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	3 in the Environmental Representative Protocol (Department of Planning and Environment, October 2018).			
A12	From commencing the development, until commencing operation, or as agreed with the Planning Secretary, the approved ER must: a) Review the documents identified in conditions A22, B1, B2, C10, C45, C50, and C51, and any other documents that are identified by the planning secretary, to ensure they are consistent with requirements in or under this approval and if so: (i) Make a written statement to this effect before submission of such documents to the Planning Secretary, to ensure they are consistent with requirements in or under this approval and if so; (ii) Make a written statement to this effect before submission of such documents to the Department for information or are not required to be submitted to the Department); b) As may be requested by the Planning Secretary, assist the Department in the resolution of community complaints; and c) Consider any minor amendments to be made to the plans/ strategies in conditions A22, C50, C51, D3, D4, D5, D6, and D7 that involve updating or are of an administrative nature and do not increase impacts to nearby sensitive receivers, and ensure they are consistent with the terms of this approval and, if satisfied such amendments is necessary, approve the amendment. This does not include any modifications to the terms of this approval.	• Audit Interview	The ER has not had any involvement during the audit period, however was previously involved in the review and approval of Environmental Management Plans required to be completed prior to the commencement of construction as noted in the previous audit. The ER has not been requested by DPE to resolve any complaints.	Compliant
A13	The Proponent must provide the ER with all documentation requested by the ER in order for the ER to perform their functions specified in condition A12, as well as the complaints register for any complaints received (on the day they are received).	• Audit Interview	As above	Compliant
PAYMENT OF REASONABLE COSTS				

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
A14	The Proponent must pay all reasonable costs incurred by the Department to engage a suitably qualified, experienced and independent expert(s) to review the adequacy of any strategy, plan, program or report required under this approval.	Audit Interview	DPE has not requested Transgrid reimburse any costs incurred due to engagement of independent experts.	Compliant
PROTECTION OF REASONABLE COSTS				
A15	Unless the Proponent and the applicable authority agree otherwise, the Proponent must: a) Undertake any works on or in the vicinity of public infrastructure in consultation with the applicable public authority or service provider responsible for that public infrastructure; b) Repair or pay the full costs associated with repairing any public infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a result of the development. This condition does not apply to any damage to roads caused as a result of general road usage which is expressly provided for in the conditions of this approval.	- Audit Interview - Site Inspection	No payment of costs or damage to any infrastructure caused by the project to date. No damage to any public infrastructure were observed or reported during the audit.	Compliant
DEMOLITION				
A16	The Proponent must ensure that all demolition work on site is carried out in accordance with AS 2601-2001: <i>The Demolition of Structures</i> (Standards Australia, 2001).	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Demolition not undertaken at this stage of the project.	Not triggered
STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY				
A17	The Proponent must ensure that all new buildings and structures and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA; and where the BCA is not applicable, to the relevant Australian Standard. Notes: <i>Under Part 6 of the EP&A Act, the Proponent is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the development.</i> <i>The EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the development.</i>	- Site Observations - Audit Interview - Transgrid Letter dated 16/6/22 - Transgrid Standard Design Manual Revision 1.04 dated 3/5/19	Substation buildings have not been constructed or other structures have not commenced at the time of the audit. GHD has been engaged to verify the new structures comply with the relevant Australian standards. Substation buildings are planned to be constructed to meet the requirements of the Transgrid Design Manual which nominates relevant Australian Standards for: Bench Design	Not triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
			• Earthworks • Roadways and Pavements • Parking and Hardstand Areas • Water Services • Buildings and Building Services • Oil Containment • Transformer Compounds.	
COMPLIANCE				
A18	The Proponent must ensure that all of its employees, contractors (and their sub-contractors) are made aware of and are constructed to comply with the conditions of this approval relevant to activities they carry out in respect of the development.	• Project EnergyConnect – Site Specific Induction – Overhead Transmission Lines • Incident Reporting Toolbox Talk 2/5/23 • Toolbox Talk – Erosion and Sediment Control • Toolbox Talk- Biosecurity • PEC East – Environmental Awareness Overview • Environmental work method statement (EWMS) Access Points and Tracks – OHTL L2L5 • Environmental work method statement (EWMS) Clearing and Grubbing – OHTL L2L5	All workers (including subcontractors) are required to attend a project specific induction prior to their commencement on the project. Specific environmental issues are communicated through the delivery of site toolbox talks. Several examples of toolbox talks were provided covering erosion and sediment control as well as biosecurity measures.	Compliant
OPERATION OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT				
A19	All plant and equipment used on site, or in connection with the development, must be: - Maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and - Operated in a proper and efficient manner.	• Big Hill Cranes Service Records • Bulpunga Prime Mover Checklist • Active Tree Services PM Service Records • Plant Risk Assessment – Active Tree Services, Ford Ranger 14/8/23 • Vehicle Mobilisation – Light, Medium and Heavy Vehicle 14/8/23 • Vehicle, Plant, Hygiene Inspection Checklist 25/4/23 • Komplimentary servicing record	Plant and equipment service records were provided. All equipment operating on site was observed to be operating effectively with no excessive noise or exhaust emissions.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
		(PC138US11/C30753) - Plant assessor – risk management report, 24/5/23 - Plant delivery/onboarding inspection		
APPLICABILITY OF GUIDELINES				
A20	References in the conditions of this approval to any guideline, protocol, Australian Standard or policy are to such guidelines, protocols, Standards or policies in the form they are in as at the date of this approval.	-	Administrative note.	Noted
A21	Consistent with the conditions of this approval and without altering limits or criteria in this approval, the Planning Secretary may, when issuing directions under this approval in respect of ongoing monitoring and management obligations require compliance with an updated or revised version of such a guideline, protocol, Standard or policy, or a replacement of them.	-	Administrative note.	Noted
COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION STRATEGY				
A22	Prior to the commencement of construction, the Proponent must prepare a Community Communication Strategy to provide mechanisms to facilitate communication between the Proponent and the community (including adjoining affected landowners) during construction. The Community Communication Strategy must: - Identify landowners for potentially impacted receivers; - Ensure that the landowners identified in (a) are consulted during construction; - Set out procedures and mechanisms for the regular distribution of information to the wider community; - Establish a public liaison officer(s) to engage with the local community; and - Set out procedures and mechanisms: - Through which the community can discuss or provide feedback to the Proponent; - Through which the Proponent will respond to enquiries or feedback from the community;	- Community Communication Strategy EnergyConnect (NSW Eastern Section) Rev 0 3/8/22 - Project Energy Connect – Wagga Wagga Community Engagement Pop up – community notice - Email to Wagga Wagga Council dated 12/10/23 - Project Energy Connect (Eastern Section) Complaints Register – September 2023 - Project Energy Connect – notification for construction outside approved hours – September 2023 - Project Energy Connect – Lockhart Community Engagement Pop up – community notice - Project Energy Connect – Balranald	The Community Communication Strategy was prepared prior to the commencement of construction. A range of communication mechanisms are being implemented across the project ensure effective consultation with the community and key stakeholders and these include: - A mobile community van travels the project route enabling community members to drop in and find out more information regarding the project - Social media utilising Facebook and LinkedIn - Community notifications and newsletters - Establishment of a community complaints number - Establishment and implementation of	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	(iii) and To resolve any issues and mediate any disputes that may arise in relation to construction of the development. The Proponent must implement the Community Communication Strategy for the duration of construction.	Community Engagement Pop up – community notice - Stakeholder Consultation report – 76964 Uranquity Cross Road 28/7/23 - Project EnergyConnect – Construction Update, Occupancy of the Balranald Camp, May 2023 - Email from SE to WAC committee dated 25/8/23 - Project EnergyConnect – Construction Update, Wagga Wagga Substation and OHTL Access Works, April 2023 - Project Energy Connect, Notice of Commencement of Works, July 2023 - Balranald Council, meeting minutes Balranald Council 11/9/23	a community complaints and enquiries database - Project website includes Community newsletters, community webinars and FactSheets as well as project documents. - Meetings are held on an ongoing basis with local councils with minutes kept	

Part B – Environmental Management Plan

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status																		
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN																						
B1	Prior to commencing construction, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) comprising the Sub-plans listed in table 1 must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced persons, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. Following the Planning Secretary's approval, the proponent must implement the Environmental Management Plan. Table 1: EMP Subplans <table><tr><td></td><td>Required EMP Sub-plan</td><td>Relevant government agencies and stakeholders to be consulted with for each EMP subplan</td></tr><tr><td>a)</td><td>Noise and Vibration</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>b)</td><td>Soil and Water</td><td>DPE Water Relevant Council</td></tr><tr><td>c)</td><td>Biodiversity</td><td>BCS</td></tr><tr><td>d)</td><td>Heritage</td><td>Heritage NSW Heritage Council Aboriginal stakeholders NPWS</td></tr><tr><td>e)</td><td>Traffic and Transport</td><td>TfNSW Relevant Council</td></tr></table>		Required EMP Sub-plan	Relevant government agencies and stakeholders to be consulted with for each EMP subplan	a)	Noise and Vibration	N/A	b)	Soil and Water	DPE Water Relevant Council	c)	Biodiversity	BCS	d)	Heritage	Heritage NSW Heritage Council Aboriginal stakeholders NPWS	e)	Traffic and Transport	TfNSW Relevant Council	Environmental Management Plan - Construction Environmental Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 1 and 2 Rev 2 dated 20/6/23 - ER Letter of endorsement dated 14/22 - DPE Letter of Approval for Construction Environmental Management Plan (Stage 1) dated 27/1/23 - DPE Letter of Approval for Construction Environmental Management Plan (Stage 1 and 2) dated 6/7/23 Noise and Vibration - Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 1 Rev 1 dated 21/11/22 - Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 2 Rev 1 dated 17/3/23 - ER Letter of endorsement 19/12/22 - DPE Letter of Approval for Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Stage 1) dated 20/1/23 - DPE Letter of Approval for Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Stage 2) dated 11/5/23 Soil and Water - Soil and Water Management Plan Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Stage 2 Rev 1 14/3/23 - ER letter of endorsement dated	The Environmental Management Plan and relevant subplans were approved by DPE prior to construction commencing on the 31st of January 2023 following endorsement by the ER. The ER endorsement letter noted that consultations with relevant stakeholders has been undertaken. Since the previous audit, the CEMP and subplans have been updated to incorporate Stage 2 and have subsequently been approved by DPE	Compliant
	Required EMP Sub-plan	Relevant government agencies and stakeholders to be consulted with for each EMP subplan																				
a)	Noise and Vibration	N/A																				
b)	Soil and Water	DPE Water Relevant Council																				
c)	Biodiversity	BCS																				
d)	Heritage	Heritage NSW Heritage Council Aboriginal stakeholders NPWS																				
e)	Traffic and Transport	TfNSW Relevant Council																				

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
		20/10/22 - DPE Letter of Approval for Soil and Water Management Plan (Stage 1) dated 20/1/23. Biodiversity - Biodiversity Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 1 and 2, Rev 4 dated 8/12/22 - DPE Letter of Approval for Biodiversity Management Plan (Stage 1) dated 20/1/23 - ER Letter of endorsement 20/10/22 - DPE Letter of Approval for Biodiversity Management Plan (Stage 2) dated 6/7/23 Heritage - Heritage Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 1 Rev 1 dated 21/11/22 - ER letter of endorsement dated 20/10/22 - DPE Letter of Approval for Heritage Management Plan (Stage 1) dated 20/1/23. - Heritage Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 2 Rev 1 dated 15/3/23 - DPE Letter of Approval for Heritage Management Plan (Stage 2) dated 6/4/23 Traffic and Transport - Traffic and Transport Management Plan (Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section – Stage 1) Rev 5 dated 27/1/23 - ER letter of endorsement dated 22/2/23 - DPE Letter of Approval dated 27/1/23 - Traffic and Transport Management		

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
		Plan (Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section – Stage 2) Rev 3 dated 18/5/23 DPE Letter of Approval dated 01/06/23		
B2	The EMP Sub-plans must be prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines and in consultation with the relevant government agencies identified for each Sub-plan in table 1, and include: a) A summary of relevant background or baseline data; b) Details of; (i) The relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval, licence or lease conditions); (ii) Any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; (iii) The specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures; and (iv) Any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the EIS; c) A description of the management measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures and criteria; d) A program to monitor and report on the; (i) Impacts and environmental performance of the development (including a table summarising all the monitoring and reporting obligations under the conditions of this approval); and (ii) Effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph (c); e) A contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant	As above	The subplans as required by Condition B1 include the requirements as outlined in this condition. All subplans have been endorsed by the ER and have been approved by DPE.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible; f) A program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time; g) A protocol for managing and reporting any: (i) Incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion or performance criterion); (ii) Compliant; or (iii) Failure to comply with other statutory requirements; h) Public sources of information and data to assist stakeholders in understanding environmental impacts of the development; and i) A protocol for periodic review if the EMP and EMP Sub-plans The Planning Secretary must waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.			

