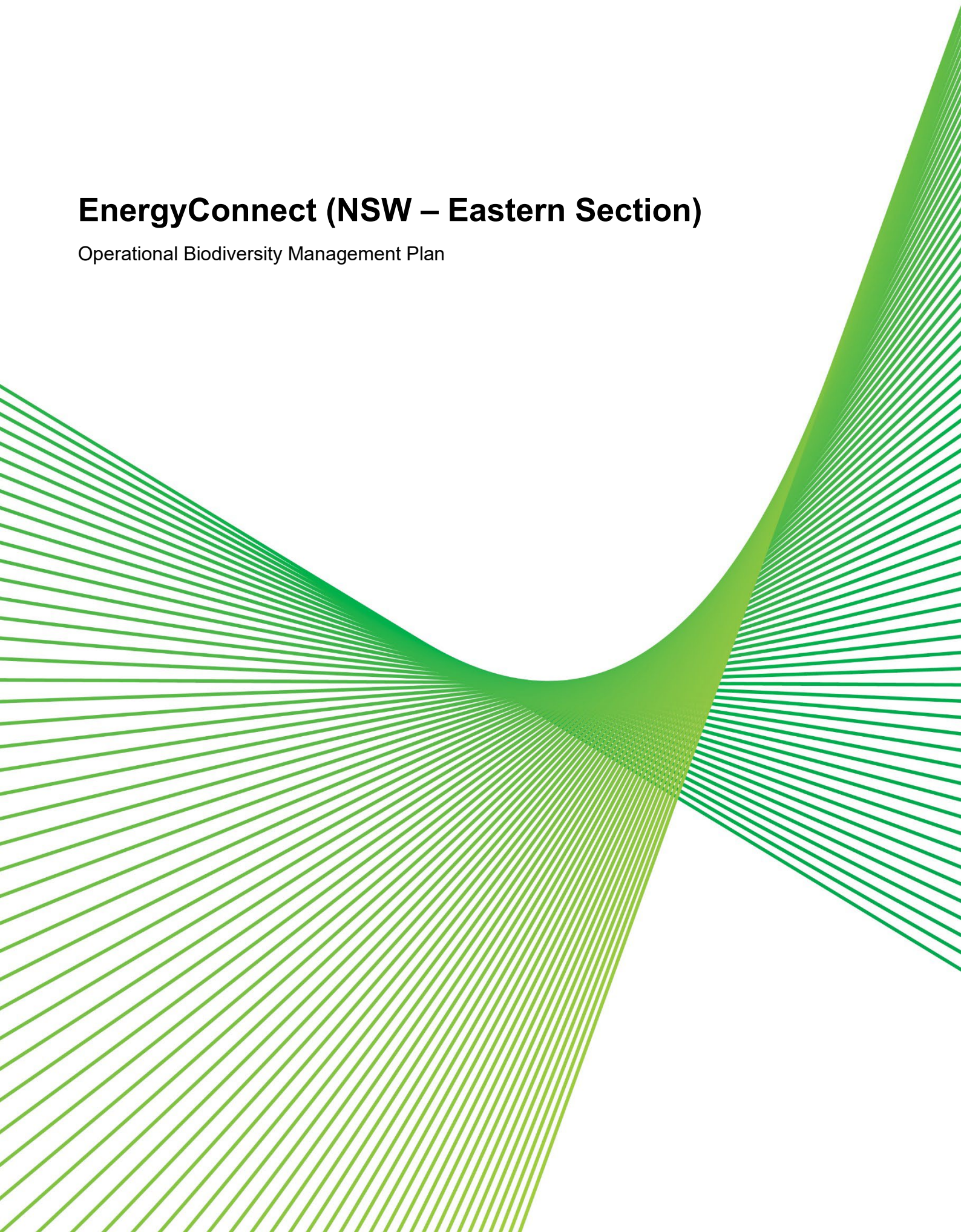
Transgrid

People. Power. Possibilities.

EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section)

Operational Biodiversity Management Plan



Contents

Glossary **5**

Abbreviations **6**

1. Introduction **7**

1.1. Project background 7
1.2. Context 7
1.3. Purpose 7
1.4. Objectives 9
1.5. Related documents to this OBMP 9

2. Environmental requirements **11**

2.1. Relevant legislation and guidelines 11
2.2. Conditions of approval and revised mitigation measures (RMMs) 12

3. Baseline information **16**

3.1. Transgrid Spatial System 16
3.2. Rehabilitation 16
3.3. Vegetation Integrity Monitoring 16

4. Biodiversity management **19**

4.1. Threatened species management 19
4.2. SBPZ Management 21
4.2.1. Special biodiversity protection zones (SBPZ) 21
4.3. Watercourse and wetland protection 22

5. Vegetation maintenance **24**

5.1. Vegetation management zones 24
5.2. Vegetation management activities 31
5.3. Vegetation environmental assessment 32
5.4. Vegetation management controls 34
5.5. Transgrid Environmental Management System 36

6. Ecological monitoring **40**

6.1. Paired BAM Plot Monitoring 40
6.1.1 Objective 40
6.1.2 Monitoring Design 40

6.1.4 Stratification of Monitoring Locations 41
6.1.5 Vegetation Monitoring Data Analysis 42
6.2. 6.1.6 Monitoring Schedule 43
6.3. Monitoring of nest boxes 43
6.3.1. Nest box monitoring methodology 43
6.4. Monitoring of glider poles 44
6.5. TARP 44
6.6. Summary of ecological monitoring requirements 46

7. Reporting and compliance 47
7.1. Biodiversity reporting considerations 47
7.2. Biodiversity non-conformance and incident response 48

8. Document review and update 50

9. References 51

Appendix A 54
A.1 South Olary Plain 54
A.2 Lachlan 56
A.3 Murrumbidgee 57
A.4 Lower Slopes 59
A.5 Inland Slopes 61

List of Tables

Table 1: Relevant conditions of approval and RMMs 12
Table 2: Summary vegetation integrity data of the sampled PCTs within the historically managed ETLs (WSP) 17
Table 3: Controls for threatened species management 19
Table 4: Operational Requirements for Special biodiversity Protection Zones (SPBZ) 21
Table 5: Controls for watercourse management 23
Table 6: Full clear area clearance requirements 25
Table 7: Partial clear area clearance requirements 26
Table 8: Summary of vegetation management zones and clearing requirements 31
Table 9: Vegetation management activities 31
Table 10: Environmental assessment activities 32
Table 11: Vegetation management methodologies 34
Table 12: Transgrid policies and procedures - operational phase 36

Table 13: Vegetation Classes 41
Table 14: Trigger Action Response Plan 44
Table 15: Summary of ecological monitoring requirements 46
Table 16: Biodiversity reporting considerations 47
Table 17: Biodiversity non-conformance and incident considerations 48
Table 18: Direct impacts on native vegetation and change in vegetation integrity within the South Olary Plain IBRA subregion for the B4 and B10 management zones (taken from Revised BDAR)..... 54
Table 19: Direct impacts on native vegetation and change in vegetation integrity within the Lachlan IBRA subregion for the B4 and B10 management zones (taken from Revised BDAR) 56
Table 20: Direct impacts on native vegetation and change in vegetation integrity within the Murrumbidgee IBRA subregion for the B4 and B10 management zones (taken from Revised BDAR)..... 57
Table 21: Direct impacts on native vegetation and change in vegetation integrity within the Lower Slopes IBRA subregion for the B4 and B10 management zones (taken from Revised BDAR)..... 59
Table 22: Direct impacts on native vegetation and change in vegetation integrity within the Inland Slopes IBRA subregion for the B4 and B10 management zones (taken from Revised BDAR)..... 61

List of figures

Figure 1-1 - Key features of EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section)..... 8
Figure 5-1 Elevation of the vegetation clearing requirements within 330 kV transmission line easement at tower locations 28
Figure 5-2 Elevation of the vegetation clearing requirements within 330 kV transmission line at mid-easement locations 28
Figure 5-3 Elevation of the vegetation clearing requirements within the 500 kV transmission line easement at tower locations 29
Figure 5-4 Elevation of the vegetation clearing requirements within the 500 kV transmission line easement at mid-easement locations 29
Figure 5-5: Connectivity Corridors 30

Document Control	
Document number	D2026/00404
Document description	Operational Biodiversity Management Plan (OBMP) Project Energy Connect (NSW Eastern section)
Document Approval Transgrid	Jared Lipton – Environment and Sustainability Manager Transgrid
Approver Signature	
Date of issue	8/10/26

Document Version History			
Version No.	Date	Version history	Reviewers
0.1	1/6/26	Draft to CPHR for initial review	Ben Coddington, Biodiversity Advisor – Approvals Luke Fania, Environment Delivery Manager – Major Projects (Class A and B) Jared Lipton, Environment and Sustainability Manager Andrew Scott, Senior Environmental Business Partner Megan Calvert, Senior Environmental Approvals Coordinator
0.2	31/7/26	Final draft updated to address CPHR comments	Ben Coddington, Biodiversity Advisor – Approvals Luke Fania, Environment Delivery Manager – Major Projects (Class A and B) Jared Lipton, Environment and Sustainability Manager Andrew Scott, Senior Environmental Business Partner Megan Calvert, Senior Environmental Approvals Coordinator