Part C – Key Issue Conditions

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
NOISE AND VIBRATION				
Construction Hours				
C1	Road upgrades, construction upgrading and decommissioning activities may only be undertaken between: a) 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday b) 8am to 1pm Saturdays; and c) At no time on Sundays and NSW public holidays; Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.	• Audit Interview • Complaints register • Project EnergyConnect – Site Specific Induction – Overhead Transmission Lines • OOH Work Permit 03/02/23	All work to date has been undertaken within the approved hours except for some out of hours work undertaken at Camp 2. The noise impacts of the OOH work were assessed to be less than 5dBA above background levels and were approved through the SE OOH work permit. The previous recommendation to review and update the site induction package so the requirements of this condition are explicitly communicated to all workers has been completed. There have been no complaints regarding OOH work	Compliant
C2	The following activities may be carried out outside the hours specified in condition C1 above: a) The delivery or dispatch of materials as requested by the NSW Police Force or other public authorities for safety reasons; b) Emergency work to avoid the loss of life, property or to prevent material harm to the environment; c) Works carried out in accordance with the hours and noise limits specified in any negotiated agreements with sensitive receivers (owners and occupiers), provided the negotiated agreements are in writing and finalised before the commencement of works; d) Activities that are inaudible at non-associated residences; e) Road upgrades required by the relevant roads authority to be undertaken outside the standard construction hours; or f) Works carried out in accordance with an Out of	• Audit Interview • OOH Works Permit – PEC Eastern dated 27/9/23 • Project Energy Connect – notification for construction outside approved hours – September 2023	OOHW works being undertaken for clearing and grubbing activities under an approved OOHW permit. The permit was for L5 clearing and grubbing between towers 130-334 and was for activities between the hours of 7am and 7pm Monday – Sunday. The OOH work application included an assessment of noise impacts and community impacts. The noise assessment noted that potential impacts would be <5dBA above background noise levels. It was noted that there were no residents located within 410m of the works. The approval form notes that notifications have been issued to the community and Council. No complaints have been received regarding	Not triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	Hours Work Protocol approved in accordance with condition C10.		OOH works.	
Construction and Decommissioning				
C3	The Proponent must take all reasonable and feasible steps to minimise the road upgrades, construction, upgrading or decommissioning noise of the development in the locations where the noise is audible to sensitive receivers, including any associated traffic noise.	- Site Inspection - Audit Interview	No noise complaints have been received to date.	Compliant
C4	The Proponent must implement mitigation measures: a) To ensure that the noise generated by any construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities is managed in accordance with the requirements for construction 'noise affected' management levels established in accordance with Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009); and b) With the aim of achieving the road traffic noise assessment criteria for residential land uses from <i>NSW Road Noise Policy</i> (DECCW, 2011).	- Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 1 Rev 1 dated 21/11/22. - Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 2 Rev 1 dated 17/3/23 - Noise Monitoring Register - Complaints Register	Activities observed during the audit site inspection are a considerable distance from the nearest sensitive receivers, there was no impulsive, tonal or excessively noisy activities observed to be generated from construction activities. Noise monitoring is undertaken to assess compliance with NML's as required by the Interim Noise Guideline The recommendation from the previous audit regarding the update of the monitoring sheet has been completed.	Compliant
C5	The Proponent must comply with the following vibration limits: a) Vibration criteria established using the Assessing vibration; <i>a technical guideline</i> (DECC, 2009) (for human exposure) b) BS 7385 Part 2-1993 "<i>Evaluation and measurement for vibration in buildings Part 2</i>" as they are "applicable to Australian conditions"; and c) Vibration limits set out in the German Standard DIN 4150-3: Structural Vibration – effects of vibration on structures) for structural damage).	- Site Observations - Audit interview	No activities were occurring at the time of the audit that would likely cause vibration more than these criteria. All construction activities observed during the site inspection were a considerable distance from any sensitive receiver.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
C6	Blasting may only be carried out on the site between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday and between 9am to 1pm on Saturday. No blasting is allowed on Sundays or public holidays, unless approved in accordance with condition C1.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Blasting has not been undertaken during the audit period.	Not Triggered
C7	The Proponent must ensure that any blasting carried out on the site does not exceed the criteria in Table 2. (refer to conditions of approval for details of the blasting criteria)	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Blasting has not been undertaken during the audit period.	Not Triggered
Operation				
C8	Except for corona discharge noise, the Proponent must ensure that the noise generated by the operation of the development does not exceed 35dB(A) LAeq,15min, at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, in accordance with the NPfl, at any non-associated residence.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Operational phase requirement.	Not Triggered
C9	The Proponent must: a) Take all reasonable and feasible steps to minimise corona discharge noise during operation of the project; b) Identify residences predicted to experience corona discharge noise levels above 35dB(A) LAeq,15min at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, determined in accordance with the NPfl, and how often corona noise is expected to be above this level per year; c) Implement all reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures, determined in accordance with the NPfl, at receivers predicted to experience corona discharge noise levels that exceed the noise level identified in condition C8; and d) Prepare and implement a Research Program and allocate \$150,000 to this program, prepared in consultation with EPA, and be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval prior to commencement of operation, which must provide further scientific and engineering understanding of corona discharge noise and best practice noise mitigation measures.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Operational phase requirement.	Not Triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
Noise and Vibration EMP Sub-Plan				
C10	The Noise and Vibration EMP Sub-plan required under condition B2 must; a) Ensure the requirements in conditions C1 to C9 are complied with; b) Include a description of the reasonable and feasible measures that would be implemented to minimise noise and vibration impacts of the development; c) Include a detailed description of the noise and vibration management system for the development; d) Include a protocol for the identification, notification and management of works that exceed the noise management levels; e) Include a monitoring program that evaluates and reports on the effectiveness of the noise and vibration management system; and f) Include an Out of Hours Work Protocol to identify a process for the consideration, management and approval of works that are outside the hours defined in conditions C1 and C6, which must; (i) Be prepared in consultation with the relevant Council; (ii) Identify low risk activities that can be undertaken without the approval of the Planning Security and with the approval of the ER; (iii) Identify high risk activities that must be approved by the Planning Secretary; and (iv) Identify Department, Council and community notification arrangements for approved out of hours work.	• Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 1 Rev 1 dated 21/11/22 • Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 2 Rev 1 dated 17/3/23 • ER Letter of endorsement 19/12/22 • DPE Letter of Approval for Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Stage 1) dated 20/1/23 • DPE Letter of Approval for Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Stage 2) dated 11/5/23	The Noise and vibration EMP includes the relevant information as required by this condition, has been endorsed by the ER and approved by DPE.	Compliant
AIR QUALITY				
C11	In addition to the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures specified in the EIS, the Proponent must take all reasonable stems to: a) Minimise the off site dust, fume, blast emissions and other air pollutants of the development; and b) Minimise the surface disturbance of the site.	• Site Inspection • Complaints Register	No visible emissions were observed during the audit, erosion and sediment control measures were installed with progressive rehabilitation and stabilisation of exposed surfaces to prevent dust emissions. Water carts are available for deployment in the	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
			event of hot, dry and windy conditions. A recommendation is made to consider using the same dust suppression agent (observed at Camp 6 at the Camp 2 site).	
SOIL AND WATER				
Water Supply				
C12	The Proponent must ensure that it has sufficient water for all stages of the development, and if necessary, adjust the scale of the development to match its available water supply.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview - Water register 22/9/23	Only minor volumes of water have been used to date and sourced from Riverina Water. A tracking register has been established that includes the source, volume, and water authority. A standpipe has been installed at the Camp 2 site to allow water to be sourced from the sediment basin and re-used for dust suppression. A water treatment plant has been established at the Camp 2 site to allow treatment and re-use of camp greywater.	Compliant
C13	The Proponent must report on water take at the site during construction (whether direct or indirect and whether licensable or exempt) in the Independent Audit, including water under each water licence for the development. Note: <i>Under the Water Act 1912 and/or the Water Management Act 2000, the Proponent is required to obtain the necessary water licences for the development.</i>	- Site Observations - Audit Interview - Water register, 22/9/23	As above	Compliant
Erosion and Sedimentation				
C14	The Proponent must: - Minimise erosion and control sediment generation; and - Ensure all land disturbance have appropriate drainage and erosion and sediment controls	- Site Observations - Audit Interview - Monthly Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Report, 27/4/23 - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan –	A Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) has been appointed to prepare erosion and sediment control plans, undertake site inspections, and provide advice. A monthly inspection report	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	designed, installed and maintained in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater – <i>Soils and Construction Volume 1</i> (Landcom, 2004), <i>Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume 2A Installation of Services</i> (DECC, 2008) and <i>Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume 2C Unsealed Roads</i> (DECC, 2008).	- Substation 3, 22/6/23 - Dewatering permit 22/6/23 - Monthly Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Report, 01/8/23	was provided. The erosion and sediment controls implemented at Camp 2, Wagga Wagga Substation and access points are appropriate and consistent with the Blue Book. Water from sediment basins is flocculated and re-used on site for dust suppression through an approved dewatering permit. Water is tested for pH, visible oil and grease and TSS prior to release. If the parameters are not met, then the procedures provides a mechanism for further treatment to occur prior to discharge.	
Pollution of Waters				
C15	Unless otherwise authorized by an EPL, the Proponent must ensure the development does not cause any water pollution as defined under Section 120 of the POEO Act.	- Audit Interview - Site Observations	No incidents to date that have resulted in pollution of waters. Spill kits are in place at the site compound and appropriate bunding is provided for chemicals and fuel storage.	Compliant
C16	The Proponent must: - Ensure that appropriate components of the concrete batching plants and substation are suitably bunded and; - Minimise any spills of hazardous materials or hydrocarbons, and clean up any spills as soon as possible after they occur.	- Audit Interview - Site Observations	Concrete batch plants not installed.	Not triggered
C17	The Proponent must ensure that any groundwater dewatering activities do not discharge to watercourses.	- Audit Interview - Site Observations	No groundwater dewatering activities undertaken during the audit period.	Not Triggered
Riparian Area				

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
C18	The Proponent must ensure: a) All activities on waterfront land are constructed in accordance with the <i>Guidelines on Waterfront Land (2012)</i>, <i>Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings</i> (NSW Fisheries 2003) and the <i>Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat and Conservation and Management</i> (NSW Fisheries 2013), unless DPE Water agrees otherwise; and b) The geomorphic condition of the major rivers and distributary channels crossed by the development is not impacted	• Audit Interview • Site Observations	No construction activities observed on waterfront land, or adjacent to creeks or rivers.	Not Triggered
Flooding				
C19	The Proponent must ensure that the Development; a) Does not materially alter the flood storage capacity, flows or characteristics in the development area or off-site; and b) Is designed, constructed and maintained to reduce impacts on surface water, localized flooding and groundwater at the site, Unless otherwise agreed by the relevant Council or BCS.	• Site Observations • Audit Interview • EIS Technical Paper 8 Hydrology and Flooding	No activities were observed to be undertaken that would materially impact flood storage levels or flows	Compliant
Acid Sulfate Soils				
C20	The Proponent must ensure that any construction activities in identified areas of sulfate soil risk are undertaken in accordance with <i>Acid Sulfate Soil Manual</i> (Acid Sulfate Soil Management Advisory Committee, 1989).	• Site Observations • Audit Interview • Soil and Water Management Plan Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Stage 2 Rev 1 14/3/23	No excavations observed to be undertaken that would impact Acid Sulphate Soils. Current activities are outside the areas of known acid sulphate soil risk areas.	Not triggered
Salinity				
C21	The Proponent must ensure that any construction activities in identified areas of moderate to high salinity are undertaken in accordance with the <i>Salinity Training Manual</i> (DPI, 2014)	• Site Observations • Audit Interview • Environmental Impact Assessment	No excavations observed to be undertaken that would impact saline soils. Current activities are outside the areas of known	Not triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	and Book 4 Dryland Salinity: Productivity use of Saline Land and Water (NSW DECC, 2008).		soils of moderate to high salinity.	
Soil and Water EMP Sub-plan				
C22	The Soil and Water EMP Sub-plan required under construction B2 must include provisions for: a) Ensuring the requirements in conditions C12 to C21 are complied with b) Managing flood risk during construction; c) Investigating assessing and managing contaminated land, soils, groundwater and blasting in the development area; d) Investigating, assessing and managing the potential for asbestos and other hazardous materials in the development area; and e) Managing any unexpected and/ or suspected contaminated land, asbestos and unexploded ordinance excavated, disturbed or otherwise discovered during construction.	• Soil and Water Management Plan, EnergyConnect (NSW Eastern Section Stage 2 Rev 1 (14/3/23) • ER letter of endorsement dated 20/10/22 • DPE Letter of Approval for Soil and Water Management Plan (Stage 1) dated 20/1/23	The Soil and Water EMP includes the relevant information as required by this condition, has been endorsed by the ER and approved by DPE.	Compliant
BIODIVERSITY				
Restrictions on Clearing and Habitat				
C23	Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the proponent must: a) Ensure that clearing does not exceed the limits identified in Appendix 2: and b) Minimise; (i) The impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees; (ii) The impacts of the development on threatened flora and fauna populations; and (iii) The clearing of negative vegetation and key habitat.	• Site inspection • Audit interview	Only minimal clearing has been undertaken to date for Camp 2, access points and some clearing for the transmission easement. Clearing limits are mapped by a GIS specialist. The limits are provided to the clearing contractor who have their own GPS tracking system which is linked to the GIS maps. GIS maps are detailed and include access tracks, parking areas, centreline and partial clearing zones. Data is transmitted fortnightly to the GIS database by the clearing contractor. A register of all clearing activities is kept up to date by the SEJV Environment Manager	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
			that includes mainline clearing and partial clearing with a breakdown of Plant Community Types (PCT's) as well as individual species that are listed in the conditions of approval. There were no observed or reported clearing outside the project footprint.	
Biodiversity Offset Package				
C24	Prior to carrying out any development that would impact on biodiversity values, the proponent must prepare a Biodiversity Offset Package (Package) that is consistent with the EIS, in consultation with BCS and to the satisfaction of the Secretary in writing. The Package must include but not necessarily be limited to: a) Details of the specific biodiversity offset measures to be implemented and delivered in accordance with the EIS; b) The cost of each specific biodiversity offset measure, which would be required to be paid into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund if the relevant measure is not implemented and delivered (as calculated in accordance with Division 6 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (NSW) and the offsets payment calculator that was established as at 18 August 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 1 September 2024. Following approval, the Proponent must implement and deliver the Biodiversity Offset Package.	- Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Biodiversity Offset Package Rev 0, 01/11/22 - DPE Letter dated 13/2/23	The Biodiversity Offset Strategy was approved by DPE on the 13/2/23	Compliant
C25	Prior to carrying out any development that could impact the	Letter to the Department of Planning	Bank guarantees to the value of	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	biodiversity values requiring offset, the Proponent must lodge bank guarantee(s) with a total value of \$313,417,279.03, in accordance with the Deed of Agreement with the Planning Secretary (or delegate) executed on 1 September 2022. The Proponent must comply with the terms of the Deed.	from ANZ Bank, MUFG Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Westpac Banking Corporation dated 28/9/22 • ANZ Bank Guarantee #1 (No: DG1023603418 dated 28/9/22 • ANZ Bank Guarantee #2 (No: DG1023603418 dated 28/9/22 • ANZ Bank Guarantee #3 (No: DG1023603418 dated 28/9/22 • ANZ Bank Guarantee #4 (No: DG1023603418 dated 28/9/22 • ANZ Bank Guarantee #5 (No: DG1023603418 dated 28/9/22 • ANZ Bank Guarantee #6 (No: DG1023603418 dated 28/9/22 • ANZ Bank Guarantee #7 (No: DG1023603418 dated 28/9/22 • ANZ Bank Guarantee #8 (No: DG1023603418 dated 28/9/22 • ANZ Bank Guarantee #9 (No: DG1023603418 dated 28/9/22 • ANZ Bank Guarantee #10 (No: DG1023603418 dated 28/9/22 • Transgrid Email dated 15/5/22	\$313,500,000 were provided to the Planning Secretary on 8/11/22.	
Biodiversity EMP Sub-Plan				
C26	The Biodiversity EMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must be prepared in accordance with the <i>Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report</i> (dated 19 August 2022) and include; a) A description of the measures that would be implemented for; (i) Meeting the biodiversity mitigation requirements in condition C23; (ii) Minimising the amount of native vegetation clearing within the development area; (iii) Minimising the amount of native vegetation clearing within the development area; (iv) Minimising the impacts on fauna on site,	• Biodiversity Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 1 and 2, Rev 4 dated 8/12/22 • DPE Letter of Approval for Biodiversity Management Plan (Stage 1) dated 20/1/23 • ER Letter of endorsement 20/10/22 • DPE Letter of Approval for Biodiversity Management Plan (Stage 2) dated 6/7/23	The Biodiversity Management EMP includes the relevant information as required by this condition, has been endorsed by the ER and approved by DPE.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	including undertaking pre-clearance surveys; (v) Minimising the potential indirect impacts on threatened flora and fauna species, migratory species and 'at risk' species; (vi) Rehabilitating and restoring disturbance areas to its pre-existing condition (vii) Avoiding and minimizing impacts on Serious and Irreversible Impact (SII); (viii) Construction clearing and operation vegetation management protocols; (ix) 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 the construction vegetation clearing protocols; (x) Protecting native vegetation and key fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance area; (xi) Maximizing the salvage of resources within the approved disturbance area – including vegetative and soil resources – for beneficial reuse (such as fauna habitat enhancement) during the rehabilitation and restoration of the site; (xii) A Connectivity Strategy and a Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy; (xiii) Controlling weeds; (xiv) Controlling Erosion; and (xv) Bushfire management; and b) A detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures.			
HERITAGE				
Unsurveyed Areas				
C27	Prior to carrying out any construction within the unsurveyed areas for the development area identified in the EIS, or any potential archaeological deposits (PADs) identified for impact	TransGrid Letter dated 15/3/23 requesting DPE approval to stage the Addendum Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	The area where the preconstruction minor works activities being undertaken at the Camp 2 Lockhart site were assessed as part	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	during detailed design, the Proponent must provide an Addendum Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (Addendum ACHAR), prepared in consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders and Heritage NSW, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The report must; - Include details of consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders; - Describe the additional Aboriginal heritage surveys that were undertaken, including test excavations of PADs; - Describe any potential additional impacts to heritage items; - Identify further mitigation measures, including avoidance or salvage; - Include detailed justification where the final transmission line alignment is not able to avoid impacts to heritage items; and - Provide an updated consolidated list of sites that would be protected and remain in-situ throughout construction and sites that would be salvaged and relocated to suitable alternative locations. <i>Note: This condition does not apply to potential archaeological deposits (PADs) identified as "Area cleared for identified impact level per the category of Construction Impact Footprint" in the Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (dated May 2022).</i>	Reports - DPE Letter of Approval to prepare and submit the ACHAR in 2 stages dated 20/3/23 - EIS Technical Paper 2 – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Navin Officer January 2022) - Heritage Clearance Letter (Navin Officer) 28/11/22 - Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Stage 1 Addendum Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Draft) October 2023 - Weekly Environmental Inspection Checklists - Energy Connect (NSW Section) – Heritage Clearance Letters dated 24/5/23, 12/4/23	of the ACHAR undertaken for the EIS. The clearance letter provided by Navin Officer is for additional areas that were not surveyed by the original ACHAR including: - Works within the previously disturbed corridor of Country Boundary Road and Lockhart Road, Lockhart to accommodate road upgrades and install traffic signage - Inclusion of minor additional areas surrounding the proposed Lockhart construction compound - including an area to the north of Lockhart Road; and - Other pre-construction minor works within the previously disturbed road corridor. The clearance letter noted that No Aboriginal Sites, PADS or areas of cultural sensitivity were identified in the survey area. Heritage Consultants Navin Officer have continued their role as the Heritage Consultant and have provided Heritage Clearance letters for various activities including site access points and other preconstruction minor works outside the project boundary. Navin Officer have also prepared an Addendum ACHAR that: - Describes additional heritage assessment carried out in previously unsurveyed areas of the development area - Assesses potential impacts to the new sites identified during the additional heritage	