Glossary

Bed-level crossing	A bed-level crossing is a structured access point across a stream designed to sit level with the bed of the stream. Bed-level crossings are conducive to fish passage and typically applied to Class 3 and 4 order streams (where site conditions permit).
Centreline	The central (parallel) line of a transmission line corridor.
Centreline clearance	A centreline area of a transmission line permitted to incur full vegetation disturbance. Centreline clearance on EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) was represented as a 10 m wide strip for the 330 kV transmission line and 20 m wide strip for the 500 kV transmission line.
Connectivity corridors	Retained vegetation corridors to facilitate woodland connectivity.
Easement	The area of land specified by an easement right granted to Transgrid. The Transgrid easement width for EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) is 80 m for both the 330 kV and 500 kV transmission lines.
Environmental Guidance Note	Environmental Guidance Notes form part of Transgrid's *Environmental Assessment Framework* and mandate the minimum prescribed environmental mitigation measures / controls to be implemented for a range of activities and/or where specific environmental sensitivities are flagged.
Glider pole	An artificial pole structure designed to facilitate glider movements across the transmission line corridor.
Hazard tree (also known as a fall-in tree)	A tree, that if developing a structural defect, will have the potential to impact or come within vegetation clearance requirements of the transmission line or its structures (including guys and the like) should whole or parts of the tree fall. The potential to impact is calculated at maximum conductor sag. Vegetation off and on easement is visually assessed by a competent person.
Maximum line operating conditions	The maximum sag and blowout conditions for a transmission line conductor. The maximum sag will occur with maximum line current load on a still hot day that relates to the line rating available for use by Transgrid System Operators, and the maximum sway that will occur at high wind conditions.
Nest box	A manufactured enclosed nesting shelter designed to provide fauna a private and safe space for breeding, raising young provides shelter for some fauna species.
Transmission line tower pad	A localised area (footprint) around a transmission line tower within which construction or operational activities are permitted to take place.
Vegetation Clearance Requirements	Transgrid's minimum vegetation clearance required to conductors and structures under various line operating conditions. It is the sum of minimum safe approach distance and regrowth allowance identified by an appropriately qualified person.
Work packs	Documentation and reports required to be prepared under Transgrid's Environmental Management System (EMS)

Abbreviations

APZs	asset protection zones
BAM	*NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020*
BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
BMP	*PECe Biodiversity Management Plan Rev 5 (45860-HSE-PL-D-0117)*
COA	conditions of approval
CPHR	Conservation Programs, Heritage, and Regulation Group of DCCEEW
Cth DCCEEW	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water
EAF	*Environmental Assessment Framework*
EDDA	*Ecological Due Diligence Assessment*
EP&A Act	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
IVM	integrated vegetation management
OBMP	Operational Biodiversity Management Plan
POEO Act	*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
RMM	revised mitigation measures
SBPZs	special biodiversity protection zones
SSI	State significant infrastructure
TEC	threatened ecological community
TPZs	tree protection zones
TS Sheets	threatened species information sheets
TSS	Transgrid's Spatial System (Viewer) and/or application
VCR	Vegetation Clearing Requirements
VI	vegetation integrity
VI(O)	operational phase (validation) monitoring
WM Act	*Water Management Act 2000*

1. Introduction

This chapter provides an overview and background to EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) (the project), and the context, purpose and objectives of the Operational Biodiversity Management Plan (OBMP).

1.1. Project background

EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) (the project) involves the construction and operation of around 375 kilometres of new 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line infrastructure and around 160 kilometres of 500kV transmission line infrastructure between Buronga and Wagga Wagga. The project also includes the new Dinawan substation and upgrades to the existing Wagga Wagga 330 kV substation to integrate the transmission line. Further project background information is provided in Chapter 1 of the *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy.*

1.2. Context

Transgrid are required to provide 'operation vegetation management protocols' under condition C26(a)(viii) for the project. This OBMP has been prepared to address this requirement and advise how other biodiversity management considerations will integrate into the operation of the infrastructure.

Condition A8 allows preparation of plans on a staged basis, with the approval of the Planning Secretary. On 20 January 2023, the Planning Secretary approved a request under condition A8 to stage the development and prepare the required and associated strategies, plans, programs and reports on a staged basis. The staging approach included three (3) stages, with Stages 1 and 2 covering construction activities which are now complete. Stage 3 covers all activities associated with the post-construction period, including operating and maintaining the infrastructure. Any future upgrading (Stage 4) and decommissioning (Stage 5) will require an Environmental Management Plan that will be approved by DPHI.

As per the approved staging approach, Transgrid has prepared this plan for Stage 3 in accordance with conditions B1, B2 and C26 that addresses the operational phase of the project. Clearing was completed in April of 2026 on PEC East.

1.3. Purpose

The purpose of the OBMP is to guide how biodiversity outcomes will be achieved and how retained vegetation will be managed for the life of the asset for all operational activities. This OBMP enables maintenance to be conducted in a manner that satisfies the requirements of Transgrid's operating licence, objectives of Transgrid's Environmental Management System (EMS) and Transgrid's Asset Management System (AMS). This is an operational document to be used by Transgrid and engaged contractors and must be kept consistent with data represented spatially within Transgrid's Spatial System.

This OBMP utilised in conjunction with the Stage 3 Environmental Strategy for the project and is intended to be supplementary to the environmental requirements detailed within. To be effective, the OBMP must be consistent with Transgrid's Environmental Assessment Framework (EAF) and Transgrid's Environmental Management System detailed within the Stage 3 Environmental Strategy.

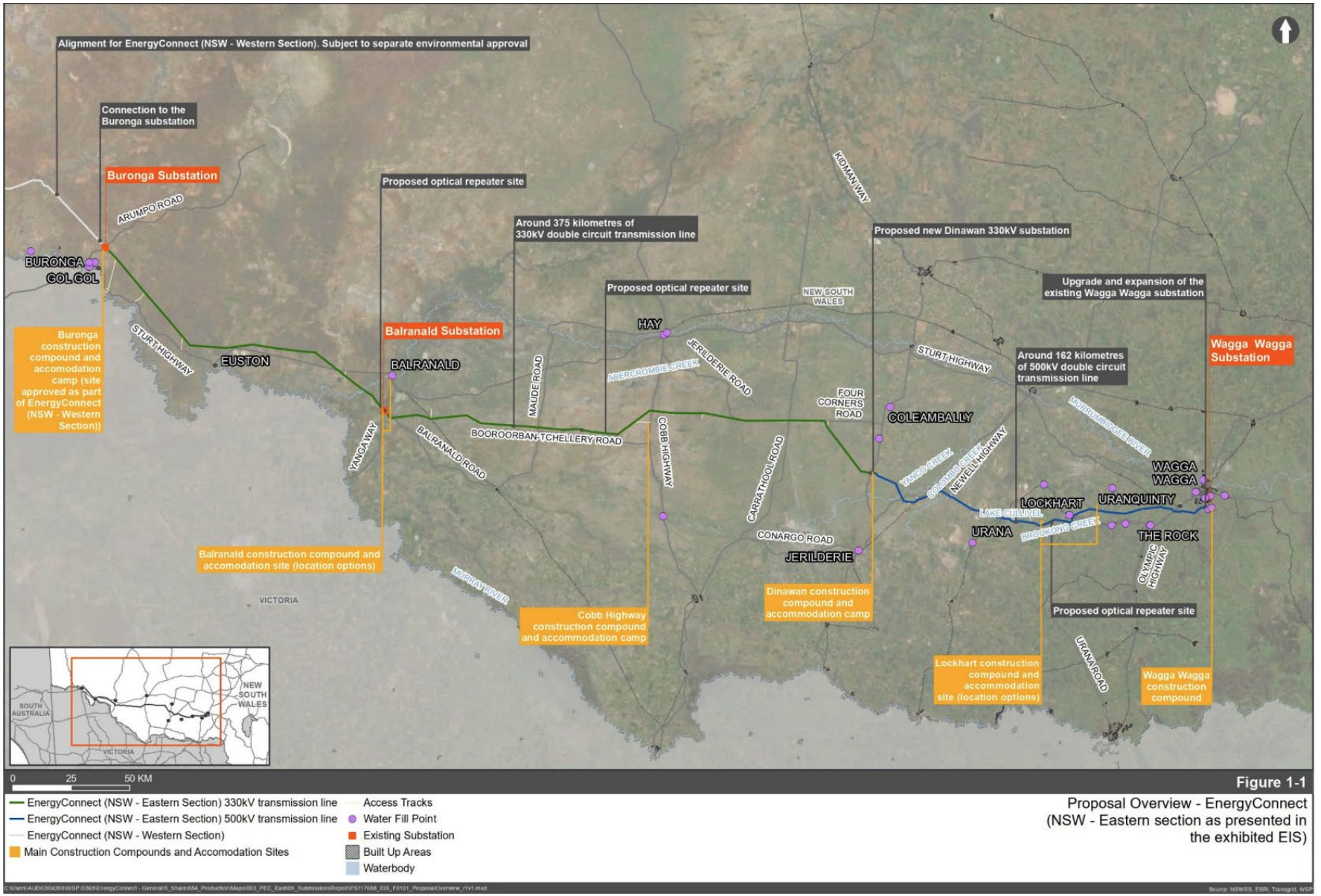


Figure 1-1 - Key features of EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section)

1.4. Objectives

Objectives of this OBMP include:

- Provide a strategy for transitioning biodiversity requirements from construction to Stage 3 (operations).
- Ensure biodiversity outcomes are achieved through clear procedures, monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management.
- Support integration of spatial biodiversity data into Transgrid systems.
- Maintain native vegetation condition within the easement in accordance with the predicted post clearing vegetation integrity (VI) scores assessed in the BDAR.
- Maintain Transgrid's Vegetation Clearing Requirements (VCR) in Transgrid procedures.

1.5. Related documents to this OBMP

This OBMP is linked to the following documents that provide baseline information, mitigation and management measures and assessment frameworks relevant to the OBMP:

- EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) Environmental Impact Statement and Amendment Report
- EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) Stage 3 Environmental Strategy
- Transgrid's Environmental Assessment Framework
- Transgrid's Environmental Management System
- Transgrid's Environmental Handbook
- Transgrid's Ecological Due Diligence Assessment (EDDA) procedures
- Transgrid's Use of Pesticides
- Transgrid's Schedule of Approved Pesticides
- Relevant Threatened Species Information Sheets
- Special protection biodiversity zone and biodiversity exclusion zones included

Transgrid's Environmental Guidance Notes including:

- Environmental Guidance Note – Flora/Fauna, Ecological Communities and Sensitive Habitats
- Environmental Guidance Note – Habitat Trees
- Environmental Guidance Note – Biosecurity
- Environmental Guidance Note – Transport of Harmful Material and Spill Response
- Environmental Guidance Note – Pesticide Application and Storage
- Environmental Guidance Note – Access and Work Mandatory Environmental Controls
- Environmental Guidance Note – Bird Nest Removal
- Environmental Guidance Note – Wombat Holes
- Environmental Guidance Note – Working near Watercourses
- Environmental Guidance Note – Regulated Land
- Environmental Guidance Note – Plains Wanderer
- Environmental Guidance Note – Connectivity Corridors
- Environmental Guidance Note – Project EnergyConnect Approved Impact and Maintenance Areas NSW

Transgrid's Maintenance Plans including:

- Maintenance Plan – Easement and Access Tracks (D2003/2398)
- Maintenance Plan – Substation Assets (D2003/2312)
- Maintenance Plan – Network Property (D2017/01447)

2. Environmental requirements

2.1. Relevant legislation and guidelines

Relevant legislation for this OBMP include:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)
- Biosecurity Act 2015
- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Local Land Services Act 2013
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act)
- Water Management Act 2000 (WM Act)

Relevant external guidelines for this OBMP include:

- NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 (BAM) (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) and associated guidelines
- Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land (Department of Planning and Environment, 2022)
- Guidelines for watercourse crossings on waterfront land (Department of Planning and Environment, 2022)
- Guidelines for controlled activities on waterfront land (Natural Resources Access Regulator 2025)
- New South Wales Weed Control Handbook – A guide to weed control in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations Edition 8 (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Biosecurity, 2025)
- Guideline for Artificial Hollows - For private land conservation agreements (NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, 2020)
- Restoring Native Vegetation - Guidelines for assisted regeneration and revegetation (NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, 2019)
- Protecting and Managing Biodiversity on Transport for NSW Projects (Transport for NSW, 2024)
- Guidelines for Biological Survey and Mapped Data (2018)
- Guide to Providing Maps and Boundary Data for EPBC Act projects (2021)
- Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2023)
- Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (NSW Fisheries, 2003)
- Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat and Conservation and Management (NSW Fisheries, 2013)
- Salinity Training Manual (DPI, 2014) and Book 4 Dryland Salinity: Productive use of Saline Land and Water (NSW DECC, 2008)
- AS4373: Pruning of Amenity Trees
- AS4970: Protection of Trees on Development Sites Habitat.

2.2. Conditions of approval and revised mitigation measures (RMMs)

This OBMP has been prepared in accordance with the Infrastructure Approval, Commonwealth Approval and Revised Mitigation Measures identified in the Amendment Report. Table 2-1 sets out the key conditions and RMMs relating to the operational requirements for biodiversity.

Table 1: Relevant conditions of approval and RMMs

Reference	Requirement	Consideration(s) applied	Where complied / considered
COA C18	The Proponent must ensure: (a) all activities on waterfront land are constructed in accordance with the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (2012), Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (NSW Fisheries 2003) and the Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat and Conservation and Management (NSW Fisheries, 2013) unless DPE Water agrees otherwise (b) the geomorphic condition of the major rivers and distributary channels crossed by the development is not impacted.	Fish passage requirements are included in this OEMP to ensure this requirement is met in operations. Works within watercourses are managed via permit or controlled activity approval	Section 4.3 of this OBMP Chapter 5 of the Stage 3 Environmental Strategy
COA C23	Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must: (a) ensure that clearing does not exceed the limits identified in Appendix 2 (b) minimise: (i) the impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees (ii) the impacts of the development on threatened flora and fauna populations (iii) the clearing of native vegetation and key habitat.	Adherence to clearing limits through the TSS GIS system, vegetation integrity outcomes and flora/fauna mitigations have been included in the OBMP	Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 of this OBMP
COA C26	The Biodiversity EMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must be prepared in accordance with the *Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report* (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 loss of key fauna habitat, including tree hollows (iv) minimising the impacts on fauna on site, 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	Defined by the Staging Report as applicable to Stage 3; the Stage 3 Environmental Strategy and this OBMP that considers: a)(i) measures for biodiversity mitigation to COA C23; a)(ii) measures for minimising native vegetation clearing a)(iii) measures for minimising fauna habitat loss a)(iv) measures for minimising fauna impacts and undertaking pre-clearing checks a)(v) measures for minimising indirect impacts on threatened,	This OBMP Chapter 4 Chapter 5 Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 Chapter 4 Chapter 4

Official

Reference	Requirement	Consideration(s) applied	Where complied / considered
	(vii) avoiding and minimising impacts on Serious and Irreversible Impact (SAII) (viii) construction clearing and operation vegetation management protocols (ix) monitoring of 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) maximising the salvage of resources within the approved disturbance area – including vegetative and soil resources – for beneficial reuse (such as fauna habitat enhancement) during the rehabilitation and restoration of the site (xii) a Connectivity Strategy and a Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy (xiii) controlling weeds (xiv) controlling erosion (xv) bushfire management; (b) a detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures.	migratory and 'at risk' flora & fauna a)(vi) measures for rehabilitating and restoring disturbance to its pre-existing condition a)(vii) avoiding impacts on Serious and Irreversible Impact (SAII); a)(viii) clearing and operation vegetation management protocols; a)(ix) monitoring of partial clearing to inform any improvements a)(x) measures for protecting native vegetation and key fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance area a)(xi) maximising the salvage of resources a)(xii) a Connectivity Strategy and a Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy a)(xiii) measures for controlling weeds a)(xiv) measures for controlling erosion; and a)(xv) bushfire management measures b) a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures.	Chapter 4 Chapter 4 Chapter 5 Chapter 5 Chapter 5 Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 Section 6.2 and 6.3 Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 Chapter 5 of this OBMP and Chapter 5 of the *Stage 3 Environment Strategy* Chapter 6
EPBC 1	To minimise the impacts of the action on protected matters, the approval holder must not, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, clear more than: (a) 34.89 ha of White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (b) 17.56 ha of Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia (c) 101.83 ha Weeping Myall Woodlands	Clearing limits met and validated during construction, and VI will be monitored into operations. Clearing limit tracking in operations only potentially required on new, previously unimpacted vegetation	Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 of this OBMP

Reference	Requirement	Consideration(s) applied	Where complied / considered
	(d) 62.47 ha Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains (e) 132.18 ha of habitat for Mossgiel Daisy (f) 144.71 ha of habitat for Chariot Wheels (g) 241.99 ha of habitat for Slender Darling Pea.		
EPBC 2	The approval holder must not clear outside the Biodiversity Study Area unless either or both of the following are met: (a) such clearing is limited to locations with no habitat of protected matters. (b) such clearing is limited to locations required to facilitate minor design or access adjustments, such as access points, minor access tracks and water supply points, and only as allowable under the State Infrastructure Approval; and (i) a suitably qualified expert undertakes surveys of proposed clearing that supports the approval holder to verify that the total extent of clearing for the Action will not exceed the limits specified in condition 1 of this approval, and (i) all clearing is offset in accordance with the requirements of condition 8 of this approval, and iii) assessment records are submitted to the Department prior to the clearing occurring.	Operational clearing activities defined by standard vegetation practices, information packages and spatial information systems to prevent clearing beyond existing biodiversity study area.	Chapter 5 of this OBMP
RMM B12	In circumstances where a tree that would exceed the vegetation clearing requirements is identified within one of the biodiversity conservation zones relating to the Plains-wanderer habitat areas then this tree would be subject to removal to ground level (i.e. tree height cut back but root ball to be retained in place) using methods that minimise potential impact to key habitat and to ensure avoidance of impact to bird individuals. This would occur under supervision of an ecologist.	Specific protocols around the removal of trees that infringe of VCRs is detailed in the Plains-wanderer protocol. Trimming and removal of violation risk to be considered, prior to full removal.	Chapter 5 of this OBMP Chapter 5 of the Stage 3 Environmental Strategy Environmental Guidance Note - Plains Wander
RMM B13	A Plains-wanderer specific protocol would be developed to ensure that all project staff are aware of the sensitivities around this critically endangered species and to ensure that all specific requirements in relation to protection, avoidance, management, and observation of individual Plains-wanderers are considered, in association with BCD staff. This protocol will be implemented during all proposal activities in Plains- wanderer habitat.	Stage 2 protocol revised to address operational risks.	Chapter 4 of this OBMP Chapter 5 of the *Stage 3 Environmental* Strategy *Environmental Guidance Note - Plains Wander*
RMM B20	Features of high biodiversity conservation significance within the operational easement, including biodiversity exclusions zones identified during construction and retained habitat for threatened species, would be recorded in Transgrid's GIS. The GIS information will be reviewed during the planning of all maintenance or other future activities that could cause disturbance.	Post-construction data to be reviewed by project Environment staff and Transgrid spatial team to ensure all associated environmental risks/constraints are adequately captured in spatial risk reports.	Chapter 4 of this OBMP Chapter 5 of the *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy*

Reference	Requirement	Consideration(s) applied	Where complied / considered
RMM B21	Develop and implement guidelines and procedures for operation and maintenance of the proposal that address the following: • vegetation clearing and maintenance commitments in the BDAR and EIS • avoiding access and disturbance in biodiversity exclusion zones identified during the construction • avoiding access and disturbance in areas of high biodiversity conservation significance; and • avoiding maintenance of vegetation that does not need to be maintained during operation. Provide training to relevant Transgrid operational personnel and vegetation maintenance contractors regarding the operational and maintenance guidelines and procedures.	This document provides detail on how these commitments will be managed through operations. Training and authorisation of staff and contractors	Chapter 5 of this OBMP Chapter 5 of the *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy* *Section 4.2 of the Stage 3 Environmental Strategy*

3. Baseline information

All biodiversity information collected during the EIS and construction phase forms the baseline dataset for ongoing operational management. This includes flora and fauna survey results, threatened species polygons, habitat mapping, ecological constraints, and any offsets or restoration data.