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
			- assessment; - Provides an update to the potential impacts of all known sites based on the current design and construction methodology and associated management recommendations.	
Protection of Heritage Items				
C28	The Proponent must; a) Ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect harm to Aboriginal heritage items located outside the development area; b) Implement all reasonable and feasible measures to avoid and minimise harm to Aboriginal heritage items and PAD's within the development area; and c) Salvage and relocate the item/s that would be impacted to a suitable alternative location, in accordance with the <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW, 2010), or its latest version.	- Site Observations - Audit interview	No work has been undertaken outside the approved project boundary/development area to date. No harm to aboriginal items has been reported.	Not triggered
C29	The Proponent must; a) Ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect harm to any heritage items located outside the development area; and b) Implement all reasonable and feasible measures to avoid and minimise harm to PEC-E-H1 (Survey Marker Tree), the Yanga Pastoral Station Complex sheep yards at PEC-E-H3 (Bundure railway station dwelling artefact scatter), prior to carrying out any development that could harm the items or deposits.	- Audit interview - Site Inspection	Works have generally been within the development area. Some minor works (i.e.. access point installation) were partially outside the development area. No heritage items were located in this area and therefore no direct or indirect harm has occurred.	Compliant
Heritage EMP Sub-plan				

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
C30	The Heritage EMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must: a) Include a description of the measures that would be implemented for: (i) Protecting Aboriginal heritage items and PADs in accordance with conditions C28(a) and C28(b); (ii) Minimising and managing the impacts of the development on heritage items within the development area including; - Salvaging and relocating the Aboriginal heritage items identified in accordance with condition C28(c); - Archival recording and/ or salvage of the heritage items and sites identified in condition C29, where impacts cannot be avoided, including consultation with NPWS for the Yanga Pastoral Station Complex sheep yards and Heritage Council for PEC-E-H3 (Bundure railway station dwelling artifact scatter); - A strategy for long-term management of any heritage items or material collected during the test excavation or salvage works; (iii) A contingency plan and reporting procedure if; - Heritage items outside the approved disturbance area are damaged; - Previously unidentified heritage items are found; or - Skeletal material is discovered; (iv) Ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site, and that records are kept of these inductions; and (v) Ongoing consultation with Aboriginal	• Heritage Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 1 Rev 1 dated 21/11/22 • ER letter of endorsement dated 20/10/22 • DPE Letter of Approval for Heritage Management Plan (Stage 1) dated 20/1/23. • Heritage Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 2 Rev 1 dated 15/3/23 • DPE Letter of Approval for Heritage Management Plan (Stage 2) dated 6/4/23	The Heritage EMP subplan has been prepared and approved by DPE. The Heritage EMP was endorsed by the ER on 20/10/22.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	stakeholders during the implementation of the plan; and b) Include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and any heritage impacts of the development.			
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT				
Designated Heavy and Over-Dimensional Vehicle Routes				
C31	All over dimensional vehicles associated with the development must only travel to and from the site via the Primary Access Routes described in the EIS, as identified in the figure in Appendix 3, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. Note: <i>The Proponent is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of over dimensional vehicles on the road network.</i>	- Driver Code of Conduct EnergyConnect Rev C dated 15/8/22 - Audit Interview	An In Vehicle Management System (IVMS) has been installed to track vehicles route and speed. The SE environment manager is notified immediately by email in the event of a noncompliance with the approved transport route. The Driver Code of Conduct includes a requirement for vehicles to travel to and from the site only via the designated routes with further training to be provided in toolbox talks.	Compliant
C32	All heavy and light vehicles associated with construction, upgrading and decommissioning of the development must travel to and from the site via the Primary Access Routes, Secondary Access Routes and Water Supply Routes as described in the EIS and identified in the figure in Appendix 3, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.	- Audit Interview - Site observations	No non compliances reported, or complaints received regarding vehicle routes.	Compliant
Road Upgrades				
C33	Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Proponent must implement the road upgrades identified in Appendix 3 in accordance with the relevant standard and timing requirements, to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority.	- Audit Interview - Site observations - SE Email to Lockhart Council dated 9/2/23 - Lockhart email to SE dated April 19 - Works Permit – Activity on Council Road Reserve Permit No: ROC23/0024-1 dated 11/10/23	Consultation with Greater Hume Council regarding road upgrades to Country Boundary Road has been ongoing since 9 February 2023. Council have provided SE with a Road Opening Permit to undertake the work and SE have provided Council with quality	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
			assurance documentation for the work. Council approved the use of the access point on the 19 th of April 2023. Wagga Wagga Council provided a Works Permit for “other works and structures in Road Reserve” at various locations that provide vehicle access for the Project Energy Connect development within the Wagga Wagga local government area.	
Road Maintenance				
C34	The Proponent must; a) Undertake independent dilapidation surveys to assess the; (i) Existing condition of all local roads on the transport routes (including local road crossings) prior to use for construction, upgrading or decommissioning works; and (ii) Condition of all local roads on the transport routes (including local road crossings): - Within 1 month of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, or within a timeframe agreed to by the relevant roads authority; - On an annual basis during construction, or within a timeframe agreed to by the relevant roads to authority. b) Repair (or pay the full costs associated with repairing) any damage to local roads on the transport route (including local road crossings), if dilapidation surveys identify that the road has been damaged by the development during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works; and c) Prepare a report in consultation with the relevant roads authority. If there is a dispute about the road maintenance works, or the implementation of these works, then either party may refer the matter to the Planning Secretary for resolution.	• Lockhart Council Network Condition Report, Stage 1 Routes for PEC SP2 • Audit Interview	Preconstruction road dilapidation surveys have been completed for roads impacted by the current works. The results of the dilapidation survey were presented to relevant Councils.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
Traffic and Transport EMP Sub-Plan				
C35	The Traffic and Transport EMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include; a) Details of the transport route to be used for all development related traffic; b) Details of the road upgrade works required by condition C33 of this approval, including; (i) Final number, location and type of Minor Access Points intersections to be implemented; and (ii) Verification that the proposed types of intersection treatments have sufficient capacity for the proposed vehicle numbers; c) Details of the measures that would be implemented to; (i) Minimise traffic safety impacts of the development and disruptions to local road users during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, including; - o A description of the proposed dilapidation surveys required by condition C34 of this approval; - o A description of the proposed measures for managing traffic flow around the work sites. Construction compounds and accommodation camps; - o Temporary traffic controls, including detours and signage; - o Procedures for stringing cables and transmission lines across roads; - o Notifying the local community about development related traffic impacts; - o Procedures for receiving and addressing complaints from the community about development related traffic; - o Minimising potential cumulative traffic impacts with other projects in the area; - o Minimising potential conflict between development related traffic and rail services, stock movements and school	• Traffic and Transport Management Plan (Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section – Stage 1) Rev 5 dated 27/1/23 • ER letter of endorsement dated 22/2/23 • DPE Letter of Approval dated 27/1/23 • Traffic and Transport Management Plan (Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section – Stage 2) Rev 3 dated 18/5/23 • DPE Letter of Approval dated 01/06/23	The Traffic and Transport EMP includes the relevant information as required by this condition, has been endorsed by the ER and approved by DPE.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	busses, in consultation with local schools, including preventing queuing on the public road network; ○ Implementing measures to minimise the development related traffic on the public road network outside of standard construction hours; ○ Minimising dirt tracked onto the public road network from development related traffic; ○ Details of the employee shuttle bus service (if proposed), including pick up and drop off points and associated parking arrangements for construction workers, and measures to encourage employees use of this service; ○ Encouraging car pooling or ride sharing by employees; ○ Scheduling of haulage vehicle movements to minimise convoy length or platoons; ○ Responding to local climate conditions that may affect road safety, such as fog, dust, wet weather and flooding; ○ Ensuring loaded vehicles entering or leaving the site have their loads covered or contained; ○ Responding to any emergency repair or maintenance requirements; ○ A traffic management system for managing over dimensional vehicles; and fatigue management; and (ii) Comply with the traffic conditions in this approval; d) Include drivers code of conduct that addresses: (i) Traveling speeds; (ii) Procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development adhere to the designated over dimensional and heavy vehicle routes; (iii) Procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development implement safe driving practices; and (iv) Include a detailed program to monitor and			