Access to these datasets is maintained through Transgrid's central document management and spatial systems (refer to Section 3.1), ensuring continuity between project phases.

Transgrid also maintains detailed Threatened Species Information Sheets (TS Sheets).

- threatened ecological communities (TEC) that could be impacted during operational activities
- threatened flora and fauna that could be impacted during operational activities
- Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) that could be impacted during operational activities.

3.1. Transgrid Spatial System

Transgrid's Spatial System is a geospatial system that contains information on transmission lines, transmission structures, easement and land tenures, environmental information, cultural sensitivities, bushfire prone land, property/land/stakeholder owner details, access details and other information. The information is viewed by authorised Transgrid employees via a web portal and/or application known as TSS.

Vegetation management zones for the project will be represented spatially in the TSS to clearly designate full clear areas and partial clear areas for vegetation management and maintenance during operation. The TSS will also contain spatial information of all known threatened species locations (such as TECs and threatened flora and fauna), sensitive habitats (such as rivers, creeks, wetlands and riparian vegetation) and SPBZs. This information is the basis for environmental assessment in the EAF process (detailed in the *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy*).

3.2. Rehabilitation

For two years post construction the Principal Contractor is responsible for fixing any rehabilitation failures associated with construction activities (defects per the contract). Operational field inspections will identify such failures and the Principal Contractor will be promptly informed to correct the failure(s).

Activities related to Transgrid's operational or maintenance works might also trigger site rehabilitation or restoration requirements. Such measures may range from the application of simple restorative measures to more complex rehabilitation initiatives. In the event that such outcomes are required, Transgrid will follow processes detailed in the EAF and in accordance with rehabilitation outcomes previously adhered to in the construction phase to ensure all environmental sensitivities are assessed and appropriate mitigation measures are adopted.

3.3. Vegetation Integrity Monitoring

Vegetation monitoring was undertaken in July 2025 for the post-construction assessment of partial vegetation impacts. The assessment reviewed the biodiversity impact assumptions previously adopted in the approved Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) and examined how partial vegetation

clearing within transmission line easement maintenance areas aligns with the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM).

Activities undertaken included consultation regarding the assessment approach, development of an evidence-based methodology, selection of representative survey sites, and completion of paired vegetation integrity surveys within recently constructed transmission line easements and adjacent remnant vegetation.

A total of 44 BAM plots across 13 Plant Community Types (PCTs) were surveyed within the project area, together with 10 additional plots within historically managed transmission line easements. Field investigations involved collecting vegetation composition, structure and function data, calculating vegetation integrity scores in accordance with the BAM, comparing partial impact areas with paired control sites, analysing vegetation formations across multiple IBRA subregions, reviewing data from other transmission line projects, and evaluating observed changes in biodiversity attributes against the assumptions used in the approved BDAR.

The results are as follows:

Table 2: Summary vegetation integrity data of the sampled PCTs within the historically managed ETLs (WSP)

Vegetation Formation	IBRA Subregion	Method	Composition condition score	Structure condition score	Function condition score	VI Score	VI Change %
Grassy woodlands	Inland Slopes	Remnant	82.1	78.8	67.2	74.9	n/a
		Partial Impact	74.5	58.8	25.2	47.2	37.0
		30% reduction	63.7	50.8	18.3	37.7	49.6
Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)	Hunter	Remnant	80.9	48.3	68.7	60.8	n/a
		Partial Impact	71.1	27.3	17.4	32.2	47.1
		30% reduction	64.8	22.2	18.7	29.2	52.0
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (Grass Sub-formation)	Wyong	Remnant	69.6	54.0	64.9	62.3	n/a
		Partial Impact	78.9	45.8	39.0	51.3	17.6
		30% reduction	48.7	37.8	45.4	43.6	30.0
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (Shrubby Sub-formation)	Wyong	Remnant	86.8	65.3	66.9	72.4	n/a
		Average Partial Impact	75.2	39.1	52.2	53.5	18.9
		30% reduction	60.8	45.7	46.8	50.7	21.7

Vegetation Formation	IBRA Subregion	Method	Composition condition score	Structure condition score	Function condition score	VI Score	VI Change %
Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrub/grass sub-formation)	Hunter	Remnant	81.8	55.7	55.5	63.2	n/a
		Average Partial Impact	61.4	50.7	17.9	38.2	25.0
		30% reduction	57.3	39.0	38.9	44.2	19.0

Further information on the VI monitoring can be found in Appendix A.

Subsequent monitoring was scheduled for September 2026, but it has been delayed due to access issues due to rain. It is currently scheduled for October 2026.

4. Biodiversity management

4.1. Threatened species management

This OBMP manages the operational impacts associated with areas assessed as having high biodiversity value or specific requirements from the EIS or Infrastructure Approval and include:

- TECs
- threatened flora species
- threatened fauna species
- SPBZs
- threatened aquatic species and communities
- migratory species

These values require ongoing operational management to ensure compliance with the BC Act, EPBC Act and Transgrid's infrastructure approval obligations (refer to Section 2.2).

Transgrid maintains detailed Threatened Species Information Sheets (TS Sheets) and Guidance Notes to support field staff and contractors to ensure bespoke mitigations are considered and addressed throughout operations. Work teams are provided training (refer to Chapter 4 of the *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy*) and induction (refer to the EAF) regarding the management of biodiversity aspects/constraints (such as Plains Wanderer Habitat protocols).

These TS Sheets and Guidance Notes include:

- distribution and local records (including populations recorded along access tracks or tower spans)
- identification features (to assist field staff in recognising species or TEC's)
- habitat and ecological requirements (e.g., soil, vegetation structure, breeding ecology)
- mitigation measures (tailored to each species).

Controls for threatened species, ecological communities, and sensitive habitats are guided by the *Environmental Guidance Note – Flora/Fauna, Ecological Communities and Sensitive Habitats*. Minimum requirements are outlined in Table 4-1 and are included in the relevant work packs.

Table 3: Controls for threatened species management

Issue	Minimum requirements	Relevant Environmental Guidance Note
Mapping and work plans	All known threatened species locations and sensitive habitats will be shown on work plans and TSS.	• *Environmental Guidance Notes – Special Protection Biodiversity Zones*
Delineation and exclusion	Threatened species and habitats (including hollow-bearing trees, logs, swamps, rocky areas) will be flagged, barricaded or tagged. Dead trees and hollow logs will be retained unless they pose a safety or operational risk.	• *Environmental Guidance Notes – Special Protection Biodiversity Zones*
Timing of works	Where species or TECs are sensitive during breeding, nesting, or flowering seasons, works will be scheduled outside these periods.	• *Relevant TS Sheets*

Issue	Minimum requirements	Relevant Environmental Guidance Note
Restricted clearing	Selective or partial clearing within TECs and known threaten species locations will be applied in accordance with approvals (refer to Chapter 5 (Vegetation maintenance) for detailed vegetation maintenance and management controls).	• *Environmental Guidance Notes – Special Protection Biodiversity Zones*
Other biodiversity management restrictions	Vegetation maintenance and management will be completed in accordance with controls in Chapter 4 (Biodiversity management) and Chapter 5 (Vegetation maintenance) of this OBMP.	• *Environmental Guidance Notes – Special Protection Biodiversity Zones*
Habitat trees	Trees within the easement will be inspected prior to pruning or felling to identify potential fauna.	• *Environmental Guidance Note – Habitat Trees*
Biosecurity	Weed hygiene and biosecurity protocols will be implemented as well as active management of weeds where required.	• *Environmental Guidance Note – Biosecurity* • *Environmental Guidance Note – Pesticide Application and Storage*
Chemical use and transport	Chemicals will be transported in a safe and contained manner, using chemicals and herbicides in a prescribed way, and initiating spill response and cleanup when required.	• *Environmental Guidance Note – Transport of Harmful Material and Spill Response* • *Environmental Guidance Note – Pesticide Application and Storage*
Vehicle impacts	Access tracks will be used and speed will be limited while on site.	• *Environmental Guidance Note – Access and Work Mandatory Environmental Controls*
Bird nest removal and management	Nest inactivity will be determined prior to removal and management of any bird nests.	• *Environmental Guidance Note – Bird Nest Removal*
Wombat hole management	Deterrents to wombat holes will be applied or inactivity will be confirmed before impacting on a wombat burrow.	• *Environmental Guidance Note – Wombat Holes*
Aquatic protections	Natural flows in drainage lines will be maintained, disturbance of riparian vegetation will be avoided and coarse woody debris in aquatic environments will be retained.	• Environmental Guidance Note – *Working* Near Watercourses
Nest box monitoring and maintenance	Monitoring of nest boxes installed during construction will continue for a three year period (refer to Section 6.2)	• Section 6.2
Glider pole maintenance	Monitoring of glider poles installed during construction will continue (refer to Section 6.3).	• *EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) Glider Pole Strategy – Connectivity Corridors*
Connectivity corridor retention	Connectivity corridors, to aide threatened fauna movements across the transmission line corridor were	• *EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) Glider*

Issue	Minimum requirements	Relevant Environmental Guidance Note
	established during construction and will be maintained during operation.	*Pole Strategy – Connectivity Corridors* • *Retained vegetation corridors*

4.2. SBPZ Management

TS Sheets detailing specific requirements that need to be achieved for key species and habitats for selected flora, fauna and TECs are maintained in Transgrid's EMS..

In addition, an Environmental Guidance Note for SPBZs applies to specific operational areas having specific environmental entry requirements, such as those maintained during construction (e.g. 'no-go' zones). These include additional considerations to be applied when working in these areas of high biodiversity conservation significance, like entry permit requirements, ecological pre-work assessments and/or ecological supervision.

4.2.1. Special biodiversity protection zones (SBPZ)

Special biodiversity protection zones have been identified by revised mitigation measures B22, B23, B24 and B26 at the following locations and for the following species, Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) and/or Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs):

- between towers 161-162* (Austral Pillwort);
- between towers 660-663* (Thyme Rice-flower);
- between towers 241-242* (Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains TEC); and
- between towers 243-249* (PVP H114).

Table 4: Operational Requirements for Special biodiversity Protection Zones (SPBZ)

SBPZ	Operational Requirements • Operational activities must be undertaken to avoid impacts to known individuals and minimise impact as far as practicable to the known habitat, including:
Thyme Rice Flower (*Pimelea serpyllifolia subsp. Serpyllifolia*) Habitat Between TL 6H/6G Towers 660-662.	• A pre-clearing inspection by an E5 Authorised person for areas where any vegetation disturbance is proposed outside of the tower footprint and access track areas and clearly mark all Thyme Rice-flower individuals[2], • An E3 Supervisor must be on site at all times to ensure locations of Thyme Rice Flower individuals are not impacted, • A pre-works induction of all contractors that work in this area to discuss the special biodiversity protection zone requirements, • Access by vehicles and mobile plant must remain on the as constructed access track alignments and tower footprint areas, and • Management of vegetation encroaching on safe electrical clearance must be done by hand (excluding tower footprints and access tracks).
Austral Pilwort (*Pilularia novaehollandiae*) Habitat. Between TL 6J/6L Towers 161-162.	• A pre-clearing inspection by an E5 Authorised person for areas where any vegetation disturbance is proposed outside of the tower footprint and access track areas and clearly mark all individuals[2], • An E3 Supervisor must be on site at all times to ensure locations of known individuals are not impacted,

SBPZ	Operational Requirements • Operational activities must be undertaken to avoid impacts to known individuals and minimise impact as far as practicable to the known habitat, including:
	• A pre-works induction of all contractors that work in this area to discuss the special biodiversity protection zone requirements, • Access by vehicles and mobile plant must remain on the as constructed access track alignments and tower footprint areas, and • Management of vegetation encroaching on safe electrical clearance must be done by hand (excluding tower footprints and access tracks).
Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains. Between TL 6J/6L Towers 242 and 249.	• An E3 Supervisor must be on site at all times to ensure areas of natural grassland are not impacted, • A pre-works induction of all contractors that work in this area to discuss the special biodiversity protection zone requirements, • Access by vehicles and mobile plant must remain on the as constructed access track alignments and tower footprint areas, and • Management of vegetation encroaching on safe electrical clearance must be done by hand (excluding tower footprints and access tracks).
Plains Wanderer Habitat	• A pre-impact inspection by an E5 Authorised person for areas where any activities or disturbance is proposed outside of the approved tower footprint and access track for the presence of Plains Wanderer; • An E3 Supervisor must be on site at all times to ensure Plains Wanderer Habitat outside approved areas is not impacted; • A pre-works induction of all staff/contractors that work in these areas to discuss the Plain Wanderer Habitat requirements; • Access by vehicles and mobile plant must remain on the approved access track alignment and tower footprint areas; • Any management of vegetation encroaching on safe electrical clearance must be done by hand (excluding tower footprints and access tracks); and • If any activities other than pedestrian access for inspection within PWH is required, an Ecologist must be present to inspect Plain Wanderer Habitat prior and during works.

-

4.3. Watercourse and wetland protection

Requirements and controls for protecting watercourses, wetlands, and riparian zones during operational activities aim to minimise impacts to aquatic ecosystems, maintain water quality, ensure regulatory compliance, and align with Transgrid's EMS, Environmental Handbook, Transgrid's *Environmental Guidance Note – Working Near Watercourses* and *Ecological Due Diligence Assessment* (EDDA) procedures.

Operational activities in or near watercourses and wetlands will not require approval under Section 89, 90 or 91 of the *Water Management Act 2000* or Section 201, 205 or 219 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* as the project is declared CSSI. Transgrid holds a state-wide permit (PN21/206, extended to October 2027) for minor works, dredging, reclamation, and temporary obstruction of fish passage.

Relevant requirements of the EDDA procedures include:

- activities are to be classified as negligible, low, or moderate risk under the EAF;
- an ecological specialist may be engaged where moderate to high risk of harm to aquatic habitats or threatened species is identified

- screening the location for sensitive habitats (such as rivers, creeks, wetlands and riparian vegetation) in the TSS
- where works involve ground disturbance, vegetation removal, or occur in/near watercourses and wetlands a desktop or field assessment may be required.

Where access tracks will be retained, upgraded or new works applied at watercourse crossings that require fish passage, activities will be compliant with the guidelines indicated in Section 2.1. This may include the application of bed-level and/or augmented crossings conducive to fish passage.

Minimum requirements while working near watercourses are outlined in Table 4-2 (taken from Transgrid's *Environmental Guidance Note – Working Near Watercourses)* and are included in the relevant work packs.

Table 5: Controls for watercourse management

Activity	Controls
Earthworks and access	• conduct instream works during periods of low or no flow • maintain erosion and sediment controls consistent with Blue Book best practice (such as silt fences, coir logs and/or sediment basins).
Vegetation management in riparian zones	• avoid clearing vegetation below the top of bank • retain all tree stumps ≥500 mm high when clearing below the bank to maintain bank stability • do not poison or remove riparian trees/stumps • protected riparian areas are subject to a 15 m clearance limit from the outer conductor; refer to the *Regulated Land Guidance Note* for procedures.
Pesticide and chemical use	• conduct a field risk assessment before applying pesticides within 20 m of waterways • prohibit pesticide spraying across waterbodies and avoid detergent-based surfactants use only Transgrid-approved pesticides, consistent with the TG Procedure D2009/09991 – Use of Pesticides and TG Procedure D2009/11103 – Schedule of Approved Pesticides • ensure oils, fuels, and chemicals are handled and stored away from drains and waterways, with bunding and spill kits available.
Water discharge and dewatering	• water discharges must comply with Transgrid's Environmental Handbook criteria: - pH 6.5 - 8.5 - TSS < 50 mg/L (or < 60NTU field turbidity) - No Visible oil, grease, vegetative matter, or trash • follow Transgrid's dewatering work instructions; obtain laboratory testing for large discharges • dispose of contaminated or non-compliant water through licensed tankers.

5. Vegetation maintenance

Vegetation maintenance activities are critical to ensuring the ongoing safe and reliable operation of Transgrid's assets while protecting biodiversity values within and adjacent to operational areas. This section outlines the strategies, processes, and controls applied to manage vegetation during operation of the project that are consistent with Transgrid's environmental procedures, biodiversity commitments, and legislative requirements.

Vegetation maintenance is required by Transgrid procedures to mitigate vegetation risk contacting the transmission line resulting in asset failure, reliability incident, bushfire incident, safety incident, they are:

- Maintenance Plan – Easements and Access tracks (D2003/2398):

- The Vegetation Clearance Requirements (VCR) is to be applied under the following circumstances to prevent vegetation encroachment (blow-in, grow-in, fall-in) within VCR to avoid contact with the transmission line, potential arcing and threat of bushfire ignition.
  The application of the VCR in the maintenance activities is outlined below:

> Cyclic easement inspection and condition-based maintenance completed in the same financial year. The VCR is applied at time of easement inspection to identify the vegetation to be managed during the current cycle of the condition-based maintenance. Vegetation that impacts the safety of Transgrid staff, vegetation blocking safe access to easement and structures, vegetation blocking signage on the structure or on easement, and vegetation affecting the aerial inspection of the transmission lines are managed during the condition-based maintenance. The method of vegetation management is selected to prevent vegetation encroaching within the VCR in between cycles.
> Identifying the canopies for inspection of Hazard Trees is done by applying the VCR to the maximum sag position of the conductor. Inspection of the canopies is performed to identify Hazard Trees for management. A 5-yearly cycle of hazard tree inspection is performed across the network.
> Yearly LiDAR of the network to identify and manage vegetation encroachments within VCR in preparation for bushfire danger period in NSW and ACT. The VCR is applied to various transmission line operating conditions to complete desktop identification of vegetation encroachment within VCR. These vegetation encroachments are prioritised for site validation and vegetation management such that high risk vegetation encroachments are managed before the start of the bushfire danger period. Ground inspections is performed at locations when LiDAR could not be used, which rarely occurs.

- Access tracks are maintained, including the removal of vegetation along the access track, to enable safe access to the easement and structures to complete the above maintenance activities and transmission line maintenance activities.