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	report on the effectiveness of these measures and the conduct of conduct; and e) A flood response plan detailing procedures and options for safe access to and from the site in the event of flooding.			
VISUAL AMENITY				
Visual Impact Mitigation				
C36	Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, for a period of 2 years from the commencement of operations, the owners of R186, R233, R385, R422, R450, R501, R502, and R26749 may ask the Proponent to implement visual impact mitigation measures on their land to minimise the visual impacts of the development on their residences (including its curtilage). Upon receiving such a written request from the owner of these residences, the Proponent must implement appropriate mitigation measures (such as landscaping and vegetation screening) in consultation with the owner. These mitigation measures must be reasonable and feasible, aimed at reducing the visibility of the transmission line and towers from the residence and its curtilage, and commensurate with the level of visual impact on the residence. All agreed mitigation measures must be implemented within 12 months of receiving the written request unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. If the Proponent and the owner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Planning Secretary for resolution. To avoid any doubt, mitigation measures are not required to be implemented to reduce the visibility of transmission lines and towers from any other locations on the property other than the residence and its curtilage.	Audit interview	Condition relates to operation.	Not triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
C37	Prior to submitting the Final Layout Plans for towers 16 and 17 as identified in the EIS, the Proponent must provide reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the visual impacts on residence R26749, including increasing setbacks, in consultation with the owner of the residence, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. Following approval, the Proponent must implement these measures.	- Transgrid letter to DPE dated 15/8/23 - DPE Letter to Transgrid dated 10/9/23	Visual impact measures have been provided to DPE. DPE noted they are satisfied with the measures proposed and approved the visual mitigation measures outlined in the Transgrid letter dated 15 August 2023.	Compliant
Visual Appearance				
C38	The Proponent must: - Take reasonable steps to minimise the off site visual impacts of the development; and - Not mount any advertising signs or logos on site, except where it is required for identification or safety purposes.	Site Observations	No advertising signs or logos were observed on site. Site compound locations are a reasonable distance from residential areas and are unlikely to cause any visual impacts.	Compliant
Lighting				
C39	The Proponent must: - Take all reasonable steps to minimise the off site lighting impacts of the development; and - Ensure that any external lighting associated with the development; - Is installed as low intensity lighting (except where required for safety or emergency purposes); - Does not shine above the horizontal; and - Complies with the <i>Australian/ New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4282:2019 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting</i>.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Security lighting at Camp 2 has been installed for arrival and departure of workers at each compound; however, this is only for a limited period at the commencement and completion of each workday. No complaints have been received to date regarding lighting.	Compliant
RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS				
C40	If the development results in the disruption to any radio communication services (including point to point microwave links) in the area, then the Applicant must make good any disruption to these services as soon as possible following the	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Operational requirement.	Not Triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	disruption, but no later than 1 month following the disruption of the service unless the relevant service provider or user or Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.			
HAZARD AND RISK				
Dangerous Goods				
C41	The Proponent must ensure that the storage, handling and transport of dangerous goods is undertaken in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and guidelines, particularly AS1940 <i>the storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids</i> and AS/NZS 1596:2014 <i>the storage and handling of LP Gas, the Dangerous Goods Code, and the EPA's Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection – Participants Manual</i> .	- Site Inspection - Audit Interview	Only minor volumes of chemicals/fuels stored at site during the establishment phase. A ventilated and bunded container was provided. There were no chemicals or fuel containers stored inappropriately. The standard of housekeeping was high.	Compliant
Electric and Magnetic Fields				
C42	The Proponent must ensure that the design, construction and operation of the development is managed to comply with the applicable electric and magnetic fields (EMF) limits in the <i>International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for limiting exposure to time varying electric and magnetic fields (1Hz – 100kHz)</i> (ICNIRP, 2010).	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Operational requirement.	Not Triggered
Induced Current Risk Assessment				
C43	Prior to any works traversing the high-pressure gas main (Bowmen – Culcain Pipeline) easement, including above ground electricity transmission lines, the proponent must undertake an induced electrical current risk assessment identifying potential risks to the pipeline, including any physical mitigation measures and ongoing management requirements.	- Site Inspection - Audit Interview - APA email to SE 1/6/23 - PEC L5 – 500kV Transmission Line Earthing Report, Secure Energy, Rev B 2023-02-02	Works have not been undertaken in proximity to the high-pressure gas main to date. Consultation with APA, the owner of the gas pipeline is underway with an earthing report prepared by Aurecon.	Not triggered
BUSHFIRE SAFETY				

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
Operating Conditions				
C44	The Proponent must; a) Minimise the fire risks of the development, including managing vegetation fuel loads on site; b) Ensure that the development; (i) Complies with the relevant asset protection requirements in the RFS's <i>Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019</i> (or equivalent) and Standards for Asset Protection Zones; (ii) Is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site, including provision of a 20,000 litre water supply tank fitted with a 65mm Storz fitting and FRNSW compatible suction connection located at each of the construction compounds and accommodation camps (including allocated weather access to the water supply tanks for Category 1 tankers); (iii) Incorporates the recommendations of a fire risk assessment as per TransGrid's design standards; c) Ensure that buildings within the compounds and accommodation camps comply with Australian Standard AS3959-2018 <i>Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas</i> (or equivalent) and RFS's <i>Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019</i>; d) Develop procedures to manage potential fires on site, in consultation with the RFS and FRNSW; e) Assist the RFS, FRNSW and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site; and f) Notify the relevant local emergency management committee following the completion of construction of the development, and prior to commencing operations.	• Accommodation Camp Management Plan Buronga (Camp 6) and Wentworth (Camp 7) - Rev 0 dated 2/3/22 • Accommodation Camp Management Lockhart - Rev 2 dated 10/3/23 • Accommodation Camp Management Plan Lockhart - Rev 2 dated 9/3/23 • Accommodation Camp Management Plan Dinawan – Rev 2 dated 10/3/23	A water supply tank has been installed at Camp 2 as required by this condition. It was not clear to the auditor that the tank was the water supply tank as required by this condition audit). Recommendation It is recommended that appropriate signage is installed to ensure emergency services can quickly identify the water supply tank in the event of an emergency. It is also recommended the RFS are notified of the location of and access to the fire tank. Commission testing of the FRNSW suction connection with RFS equipment should also be undertaken to ensure effectiveness in a fire emergency (as recommended by the previous)	Compliant
Emergency Plan				

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
C45	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Plan and detailed emergency procedures for the development, in consultation with the RFS, and provide a copy of the plan to the local Fire Control Centre. The Proponent must keep two copies of the plan on site in a prominent position adjacent to the site entry point(s) to the Buronga Substation, Dinawan Substation and Wagga Wagga Substation at all times. The plan must; a) Be consistent with; (i) RFS's <i>Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019</i> (or equivalent); (ii) RFS's <i>Development Planning – A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan</i>; (iii) The <i>Fire and Rescue NSW Act 1989</i>; (iv) The <i>Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2011</i>; b) Identify the fire risks and hazards and detailed measures for the development to prevent or mitigate fires, igniting, including risks associated with the revegetation within the inner maintenance zone; c) Include procedures that would be implemented if there is a ban onsite or in the vicinity of the site; d) List works that should not be carried out during a total fire ban; e) Include availability of fire suppression equipment, access and water; f) Include procedures for the storage and maintenance of any flammable materials; g) Detail access provisions for emergency vehicles and contact details for both a primary and alternative site contact who may be reached 24/7 in the event of an emergency; h) Include a figure showing site infrastructure, any Asset Protection Zones and the on site water supply tank(s); i) Include a location of hazards (physical, chemical and electrical) that may impact on fire fighting activities and procedures to manage identified hazards during fire fighting activities;	- Emergency Plan Energy Connect, NSW Eastern Section Rev 0 dated 9/11/22 - RFS Email 15/2/22 - RFS Letter dated 24/3/22 - SE Email dated 7/9/22 - RFS Email 13/9/22 - RFS Email dated 13/9/22 - SE email dated 13/9/22 - DPE Portal acknowledgement receipt dated 8/3/22	The emergency plan was prepared in Consultation with the RFS as well as the local fire control centers based at: - Lower West District - Mid Murray District - Southern Border District - Riverine District - MIA District The final Emergency Plan was issued to DPE on 8/3/23 via the NSW Planning Portal. Recommendation Conduct a pre-bushfire season readiness review to ensure all obligations and commitments relating to Fire and Emergency are implemented and are compliant. It is recommended the review should focus on the activities noted in the Bushfire Management including but not limited to: - Onsite Preparedness Activities - Firefighting water supplies and equipment - Access and egress for emergency vehicles - Emergency Response - Communication Protocols Involve suitably qualified personnel in the review as required. A record of the review should be kept.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	j) Include details of the location, management and maintenance of any Asset Protection Zone (including maintaining the Asset Protection Zone at a height of 100mm or less at the substations, construction compounds and accommodation camps) and who is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Asset Protection Zone; k) Include bushfire emergency management planning; l) Include details for how RFS would be notified, and procedures that would be implemented, in the event that; (i) There is a fire on site or in the vicinity of the site; (ii) There are any activities on site that would have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; or (iii) There are any proposed activities to be carried out during a bushfire danger period that have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; and m) Include details on how live transmission infrastructure can be safely isolated in an emergency.			
WASTE				
C46	Waste generated during construction, operation, upgrading and decommissioning must be dealt with in accordance with the following priorities; a) Waste generation must be avoided and where avoidance is not reasonably practicable, waste generation must be reduced; b) Where avoiding or reducing waste is not possible, waste must be re-used, recycled or recovered; and c) Where re-using, recycling or recovering waste is not possible, waste must be treated or disposed of.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview - Waste tracking register	Only minor volumes of waste have been generated to date, generally consisting of office and construction waste. Appropriate waste storage facilities were provided on site. A waste register is maintained by the SE environment team.	Compliant
C47	The importation of waste and the storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal of such waste must comply with the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> , the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations</i>	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Waste materials have not been imported to the project during the audit period.	Not triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	(Waste) Regulation 2014, and the orders or exemptions under the regulation.			
C48	Waste must not only be exported to a site licenced by the EPA for the storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal of the subject waste, or in accordance with a Resource Recovery Exemption or Order issued under the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014</i> , or to any other place that can lawfully accept such waste.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview - Waste classification certification, 16/8/23	Only minor volumes of waste have been generated to date, generally consisting of office and construction waste. Appropriate waste storage facilities were provided on site. A waste register is maintained by the SE environment team.	Compliant
C49	All waste that is removed from site must be classified in accordance with the EPA's <i>Waste Classification Guidelines</i> , with appropriate records and disposal dockets retained for audit purposes.	- Site Observations - Audit Interview	Environmental Consultants Ramboll have been appointed by SE to test and classify spoil. A waste classification report was reviewed by the auditor, the report documented that the material tested was classified as virgin excavated natural material with no asbestos present.	Compliant
ACCOMMODATION CAMPS				
C50	Prior to establishing the accommodation camps, the Proponent must prepare an Accommodation Camp Management Plan in consultation with the relevant Council. The plan must: - Ensure utilities at the accommodation camps, including water, wastewater, waste and electricity, are designed and located in accordance with Council specifications and relevant standards; - Ensure the accommodation camps comply with conditions C19 and C44; - Ensure any treated wastewater from accommodation camps used for dust suppression during construction; - Complies with the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) and Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ) (2000) guidelines for irrigation water	- Accommodation Camp Management Plan Buronga (Camp 6) and Wentworth (Camp 7) - Rev 0 dated 2/3/22 - Accommodation Camp Management Lockhart - Rev 2 dated 10/3/23 - Accommodation Camp Management Plan Lockhart - Rev 2 dated 9/3/23 - Accommodation Camp Management Plan Dinawan – Rev 2 dated 10/3/23	The accommodation camp management plans include the required information and were noted in Section 1.5 of each plan as being prepared in consultation with the relevant councils for each respective camp including: - Murrumbidgee - Wentworth - Lockhart - Edward River	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	quality; (ii) Meet the requirements for the <i>Public Health Act 2010</i>; d) Include measures for dust suppression within the accommodation camps; e) Provide the site layout including building locations, vehicle access and movement, site servicing and utilities infrastructure; and f) Include measures to support local suppliers in servicing the camp where possible. The Proponent must implement the Accommodation Camp Management Plan.			
LOCAL BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY				
C51	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must prepare a Local Business and Employment Strategy for the development in consultation with the relevant Council. This strategy must investigate options for prioritising the employment of local and Aboriginal workforce and suppliers for the construction of the development, where feasible. The Proponent must implement the Local Business and Employment Strategy.	- Local Business and Employment Strategy, Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) dated 7/11/22. - Local industry participation and indigenous reporting – monthly table - Register of local industry and aboriginal and torres straight islander businesses - Email from CVGT employment to SE dated 28/8/23 - Excerpts from the Project EnergyConnect, Monthly Progress Reports for August and September 2023. - Email from SE to local aboriginal land council members dated 26/7/23 - Scope of work – 45860 – Project Energy Connect Indigenous Participation services - SEEK advertisement (MC Drivers Construction) - SEEK advertisement (MC Drivers Construction) - Legacy 100 factsheet	The local Business and Employment strategy was prepared in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. SE have employed specialists within the team to implement the plan. Evidence was provided to the auditor to demonstrate the plan is being implemented including: - Email notifications to aboriginal stakeholder groups - Monitoring of expenditure relating to indigenous employment - Engagement with local labour hire companies to source local workforce In addition, Transgrid and SE have recently launched the Legacy 100 pilot training program. The Legacy 100 program is a training initiative that aims to boost the skills in the power transmission sector by offering an opportunity to 100 candidates to complete qualifications in transmission line	Complaint

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
			construction as part of the EnergyConnect Project. This program aims to boost skills in the power transmission sector across regional NSW.	
REHABILITATION				
C52	Within 6 months of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Proponent must rehabilitate the areas where ancillary facilities, accommodation camps and earthwork material sites are located. The rehabilitation must comply with the objectives in Table 3. Please refer to the conditions of approval for table 3 (rehabilitation objectives)	- Audit Interview - Site Observations	Not relevant to current stage of work	Not Triggered

Part D – Environmental Management, Reporting and Auditing

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
Environmental Management Strategy				
D1	The Proponent must prepare an Environmental Management Strategy for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This strategy must; - Provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the development; - Identify the statutory approvals that apply to the development; - Set out the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development; - Set out the procedures to be implemented to; - Keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the construction, operation and environmental performance of the development; - Received record, handle and respond to complaints; - Resolve any disputes that may arise during the course of the development; - Respond to any non-compliance and any incident - Respond to emergencies; and - Include; - Reference to any strategies, plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent; and - A clear plan depicting all the monitoring to be carried out under the conditions of this consent. The Proponent must implement the Environmental Management Strategy as approved by the Planning Secretary.	- Construction Environmental Management Plan (NSW-Eastern Section) Stage 1 Rev 1 dated 22/11/22. - ER Letter of endorsement dated 14/22 - DPE Letter of Approval for Construction Environmental Management Plan (Stage 1) dated 27/1/23	The Environmental Management Strategy has been incorporated into the Construction Environmental Management Plan prepared in accordance with Condition B1. The CEMP incorporating the Environmental Strategy has been endorsed by the ER and approved by DPE.	Compliant
REVISION OF STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMS				
D2	The Proponent must review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans, programs or reports required under this	- Audit Interview - Site Observations	SE have established a register for the review of management plans. Documents reviewed	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	approval to the satisfaction of the Planning secretary within 3 months of the: a) Submission of an incident report under condition D6; b) Submission of an incident report under condition D11; or c) Any modification of the conditions of this approval.	• PEC Eastern Management Plan Review Register	during the audit period include the following: • Construction Environmental Management Plan • Stage 1 and 2 Biodiversity Management Plan • Biosecurity Management Plan • Stage 2 Noise and Vibration Management Plan	
NOTIFICATIONS				
Notification of Department				
D3	Prior to commencing development construction operations, upgrading or decommissioning of the development, the Proponent must notify the Department in writing via the Major Projects website portal of the date of commencing the relevant phase. If any of these phases of the development are to be staged, then the Proponent must notify the Department in writing prior to commencing the relevant stage, and clearly identify the development that would be carried out during the relevant stage.	• Transgrid Letter to DPE dated 31/1/23	The letter was issued to the Department on the day of commencement of construction.	Compliant
Final Layout Plans				
D4	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must submit detailed plans of the final layout of the development to the Department via the Major Projects website, including; a) Details on siting of transmission towers, ancillary infrastructure and/ or ancillary facilities; and b) Showing comparison to the approved layout and approved vegetation clearing. The Proponent must ensure that the development is constructed in accordance with the Final Layout Plans.	• DPE Email dated 12/12/22 • DPE Email dated 3/3/22 • DPE Portal Post Approval form 20230303003839 • DPE Portal Post Approval form 20230303003839 • Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Staging Report) Rev D dated 17/10/22 • Audit Interview	Final layout Plans for Stage 1 were submitted to DPE on 12/12/22 with updated plans submitted to DPE on 3/3/22. Final Layout plans for Stage 2 were submitted to DPE on the 12th of July 2023 and are available on the DPE website	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
Work as Executed Plans				
D5	Prior to commencing operations, the Proponent must submit plans that confirm the constructed layout of the development and showing comparison to the final layout plans to the Planning Secretary, via the Major Projects website.	- Audit Interview - Site Observations	Not relevant to current stage of work	Not triggered
Incident Notification				
D6	The Department must be notified via the Major Projects website portal immediately after the Proponent becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the development application number and the name of the development), and set out the location and nature of the incident. Subsequent notification requirements must be given, and reports submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 4.	- Audit Interview - Site Observations	Not triggered. All incidents recorded during the audit period were minor in nature will no off-site impacts.	Not triggered
Non-compliance Notification				
D7	The Planning Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after the Proponent becomes aware of any non-compliance.	- Audit Interview - Site Observations	Not triggered, no non-compliances were recorded by the Proponent during the audit period	Not triggered
D8	A non-compliance notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of approval that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.	- Audit Interview - Site Observations	Not triggered, no non-compliances were recorded by the Proponent during the audit period	Not triggered
D9	A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.	- Audit Interview - Site Observations	Not triggered, no non-compliances were recorded by the Proponent during the audit period	Not triggered
Notification of Landowners				
D10	Prior to the commencement of construction, the Proponent must notify the owners of the owners of R186, R233, R385, R422, R432, R450, R461, R501, R502, and R26749 of their	- Transgrid letter dated 10/3/23 - Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Staging Report) Rev D dated	The notifications were issued to relevant landowners however was made in March 2023	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	rights under condition C36 and C37.	17/10/22		
INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT				
D11	Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out in the frequency described and in accordance with the <i>Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020)</i> , unless otherwise agreed or directed by the Planning Secretary.	This audit report	The initial audit undertaken on 28 March 2023, within 3 months of construction commencement. This first (ongoing) audit was undertaken on the 11th of September 2023, within 6 months of the initial audit.	Compliant
ACCESS TO INFORMATION				
D12	The Proponent must: - Make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development; - The EIS; - Current statutory approvals for the development; - Approved strategies, plans, programs or reports required under the conditions of this approval; - The proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, decommissioning and/ or operation of the development is to be staged; - A comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, which have been reported in accordance with the various plans and programs approved under the conditions of this approval; - A record of complaints, which is to be updated on a monthly basis; - Any independent environmental audit, and the Proponent's response to the recommendations in any audit; and - Any other matter required by the Planning	EnergyConnect - Australia's Largest Transmission Transgrid	TransGrid have a dedicated website for the project which includes the following documents and information. - Environmental Impact Statement and technical papers - Response to submissions - NSW Determination - Commonwealth - Staging Report - CEMP and relevant management plans - Independent Audits and Transgrid Response to the audits - Complaints register. - Construction update - Landowner and community engagement processes The information provided on the project website appears to be up to date to the date of the audit.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	Secretary; and b) Keep this information up to date.			

Appendix C Stakeholder Consultation Records

Appendix D-1 Consultation Summary

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
DPE	- Soil and Water (SWMP): - Dewatering procedure - Water quality monitoring program - Erosion and sediment control measures/management and maintenance	Refer to Section 2.5 which summarises observations made during the site inspection, Appendix B condition C15 and site photographs of erosion and sediment controls observed during the site inspection in Appendix D
	- Biodiversity (BMP): - Pre-clearing and clearing procedure - Vegetation clearing does not exceed clearing limits contained in Appendix 2 of the Infrastructure Approval - Monitoring program and TARP - Reporting commitments - Exclusion zones, including biodiversity exclusion zones and special biodiversity protection zones.	Refer to Appendix B Condition C23. Site photographs of biodiversity protection measures are provided in Appendix D
	Heritage (HMP) Implementation of management measures Monitoring and reporting, including the weekly environmental inspection checklist.	- Evidence of implementation of the Heritage Management Plan included: - weekly environmental checklists completed for the Camp 2 and transmission easement clearing activities - Addendum Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) - draft - Heritage clearance letters for various activities prepared by Heritage Consultants Navin Officer - The draft ACHAR is comprehensive and provides details of consultation with Local Aboriginal Land Councils, detailed survey results, significance assessment, conclusions and recommendations
	Compliance with approved working hours (if any OOHW work has occurred has it been approved)	There have been no reported non compliances with the project working hours. Some out of hours work has been undertaken that has been assessed and approved through the OOH work process. Refer to Appendix B, conditions C1 and C2

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
	Compliant register and management	The complaints register is up to date and is provided on the project website. The complaints register includes details of the complaint, the project response, communications with the complainant, actions taken and the status
	Management and monitoring of traffic and vehicle movements	An in vehicle monitoring system has been established and implemented that uses GPS tracking to monitor vehicle location, speed, and compliance with approved traffic routes. Immediate notification is provided to the SEJV Environment manager in the event of a non compliance.
	Consultation with community, neighbours and receivers consultation	Substantial evidence was provided to demonstrate the effective implementation of the Communications Strategy. Refer to Appendix B, Condition A22
	Noise and air management and monitoring	- Monitoring for air quality consists of visual assessment. There is no requirement in the CEMP to monitor for air quality using dust gauges (or similar) - Similarly, there is no requirement to do noise monitoring during normal (daytime) activities, any noise monitoring undertaken by the project is for out of hours works
	Comparison of actual impacts vs predicted in EA	Refer to Section 3.6
	Management of all exit and entry locations onto road network (ie: safe egress, measure in place to ensure no tracking of material onto roads)	- Measures installed at the Camp 2 location include a wheel wash with high pressure hoses, stabilised site access, internally sealed roads and rumble grids, The measures installed are consistent with Camps 6 and 7 and are considered to be best industry practice - There was no observed tracking of material on local roads.

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
	Evidence of management plans being reviewed and revised if required	- SEJV have prepared and maintained a register to record the details of document reviews undertaken and planned. - During the audit period, management plans were reviewed and updated for Stage 2
	Website up to date with all required documents.	The website is up to date with required documents at the time of the audit
Wentworth Shire Council	No issues raised	Noted
Balranald Shire Council	No issues raised	Noted
Murray River Council	No issues raised	Noted
Edward River Council	No issues raised	Noted
Hay Shire Council	No issues raised	Noted
Murrumbidgee Council	No issues raised	Noted
Federation Council	No issues raised	Noted
Lockhart Shire Council	No issues raised	Noted
Wagga Wagga City Council	- Preconstruction Dilapidation Reports on Council Owned Roads - Council is yet to receive dilapidation surveys - Concerned that some roads have been recently upgraded (including Lloyd Road, Inglewood Road and Mitchell Road) and the dilapidation survey (s) may be of the road condition prior to the road upgrades (and therefore not representative of the road condition)	- Dilapidation surveys were provided to Council on 15/12/23 - SE noted that it is not feasible to pick up each road after council upgrades, as per condition C34 SE will carry out an annual dilapidation survey which should be in March 2024, where all upgrades will be captured.

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
	- Primary and Secondary Haulage Routes - Council have been interacting with the project team regarding Heavy Vehicle Access/Egress routes - Consistency of haulage routes with planning consent/EIS - Load Limits on roads used for haulage routes.	SE noted that all suggestions from council have been incorporated in the latest TTMP, currently under review by Council
	Concerns regarding impacts to the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre (approx. 1,800m long) to accommodate the new Energy Connect High Voltage Transmission line.	Council has made representations to the EPA regarding their concerns in relation to the waste management facility. At the time of the audit, there had been no activities observed that would impact the facility. This issue will need to be reassessed in subsequent audits
Narrandera Shire Council	No issues raised	Noted
Berrigan Shire Council	No issues raised	Noted
Local Aboriginal Land Councils including - Dareton - Griffith - Wagga Wagga - Balranald - Deniliquin - Hay - Narrandera	- Requested a Project Update (Griffith LALC)	Construction activities had not commenced in the Griffith LALC area at the time of the audit. SEJV noted that the LALC would be contacted prior to works commencing in the area.
	- Inconsistent consultation between various projects and parties	This issue relates to the broader regional construction activities in the region (consisting of multiple projects) and is beyond the scope of this audit
	Genuine opportunities for aboriginal people are needed (not token roles) so that young aboriginal people can develop skills, be provided with career opportunities and a legacy may be created so they can move from project to project, (with the up-and-coming boom in renewable energy projects)	Refer to Appendix B, Condition C51
	General impacts on environment and land	Noted, these issues are addressed by other relevant sections of the audit

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
	Impacts to Flora and Fauna – cultural significance of the Kangaroo	
	High importance of relationship to country for Aboriginal People	Noted
	Native Title	Outside the scope of the audit
	Supervision of ground disturbance activities	- There does not appear to be any commitment in the ACHAR or the EIS for supervision of ground disturbance activities by aboriginal stakeholder groups - The Unexpected Finds Procedure would be used should any unidentified subsurface objects be found during construction of the project.
	Committed project spend on aboriginal employment and companies	Refer to Appendix B, Condition C51
	Immersive Training	All workers who join the project attend a site induction focusing on aboriginal heritage issues. In addition to this the project team has developed and implemented a comprehensive online cultural awareness training package
NSW EPA	Requirement for an Environment Protection Licence for the construction of the Dinewan substation	At the time of the audit, construction of the Dinewan substation had not commenced although the auditor understands that the trigger requirements for an EPL will not be exceeded
	Offence to pollute waters	Refer to Section 2.5 which summarises observations made during the site inspection, Appendix B condition C15 and site photographs of erosion and sediment controls observed during the site inspection in Appendix D
	Dust management	Refer to Appendix B, C11
DPE (BCD)	Whether the use of barbed is consistent with the EIS as per Condition of Approval A2	The auditor cannot find any reference to barbed wire within the EIS documents. The only reference to the use of barbed wire is in the Accommodation Camp Management Plan for the Lockhart (Camp 2) site

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
	While the Stage 2 BMP has been developed in consultation with BCD, the last time BCD were consulted was in March 2023 when we identified outstanding issues that needed to be rectified. We were not aware that the Stage 2 BMP had been finalised and approved until we were notified of this audit and saw that the approved Stage 1 and 2 BMP was available on the Planning Portal.	which has been approved by DPE. There have not been any reported incidents of harm to animals due to any interactions with barbed wire fencing Noted. DPE approved the revised BMP on 6 July 2023. An Agency Consultation Report was prepared and submitted with the BMP that documents the comments received from BCD and Transgrids response to the comments
DPE Water	No issues were raised by DPE Water	Noted
Transport for NSW	the access arrangements to the classified road network required for the construction of the project. Note that approvals required under section 138 of the Roads Act before any works are undertaken within the road reserve to upgrade existing access points or create new access points	SE noted that council is the road authority for all classified roads. SE has obtained/paid for a section 138 from each council, and passed these on to TfNSW.
	- the construction activity for the powerlines, particularly the road crossings within the road reserves. Note that approvals required under section 138 of the Roads Act before any works are undertaken within the road reserve - the construction activity for the substations, workers compounds and storage compounds,	SE noted they are in the process of obtaining the necessary approvals
	compliance with the traffic generations for the construction of the infrastructure project, proposed within the submitted documentation	An in vehicle monitoring system has been established and implemented that uses GPS tracking to monitor vehicle location, speed and compliance with approved traffic routes and volumes. Immediate notification is provided to the SEJV Environment manager in the event of a non-compliance.
	The management of tracking of loose material onto the road network	Measures installed at the Camp 2 location include a wheel wash with high pressure hoses, stabilised site access, internally sealed roads and rumble grids, The measures installed are consistent with Camps 6 and 7 and are considered to be best industry practice

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
		There was no observed tracking of material on local roads.
	Dust management of access tracks and work compounds particularly in close proximity to the road network	Refer to Appendix B, C11
	Traffic management – implementation of Traffic Controls,	Appropriate traffic signage was installed at the Camp 2 site, Road Occupancy Licences have been obtained from Council where required
	Compliance with vehicle volumes and approved access routes (eg Recording of vehicle movements (HV and LV), recording of vehicles using approved access routes, etc) as defined in the submitted documentation or determination documentation.	An in vehicle monitoring system has been established and implemented that uses GPS tracking to monitor vehicle location, speed and compliance with approved traffic routes and volumes. Immediate notification is provided to the SEJV Environment manager in the event of a non-compliance.

Appendix D-2 Correspondence Issued

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 20 August 2023 10:19 AM
To: [REDACTED] Mailbox
Subject: SSI-9172452 - EnergyConnect - Eastern Section

[REDACTED]

As per recent correspondence from the Department, I have been engaged to undertake the second independent audit of Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) in accordance with the project conditions of approval.

The date for the audit is 14 – 15th September 2023.

The audit will be undertaken in accordance with the DPE Independent Post Approval Requirements (PAR) (2020)

The purpose of this email is to:

- Formally consult with the Department in relation to any matters or focus areas the Department considers relevant to the audit
- Confirm with the Department the following organisations to be consulted with in relation to the audit scope (please note that these were the organisations consulted with in relation to the Audit # 1):

Government Agencies

- Environment Protection Authority
- Biodiversity Conservation Division
- Heritage NSW
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils
- Wentworth Council
- DPI Fisheries
- DPI Water
- Crown Lands
- Federal Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment
- Transport for NSW.