- Maintenance Plan – Substation assets (D2003/2312)
- Maintenance Plan – Network Property (D2017/01447)
- Environmental Assessment Framework (EAF) - NSW (D2016/00985)
- Preparation and approval of environmental checklists (D2016/08426)
- Relevant Environmental Guidance Notes

5.1. Vegetation management zones

Vegetation management will be structured around defined vegetation management zones approved under Infrastructure Approval SSI-9172452. These zones establish management boundaries for vegetation

clearing and retention to ensure compliance with Transgrid's minimum vegetation clearance requirements, biodiversity commitments, and operational safety standards. Two primary categories of management zones are applied:

- **full clear areas (Disturbance Area A)** – where vegetation is permitted to be removed to ground level to maintain safe operational clearances and ensure compliance with statutory requirements (such as substation asset protection zones (APZs), transmission line tower pads and centreline clearance) (refer to Table 5-1)
- **partial clear areas (Disturbance Area B)** – that allows for selective vegetation retention while ensuring compliance with minimum vegetation clearance requirements for operational safety (such as inner maintenance areas, outer maintenance areas, connectivity corridors, areas of high biodiversity conservation significance and hazard tree zones) (refer to Table 5-2).

The locations and maintenance requirements for the three full clear management zones and six partial clear management zones are detailed in Table 5.1 and can be viewed in TSS. Figures 5-1 – 5-3 demonstrate the configuration of these management zones within the easement. The Environmental Guidance Note – Project EnergyConnect Approved Impact and Maintenance Areas NSW also outlines this information and will be required to be attached to any environmental assessment for vegetation maintenance on the Project EnergyConnect East transmission line. If maintenance is required in areas with sensitive environmental conditions including SPBZs and Plains Wanderer Habitat mitigation measures as required by the relevant environmental guidance notes will be followed (Section 5.3)

Table 6: Full clear area clearance requirements

Full clear area	Location	Maintenance requirement
APZs	Substations	• All vegetation is cleared to eliminate fire risk and maintain operational safety.
Transmission line tower pads	Area around transmission line tower footings	• All vegetation is cleared to provide safe access for inspection, maintenance and emergency response (refer to Figure 5-1 and Figure 5-3)
Centreline clearance	330 kV transmission line easement	• All vegetation is cleared within a 10-metre-wide centreline to facilitate operational activities and maintain conductor clearances (noting restrictions to centreline clearance within Plains Wanderer Habitat). • All vegetation encroachment (grow-in, blow-in, fall-in) within VCR at various operating condition of the transmission line is cleared. • All vegetation that pose a safety hazard and access constraint is managed.
	500 kV transmission line easement	• All vegetation is cleared within 20-metre-wide centreline to allow for increased sag heights and operational safety • All vegetation encroachment (grow-in, blow-in, fall-in) within VCR at various operating condition of the transmission line is cleared. • All vegetation that pose a safety hazard and access constraint is managed.

Table 7: Partial clear area clearance requirements

Partial clear area	Location	Maintenance requirement
Inner maintenance area (B4 zone)	330 kV transmission line easement	• Vegetation up to 4 m in height may be retained from the centreline out to 20 m on either side (total inner section: 40 m) (refer to Figure 5-2). • All vegetation encroachment (grow-in, blow-in, fall-in) within VCR at various operating condition of the transmission line is cleared. • All vegetation that pose a safety hazard and access constraint is managed.
	500 kV transmission line easement	• Vegetation up to 4 m in height may be retained from the centreline out to 30 m on either side (total inner section: 60 m) (refer to Figure 5-4). • All vegetation encroachment (grow-in, blow-in, fall-in) within VCR at various operating condition of the transmission line is cleared. • All vegetation that pose a safety hazard and access constraint is managed.
Outer maintenance area (B10 zone)	330 kV transmission line easement	• Vegetation up to 10 m in height may be retained between 20 m and 30 m from the centreline (refer to Figure 5-2). • All vegetation encroachment (grow-in, blow-in, fall-in) within VCR at various operating condition of the transmission line is cleared. • All vegetation that pose a safety hazard and access constraint is managed.
	500 kV transmission line easement	• Vegetation up to 10 m in height may be retained between 30 m and 40 m from the centreline (refer to Figure 5-4). • All vegetation encroachment (grow-in, blow-in, fall-in) within VCR at various operating condition of the transmission line is cleared. • All vegetation that pose a safety hazard and access constraint is managed.
Connectivity corridors	Transmission line easements	• native vegetation retention up to the 10 metre or 20 metre (for 330kV and 500kV lines, respectively) wide temporary construction centreline clearing zone to better facilitate woodland connectivity (see Figure 5-5: Connectivity Corridors) • Maintaining vegetation height to a minimum 10m (taller vegetation can remain so long as VCRs are maintained), • Minimising disturbance to non-target vegetation if operational maintenance or tree removal to maintain VCR is required, and • Clearing of access tracks and centre line areas, where required for safe operational access or maintenance

Partial clear area	Location	Maintenance requirement
		activities is limited to the minimum possible and no greater than 10m. • All vegetation encroachment (grow-in, blow-in, fall-in) within VCR at various operating condition of the transmission line is cleared. • All vegetation that poses a safety hazard and access constraint is managed.
Areas of high biodiversity conservation significance (including threatened flora and SPBZs)	As mapped in Transgrid spatial system	• All vegetation encroachment (grow-in, blow-in, fall-in) within VCR at various operating condition of the transmission line is cleared. • All vegetation that pose a safety hazard and access constraint is managed. • Specific clearing controls and mitigation measures bespoke to the relevant area. Where these are triggered, approval from an Environmental Business Partner is required to proceed, per the EAF.
Plains Wanderer Key Habitat	As mapped in Transgrid spatial system	• Specific clearing controls and mitigation measures bespoke to Plains Wanderer Habitat (refer to Environmental Guidance Note – Plains Wanderer Habitat). • Where these are triggered, approval from an Environmental Business Partner is required to proceed, per the EAF.
Hazard tree zones	330 kV transmission line easement	• Removal of trees with potential growth heights ≥30 m within 10 m of the easement boundary. All removals must be confirmed by a qualified arborist. • All vegetation encroachment (grow-in, blow-in, fall-in) within VCR at various operating condition of the transmission line is cleared. • All vegetation that pose a safety hazard and access constraint is managed.
	500 kV transmission line easement	• Removal of trees with potential growth heights ≥20 m within 10 m of the easement boundary. All removals must be confirmed by a qualified arborist. • All vegetation encroachment (grow-in, blow-in, fall-in) within VCR at various operating condition of the transmission line is cleared. • All vegetation that pose a safety hazard and access constraint is managed.

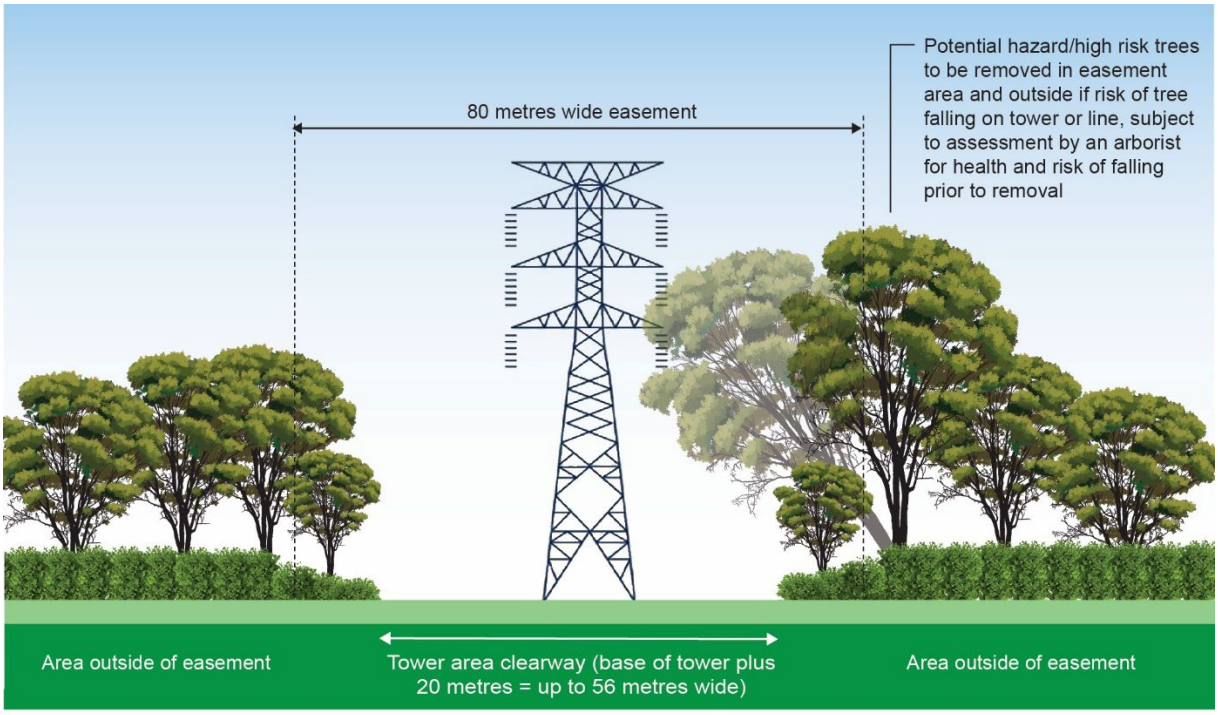


Figure 5-1 Elevation of the vegetation clearing requirements within 330 kV transmission line easement at tower locations