Councils

- Wentworth Shire Council
- Balranald Shire Council
- Murray River Council
- Edward River Council
- Hay Shire Council
- Murrumbidgee Council
- Federation Council
- Lockhart Shire Council
- Wagga Wagga City Council
- Narrandera Shire Council
- Berrigan Shire Council

Local Aboriginal Councils

- Dareton Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Wagga Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Hay Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Narrandera Local Aboriginal Land Council

If you could please advise in relation to the above, that would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks and regards



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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

[REDACTED]
Sunday, 20 August 2023 11:15 AM

To:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Independent Audit

[REDACTED]

I have recently been appointed to undertake an Independent Audit of the Project Energy Connect Eastern Section in NSW (please refer to map below)

The audit is to be undertaken of the Project Conditions of Approval [getContent \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and in accordance with the DPE Post Approval (Independent Audit Requirements) [Independent Audit \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

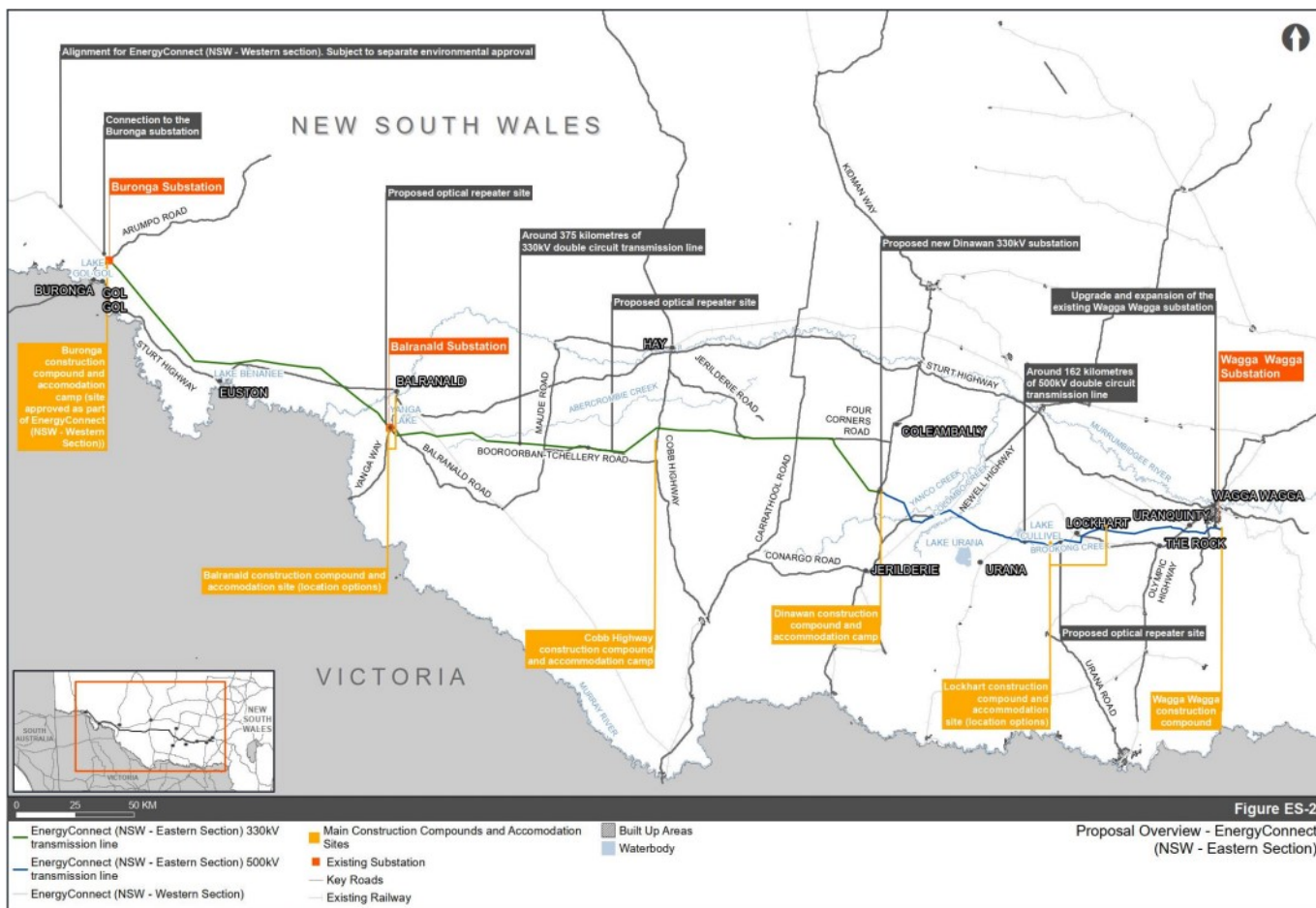
This audit follows the initial audit undertaken in March this year and can be found at the following link [Independent DPE Compliance Audit \(transgrid.com.au\)](#)

I am planning on undertaking the audit from the 14th to the 15th of September and as part of the audit, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment have requested I consult with your organisation so that any issues or focus areas you have may be considered by the audit.

In this regard, I am seeking any feedback you may have and if you could please provide a response by 12 September 2023 that would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact me on the number below.

Many thanks and Regards.



[Redacted text block]

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[REDACTED]

From: Richard Peterson <richard.peterson-trigalana@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, 20 August 2023 11:19 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: SSI-9172452- Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Independent Audit

[REDACTED]

I have recently been appointed to undertake an the second Independent Audit of the Project Energy Connect Eastern Section in NSW (please refer to map below)

The audit is to be undertaken of the Project Conditions of Approval [getContent \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and in accordance with the DPE Post Approval (Independent Audit Requirements) [Independent Audit \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

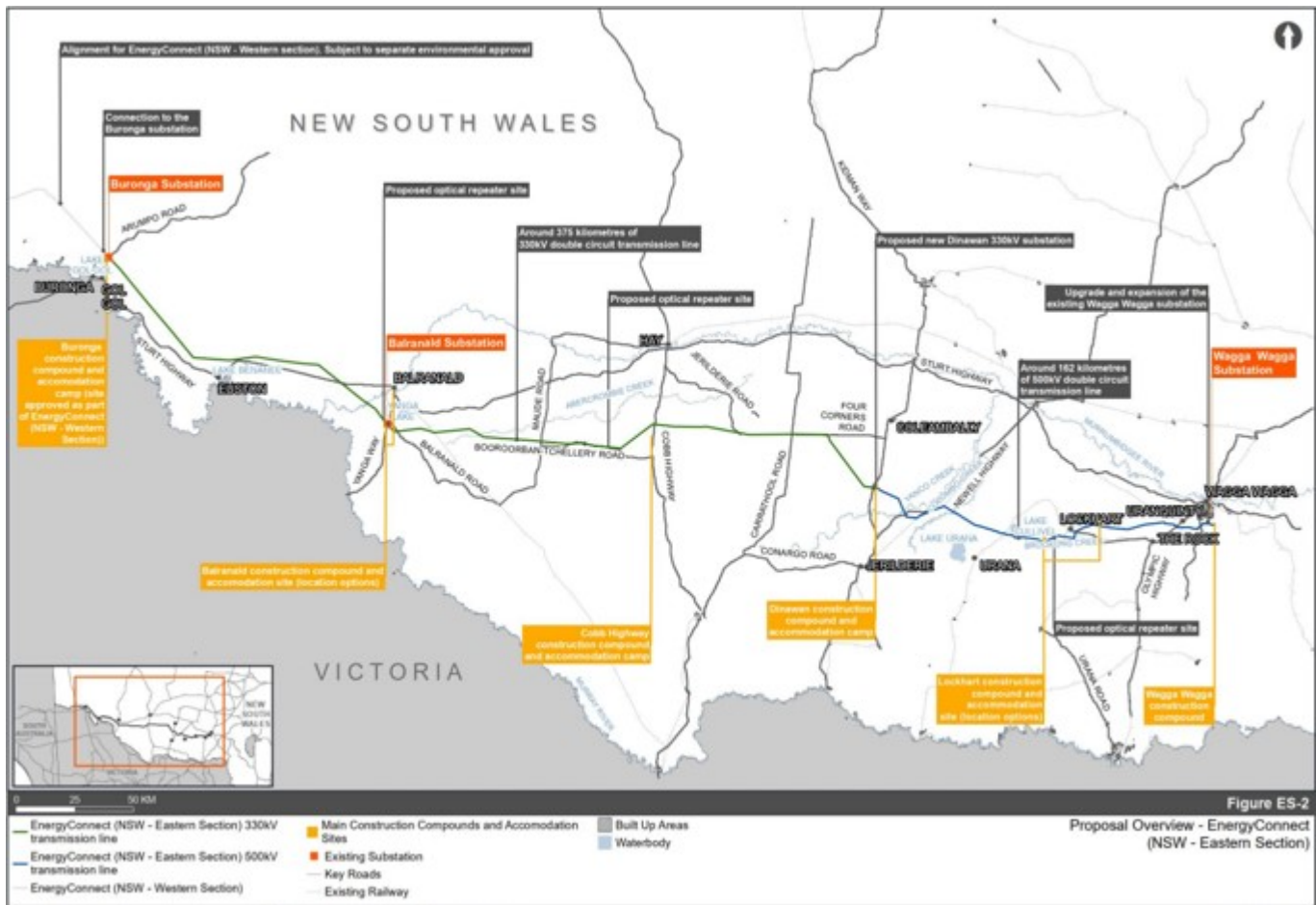
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Many thanks and Regards.



Age Group	Percentage Vaccinated
18-24	65%
25-34	75%
35-44	85%
45-54	90%
55-64	95%
65-74	98%
75-84	100%
85+	100%

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 20 August 2023 11:57 AM
To: mail@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au; council@narrandera.nsw.gov.au
Subject: SSI-9172452- Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Independent Audit

To Whom it may concern

I have recently been appointed to undertake an the second Independent Audit of the Project Energy Connect Eastern Section in NSW (please refer to map below)

The audit is to be undertaken of the Project Conditions of Approval [getContent \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and in accordance with the DPE Post Approval (Independent Audit Requirements) [Independent Audit \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

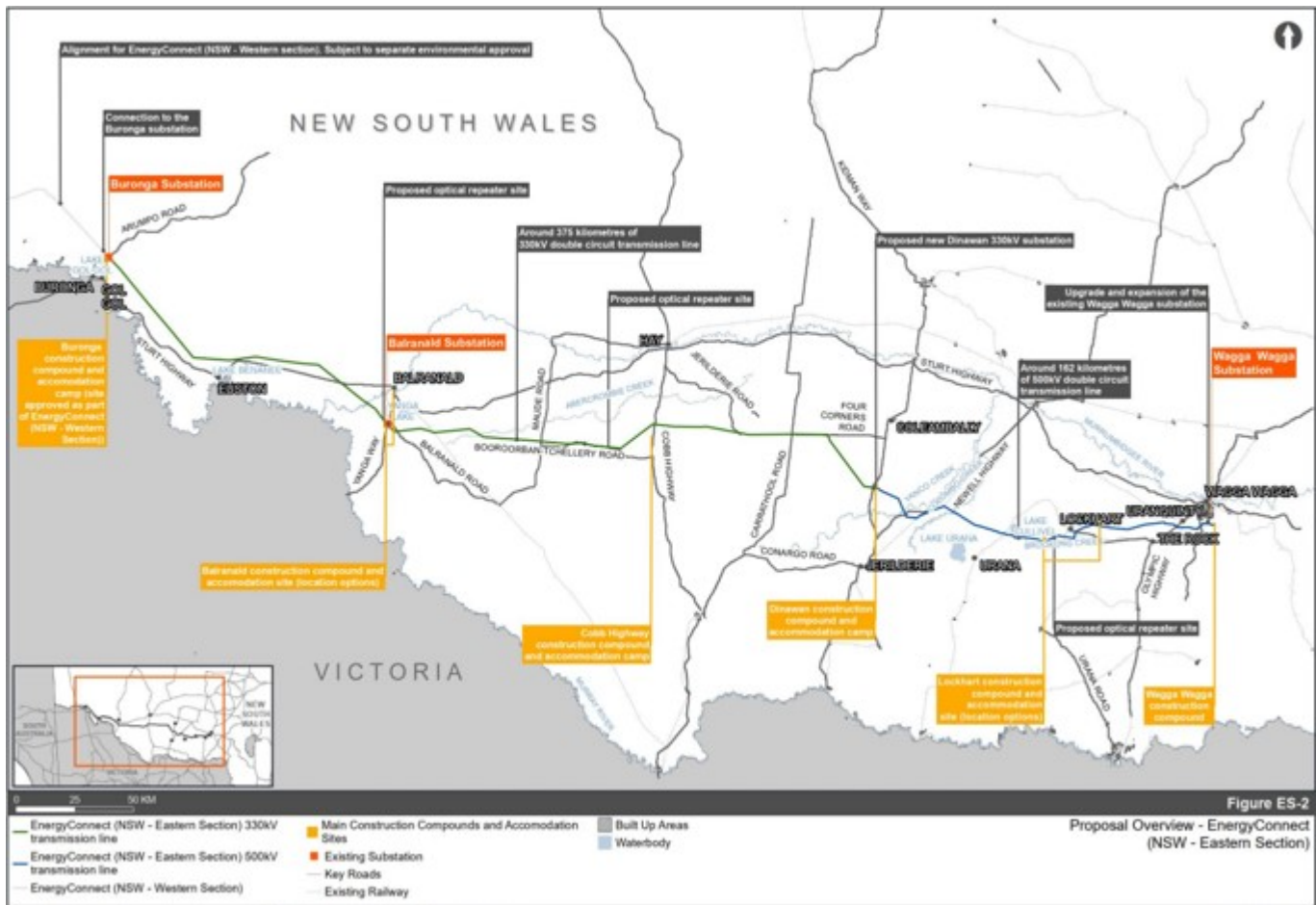
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65-74	98%
75-84	100%
85+	100%

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From: Richard Peterson <richard.peterson-trigalana@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, 20 August 2023 11:41 AM
To: cl.enquiries@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: SSI-9172452- Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Independent Audit

To Whom it may concern

I have recently been appointed to undertake an the second Independent Audit of the Project Energy Connect Eastern Section in NSW (please refer to map below)

The audit is to be undertaken of the Project Conditions of Approval [getContent \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and in accordance with the DPE Post Approval (Independent Audit Requirements) [Independent Audit \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

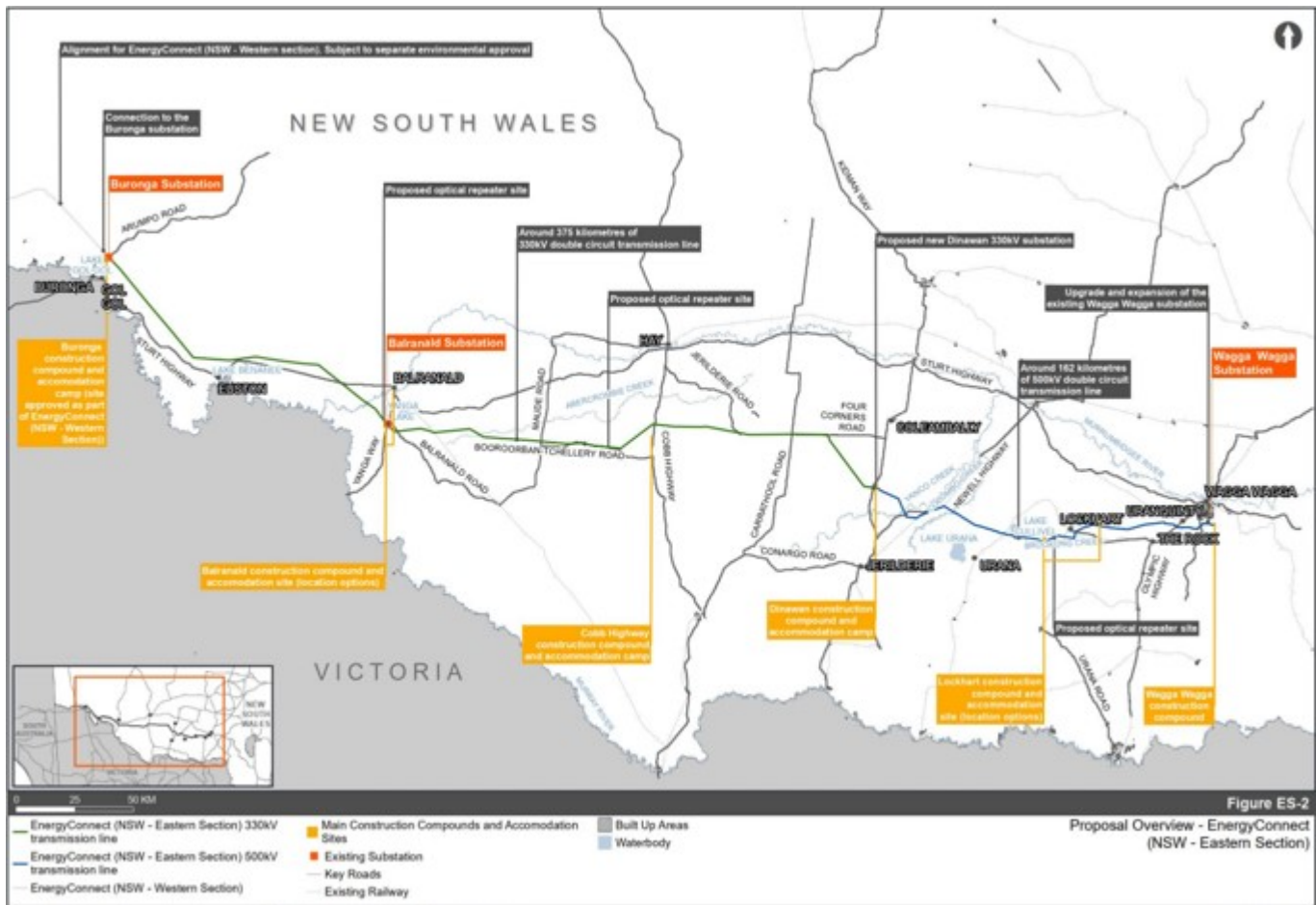
This audit follows the initial audit undertaken in March this year and can be found at the following link [Independent DPE Compliance Audit \(transgrid.com.au\)](#)

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25-34	65%
35-44	85%
45-54	95%
55-64	100%
65-74	100%
75-84	100%
85+	100%

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 20 August 2023 11:21 AM
To: [REDACTED] DPIE Water Assessments Mailbox
Subject: SSI-9172452- Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Independent Audit

[REDACTED]

I have recently been appointed to undertake an the second Independent Audit of the Project Energy Connect Eastern Section in NSW (please refer to map below)

The audit is to be undertaken of the Project Conditions of Approval [getContent \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and in accordance with the DPE Post Approval (Independent Audit Requirements) [Independent Audit \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

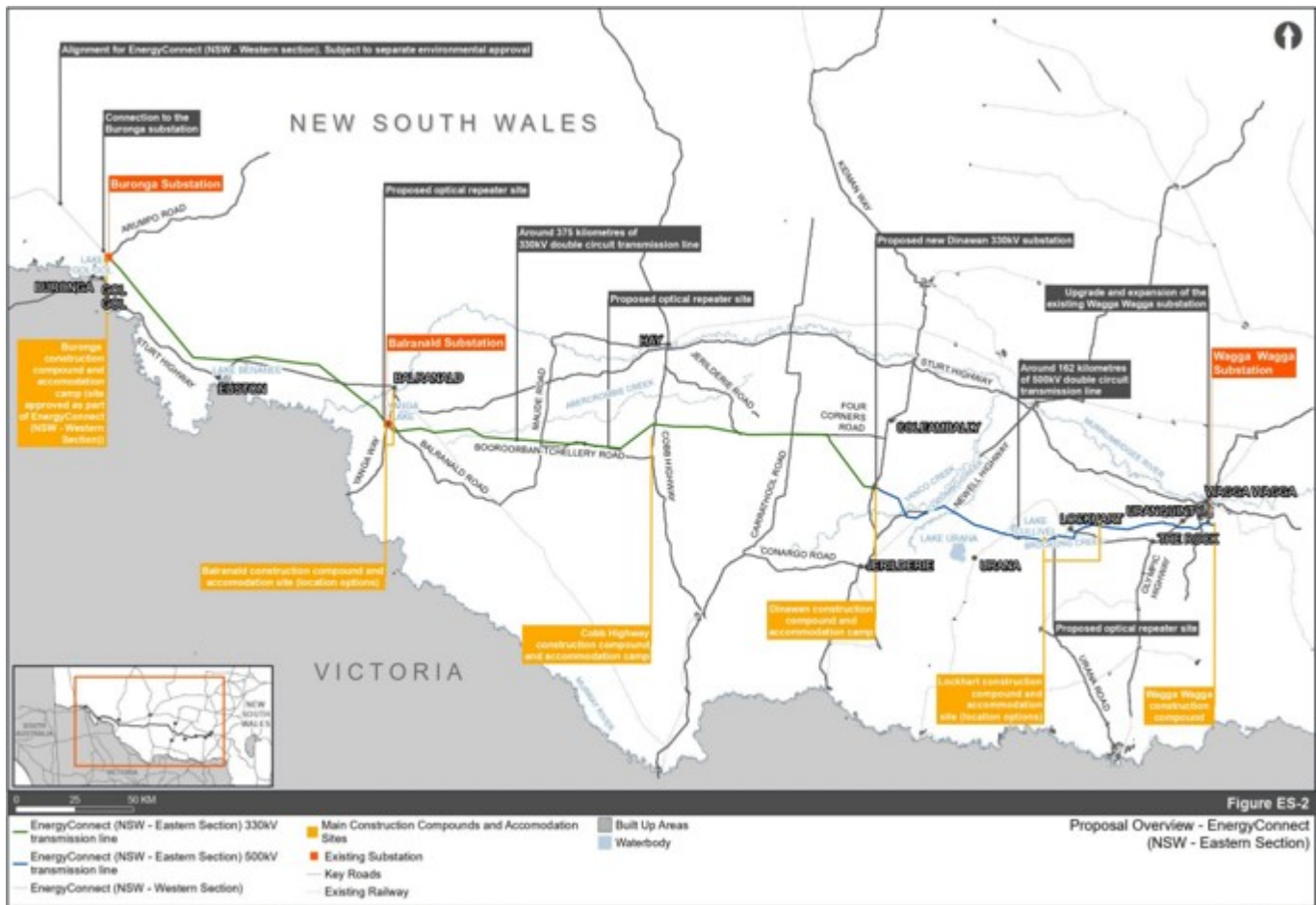
This audit follows the initial audit undertaken in March this year and can be found at the following link [Independent DPE Compliance Audit \(transgrid.com.au\)](#)

I am planning on undertaking the audit from the 14th to the 15th of September and as part of the audit, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment have requested I consult with your organisation so that any issues or focus areas you have may be considered by the audit.

In this regard, I am seeking any feedback you may have and if you could please provide a response by 12 September 2023 that would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact me on the number below.

Many thanks and Regards.



Age Group	Percentage Vaccinated
18-24	65%
25-34	75%
35-44	85%
45-54	90%
55-64	95%
65-74	98%
75-84	100%
85+	100%

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[REDACTED]

From: Richard Peterson <richard.peterson-trigalana@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, 20 August [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SSI-9172452- Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Independent Audit # 2

[REDACTED]

I have recently been appointed to undertake the second Independent Audit of the Project Energy Connect Eastern Section in NSW (please refer to map below)

The audit is to be undertaken of the Project Conditions of Approval [getContent \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and in accordance with the DPE Post Approval (Independent Audit Requirements) [Independent Audit \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

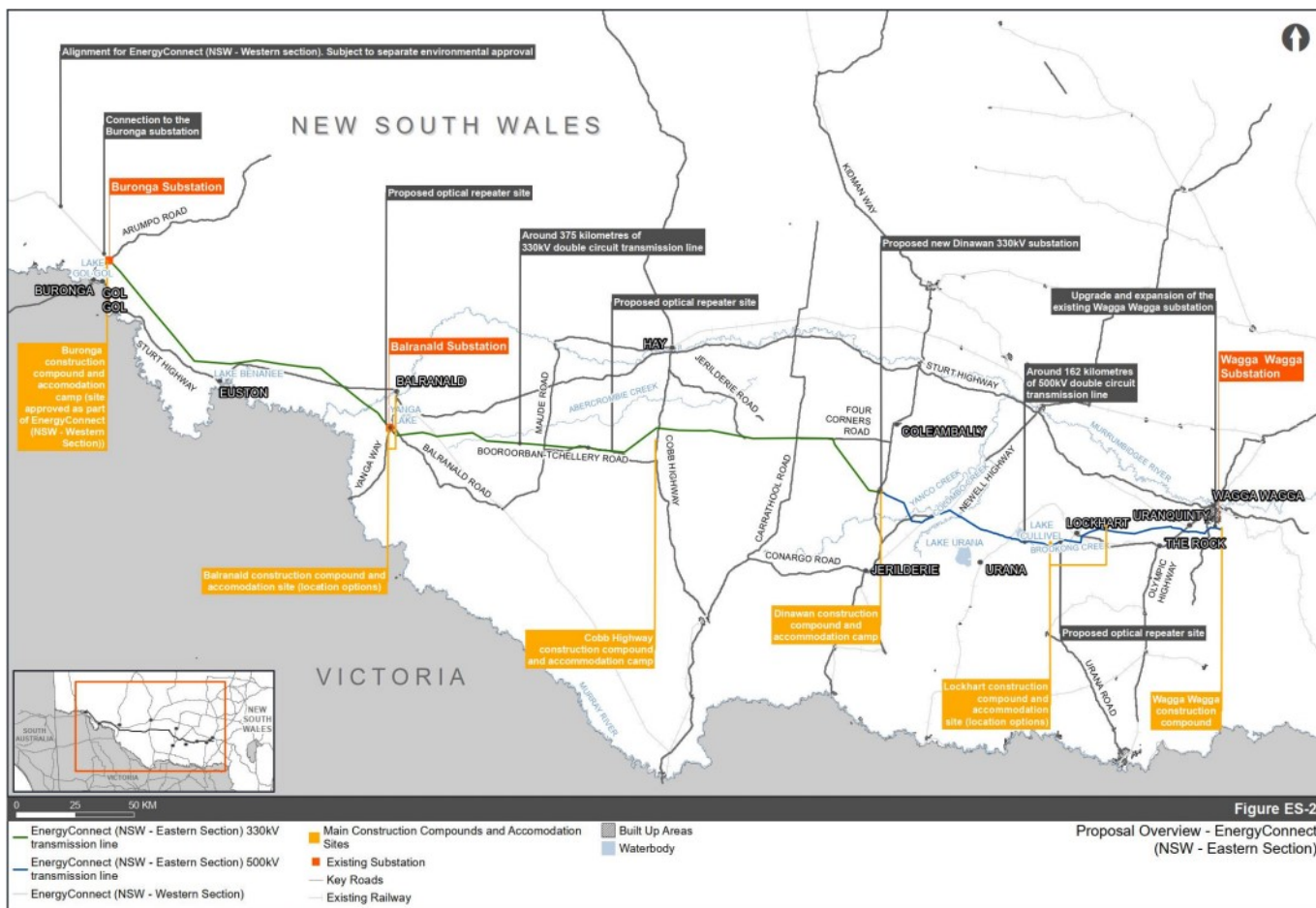
This audit follows the initial audit undertaken in March this year [Independent DPE Compliance Audit \(transgrid.com.au\)](#)

The audit is planned to be undertaken on the 14th and 15th of September 2023 and as part of the audit, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment have requested consultation with EPA that any issues or focus areas you have may be considered by the audit.

In this regard, I am seeking any feedback you may have and if you could please provide a response by 12 September 2023 that would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact me on the number below.

Many thanks and Regards.