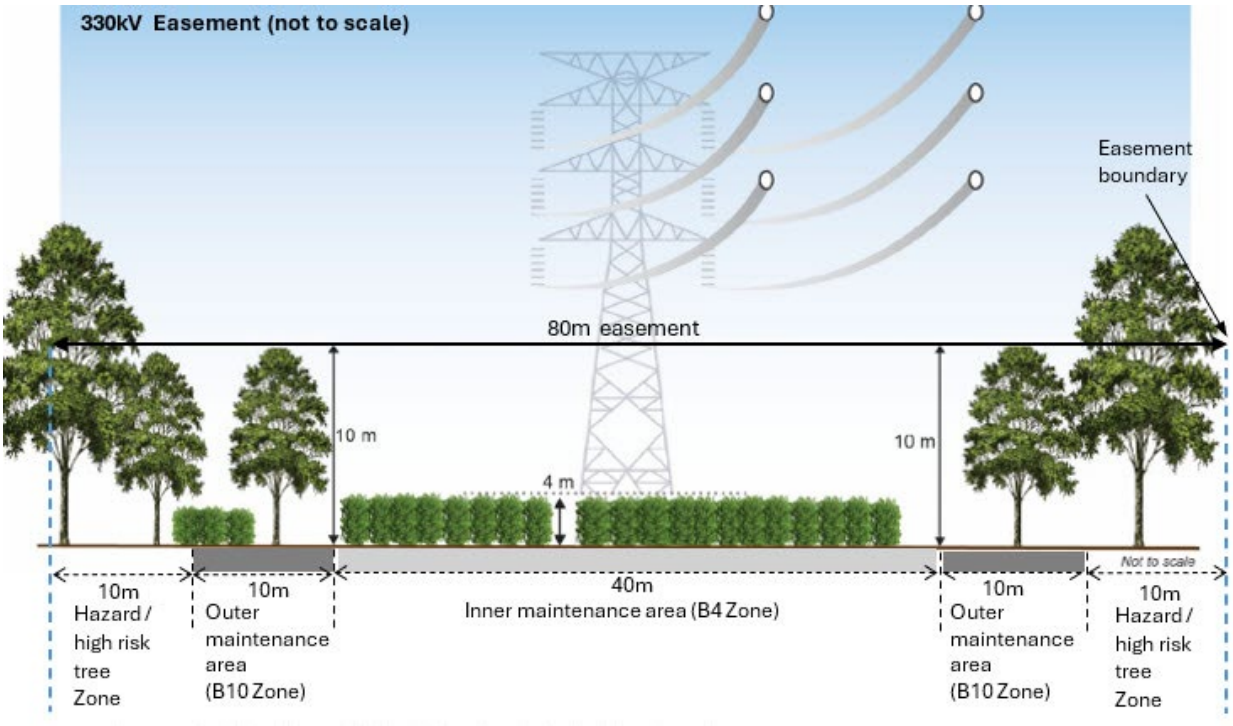


Figure 5-2 Elevation of the vegetation clearing requirements within 330 kV transmission line at mid-easement locations

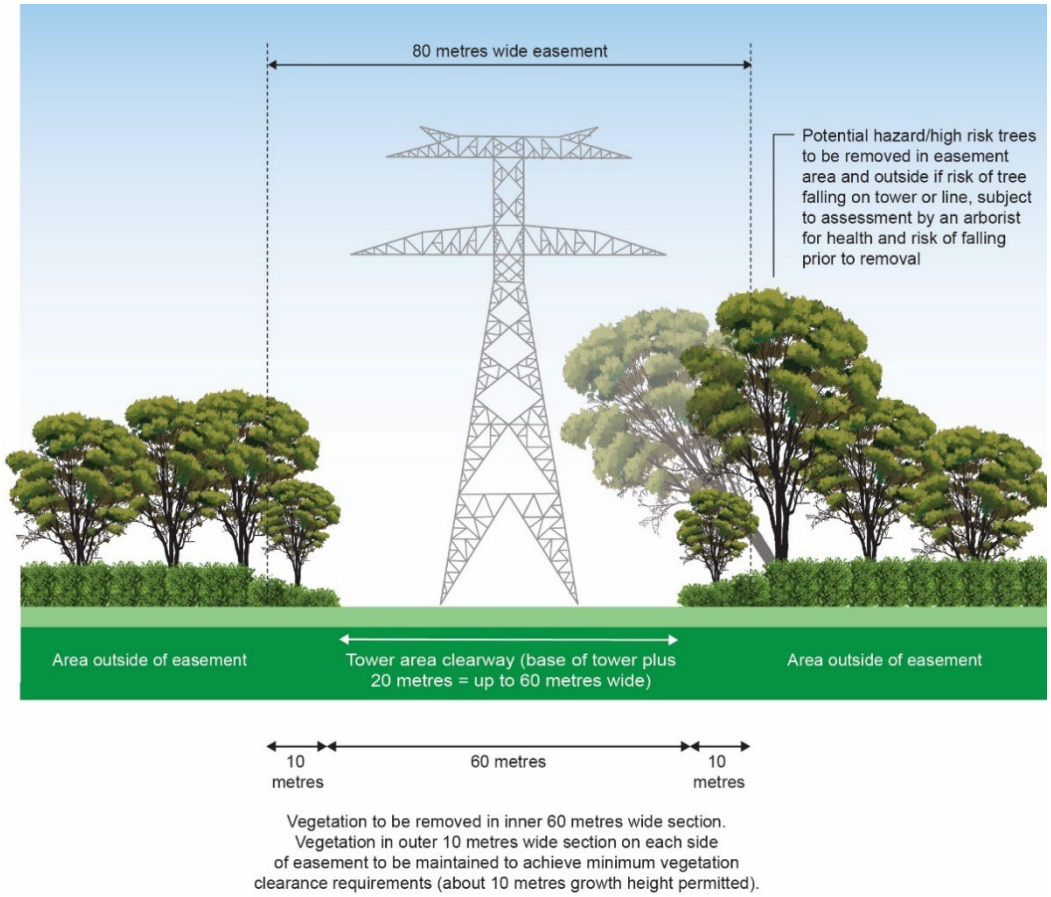


Figure 5-3 Elevation of the vegetation clearing requirements within the 500 kV transmission line easement at tower locations

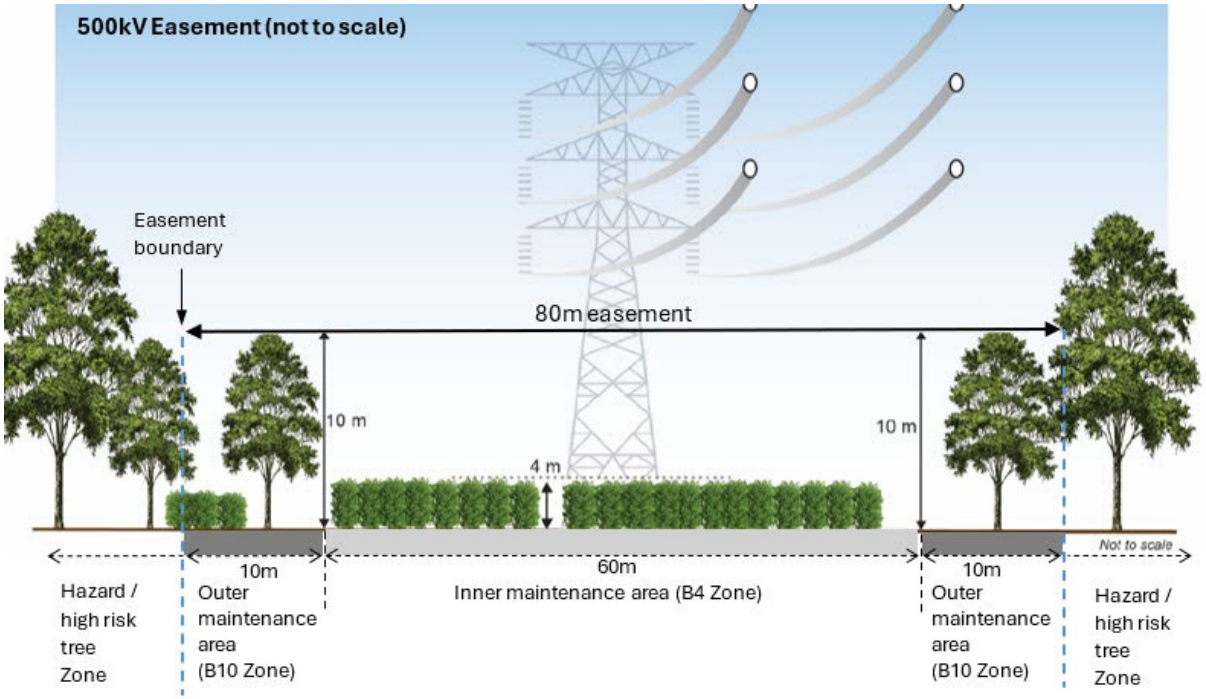


Figure 5-4 Elevation of the vegetation clearing requirements within the 500 kV transmission line easement at mid-easement locations