[Redacted text block]

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From: Richard Peterson <richard.peterson-trigalana@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, 20 August 2023 11:59 AM
To: mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au
Subject: SSI-9172452- Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Independent Audit

To Whom it may concern

I have recently been appointed to undertake an the second Independent Audit of the Project Energy Connect Eastern Section in NSW (please refer to map below)

The audit is to be undertaken of the Project Conditions of Approval [getContent \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and in accordance with the DPE Post Approval (Independent Audit Requirements) [Independent Audit \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

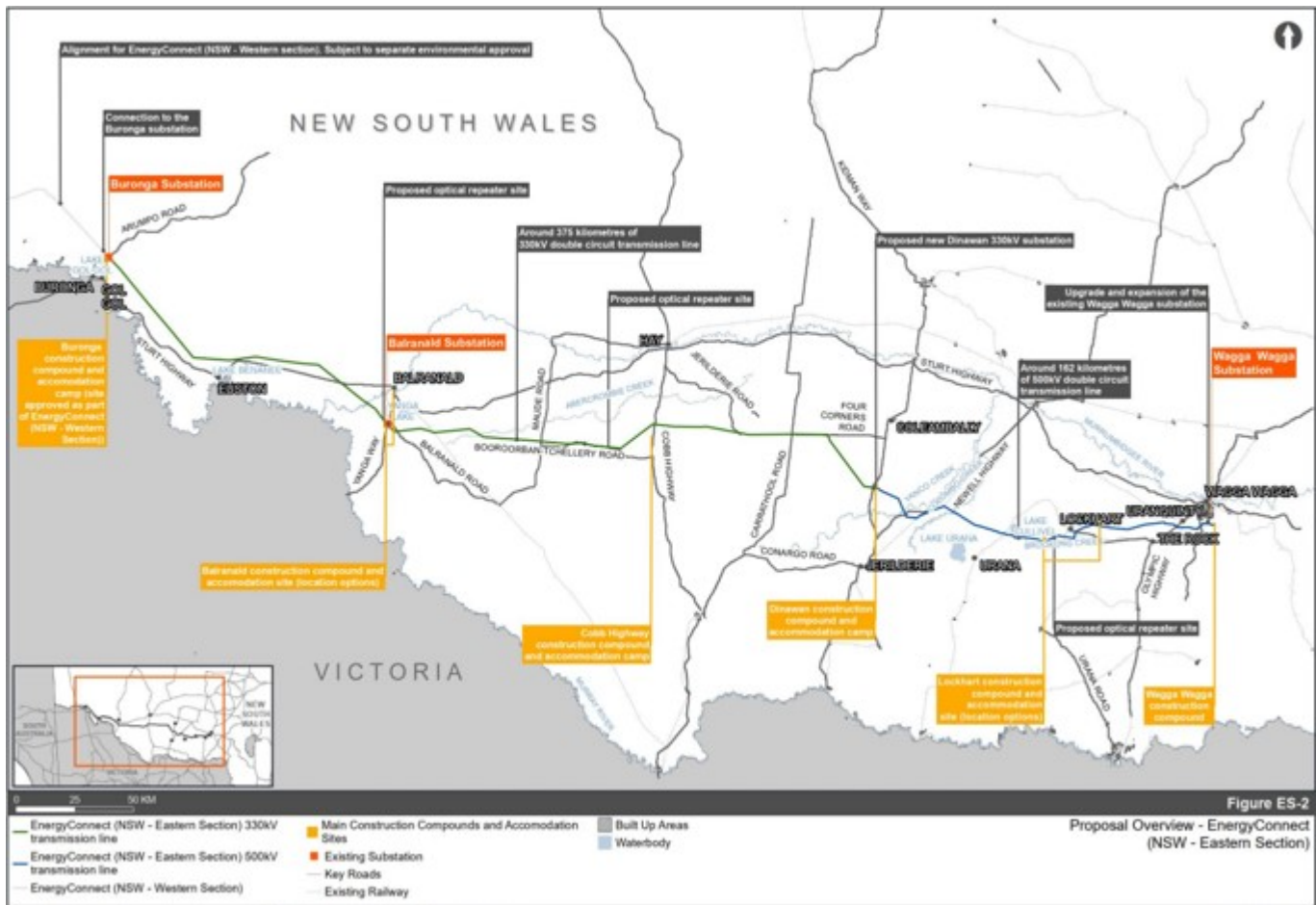
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Many thanks and Regards.



Service	Percentage
Online banking	85%
Mobile banking	78%
Social media	72%
Direct deposit	65%

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From: Richard Peterson <richard.peterson-trigalana@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, 20 August 2023 11:23 AM
To: OEH HD Heritage Mailbox
Subject: SSI-9172452- Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern Section) Independent Audit

To Whom it may concern

I have recently been appointed to undertake an the second Independent Audit of the Project Energy Connect Eastern Section in NSW (please refer to map below)

The audit is to be undertaken of the Project Conditions of Approval [getContent \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and in accordance with the DPE Post Approval (Independent Audit Requirements) [Independent Audit \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

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If you have any questions, please contact me on the number below.

Many thanks and Regards.

[REDACTED]

From: Richard Peterson <richard.peterson-trigalana@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, 20 August 2023 11:39 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Eastern Section) Independent Audit

[REDACTED]

I have recently been appointed to undertake an the second Independent Audit of the Project Energy Connect Eastern Section in NSW (please refer to map below)

The audit is to be undertaken of the Project Conditions of Approval [getContent \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and in accordance with the DPE Post Approval (Independent Audit Requirements) [Independent Audit \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

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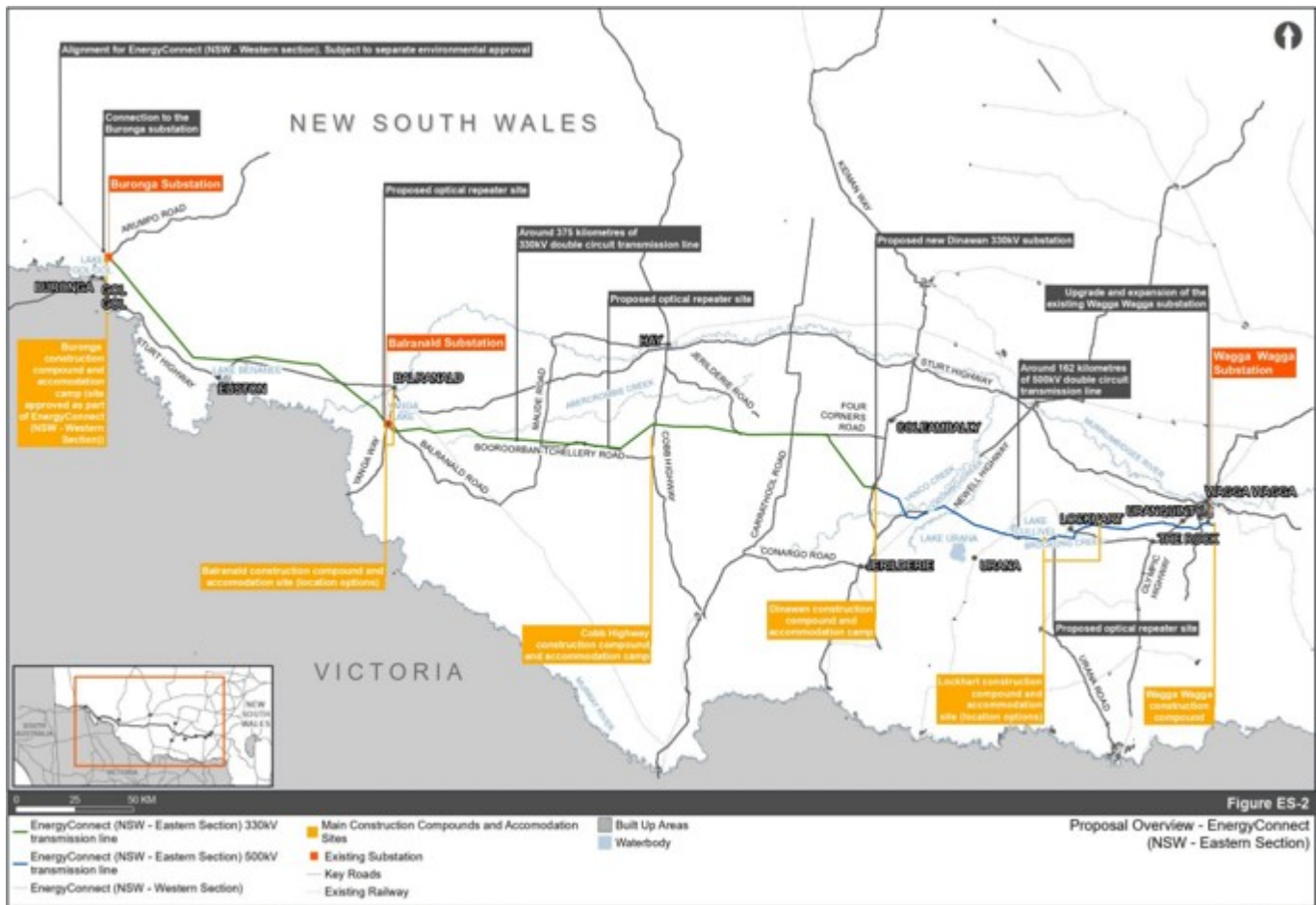
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If you have any questions, please contact me on the number below.

Many thanks and Regards.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: Richard Peterson <richard.peterson-trigalana@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, 20 April 2023 10:48 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has kindly provided me with your contact details.

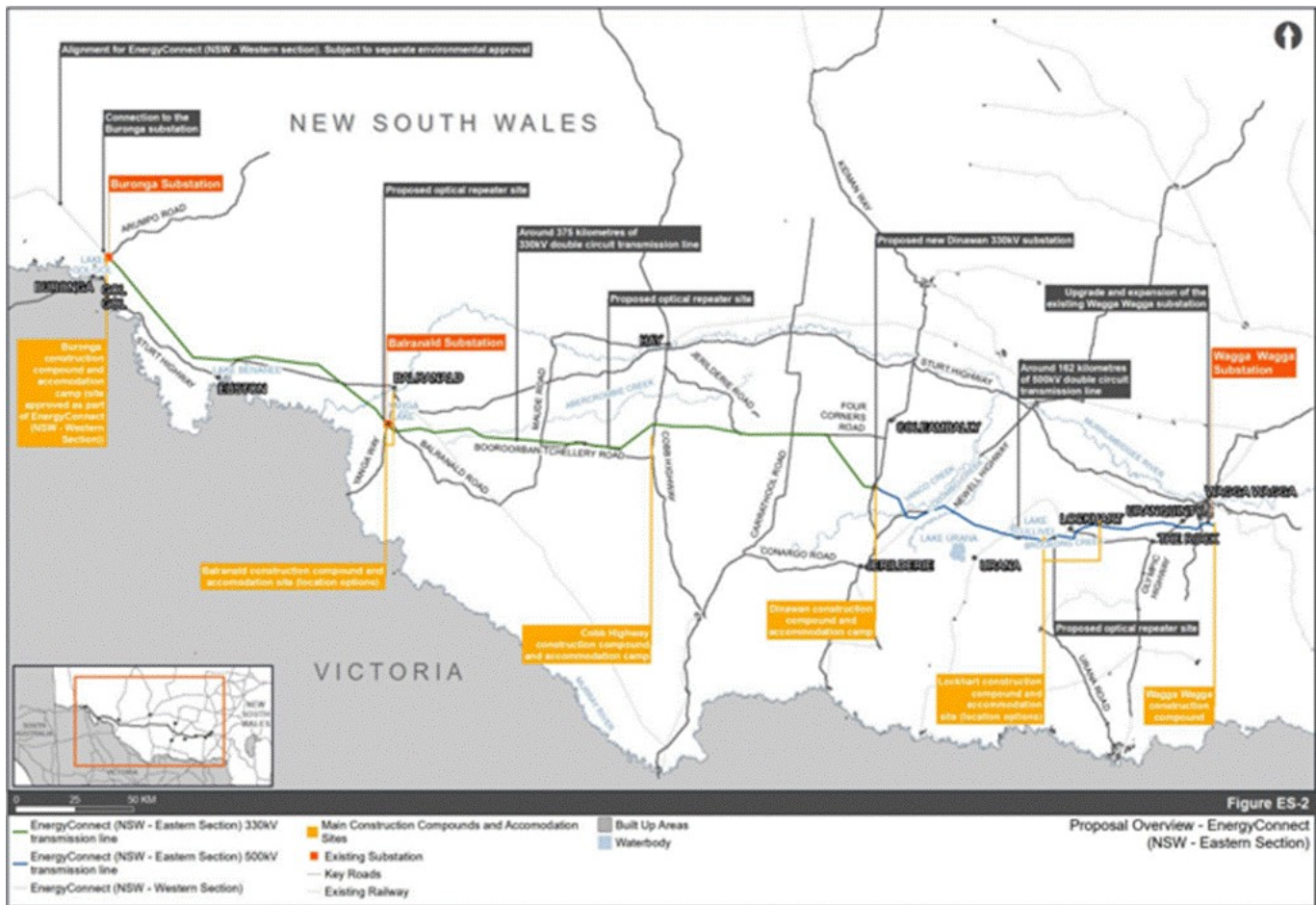
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The audit is to be undertaken of the Project Conditions of Approval [getContent \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) and in accordance with the DPE Post Approval (Independent Audit Requirements) [Independent Audit \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

As part of the audit, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment have requested I consult with relevant Local Aboriginal Land Councils so that any issues or focus areas you have may be considered by the audit.

In this regard, I would be grateful if you could please let me know if there are any issues you would like me to consider as part of the audit.

Many thanks and Regards.



[Redacted text block]

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Appendix D-3 Correspondence Received

Information redacted for public display

Appendix D Site Photographs

General Construction Activities



Photo 1: General mainline clearing area



Photo 2: Transmission easement clearing in progress



Photo 3: Site establishment activities Wagga Wagga substation compound



Photo 4: Camp 2 general layout



Photo 5: Camp 2 - Laydown area



Photo 6: Typical access point and minor road upgrade works



Photo 7: Typical access point



Photo 8: Road adjustment, typical access point

Soil and Water Management, Dust



Photo 9: Sediment basin and overflow point



Photo 10: Chemical flocculants for sediment basin



Photo 11: Drainage swale and revegetation (providing groundcover) – Camp 2



Photo 12: Site speed restriction signage - Camp 2



Photo 13: Rumble grid and stabilised access – Camp 2



Photo 14: Stockpile < 2m with sediment fence installed



Photo 15: Sediment dam, Camp 2



Photo 16: Wheel wash facility – Camp 2



Photo 17: Water treatment plant – Camp 2



Photo 18: Sediment basin outlet with geofabric and rock scour protection

Spill Control, Bushfire, Waste Management



Photo 17: 20kl Water tank (Camp 2)



Photo 18: Vehicle Refuelling area (Camp 2)



Photo 19: Spill Kits (Camp 2)



Photo 20: Chemical storage container (Camp 2)

Ecology



Photo 21: Ecological No-Go signage



Photo 22: Ecological No-Go signage



Photo 23: Clearing limits and signage



Photo 24: Nestbox installation

Appendix E Auditor Declaration

Project name	Project EnergyConnect (NSW Eastern Section)
Consent Number	SSI 9172452
Description of Project	Development of a new 330 kV transmission line connecting the NSW and SA transmission networks (via Buronga substation) and upgrading the existing transmission line between Buronga substation and the NSW / Vic border. The land on which the project is constructed is within the Wentworth Shire
Proponent	Transgrid
Date	10 November 2023

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

I declare that

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

Notes:

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

Name of auditor Richard Peterson

Signature 

Qualification BE Civil, M Environmental Management

Company: Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd