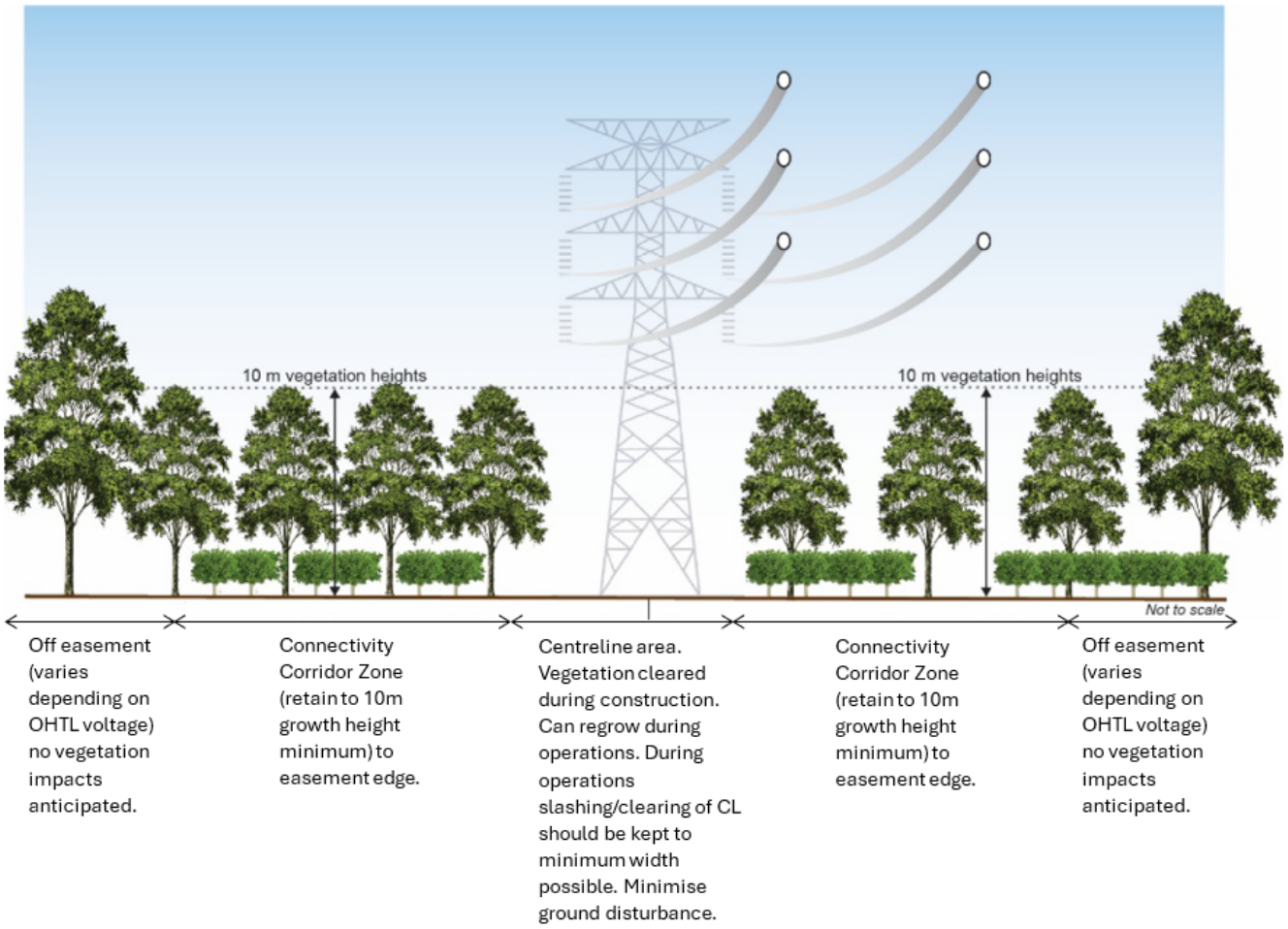


Figure 5-5: Connectivity Corridors

Table 8: Summary of vegetation management zones and clearing requirements

Clearance zone	330 kV requirements	500 kV requirements	Vegetation retention
APZs	Full clear	Full clear	None required*
Transmission line tower pads	Full clear	Full clear	None required*
Centreline clearance	10 m full clear	20 m full clear	None required*.(noting restrictions to centreline clearance within Plains Wanderer Habitat).
Inner maintenance area (B4)	≤4 m retained up to 20 m from centreline	≤4 m retained up to 30 m from centreline	Yes (see figures above)
Outer maintenance area (B10)	≤10 m retained from 20–30 m	≤10 m retained from 30–40 m	Yes (see figures below)
Connectivity corridors	Clearing limited to trees >10 m	Clearing limited to trees >20 m	Significant retention of vegetation as specified in the Connectivity Corridors Environmental Guidance Note.
Areas of high biodiversity conservation significance	Clearing of vegetation that poses a risk to the safe operation of the transmission line only (i.e. will infringe on VCR)	Clearing of vegetation that poses a risk to the safe operation of the transmission line only (i.e. will infringe on VCR)	Significant retention. Specific restrictions on vegetation is included within the relevant Environmental Guidance Note.
Hazard tree zones	Remove trees ≥30 m within 10 m buffer	Remove trees ≥20 m within 10 m buffer	Selective

* Note – except for erosion and sediment control

5.2. Vegetation management activities

Table 5-4 outlines the vegetation management activities that will be completed during operation of the project.

Table 9: Vegetation management activities

Activity	Description
Easement and access track maintenance	Vegetation management within easements and along access tracks will follow Transgrid's *Maintenance Plan – Easement and Access Tracks*. Activities will include: • Yearly LiDAR vegetation intrusion reports to identify vegetation clearance infringements for management prior to NSW and ACT bushfire danger period. • Cyclical easement inspection and condition-based maintenance that scopes vegetation that has potential to or is within VCR between cycles to be managed. • Management of regrowth using methods, including selective slashing, mulching, and manual clearing, to prevent vegetation encroachment within VCR between easement inspection cycles and is constrained by safety of workers, terrain,

Activity	Description
	growth rate, vegetation type, disturbance area B requirements, access, and budget.
Substation and network property vegetation maintenance	Substation grounds and network properties will be maintained in accordance with *Maintenance Plan - Substation Assets* (*D20032312)* and *Maintenance Plan – Network Property (D201701447)*. Activities will include: • management of vegetation and growth outside the switchyard permitter to maintain a bushfire buffer zone for the purpose of removing a fuel source for fires. • Vegetation and weed management in switchyards
Hazard tree management	Hazard trees — also known as fall-in trees — are on or outside the easement that have the potential to strike transmission lines or structures if they fail. Activities will include: • proactive identification: using LiDAR reports and field inspections to detect trees posing structural or stability risks • hazard tree program: implementation of a rolling five-year inspection program, prioritising high-risk zones adjacent to easements • decision framework provided in Hazard Tree Management Program (D2019/03141)
Site rehabilitation and restoration	For two years post construction the Principal Contractor is responsible for fixing any rehabilitation failures (defects) associated with construction activities. An operational field inspection will be conducted identify such failures and the Principal Contractor will be informed to correct the failure(s).

5.3. Vegetation environmental assessment

To mitigate the risk of environmental impacts during operations Transgrid has developed an Environmental Assessment Framework (EAF) to streamline the way maintenance activities are assessed. The EAF is designed to ensure that all Transgrid actions go through a risk review process prior to carrying out any work, and that the assessment is undertaken in line with current legislation and best practice. Under the EAF:

All operational phase activities will be appropriately assessed to identify environmental risks; and
Mitigation measures to eliminate or minimise risks will be put in place before works are started.
Work teams will be provided with clear instruction on environmental constraints.

Table 5-5 outlines the environmental assessment process that is undertaken for vegetation management activities

Table 10: Environmental assessment activities

Activity Type	Environmental Assessment Process (EAF) Summary
Routine easement & access track maintenance (low and moderate biodiversity risk)	• Work is scoped using Transgrid's GIS to determine any environmental constraints (including threatened species polygons, SPBZ, or watercourse buffers within work area). The project boundary is mapped as trigger in the system. • Environmental Checklists will be prepared and approved by appropriate authorised officer in the business. A higher level of approval is required if work is in or adjacent to threatened species habitat, TECs, SPBZ or riparian zones.

Activity Type	Environmental Assessment Process (EAF) Summary
	• Environmental controls for work will be documented and can include Standard Environmental Guidance Notes (EGNs), Environmental Handbook and location specific requirements. • Work will be completed by appropriate authorised staff and instructed to the description of work to be carried out. • Completed works must be signed off to verify that all environmental controls have been successfully implemented.
New or upgraded access track / watercourse crossing works (Moderate to High biodiversity risk)	• Work is scoped using Transgrid's GIS, relevant approval clearing limits, and environmental approval requirements to determine any environmental constraints (including threatened species polygons, SPBZ, or watercourse buffers within work area) • For works at or near watercourses – confirm validity of state-wide permit PN21/206 or obtain individual Controlled Activity Approval (CAA) as required (Section 4.3); • Environmental Checklists will be prepared and approved by appropriate authorised officer in the business. A higher level of approval is required if work is in or adjacent to threatened species habitat, TECs, SPBZ or riparian zones. • Environmental controls for work will be documented and can include Standard Environmental Guidance Notes (EGNs), Environmental Handbook and location specific requirements. • Work will be completed by appropriate authorised staff and instructed to the description of work to be carried out. • Completed works must be signed off to verify that all environmental controls have been successfully implemented.
Works within Plains Wanderer habitat (High biodiversity risk – Critically Endangered, EPBC Act)	• Work is scoped using TSS to determine any environmental constraints (including threatened species polygons or SPBZ) • Environmental Checklists will be prepared and approved by appropriate authorised officer in the business. • Environmental controls for work will be documented and can include Standard Environmental Guidance Notes (EGNs), Environmental Handbook and location specific requirements. A specific Plains Wanderer Environmental Guidance Note has been developed and includes an Ecologist must be present to inspect Plain Wanderer Habitat prior and during works, the work will be timed to avoid breeding seasons where feasible. • Work will be completed by appropriate authorised staff and instructed to the description of work to be carried out. • Completed works must be signed off that all environmental controls have been successfully implemented.
Work within SPBZs	• Work is scoped using TSS to determine any environmental constraints (including threatened species polygons or SPBZ) • Environmental Checklists will be prepared and approved by appropriate authorised officer in the business. • Environmental controls for work will be documented and can include Standard Environmental Guidance Notes (EGNs), Environmental Handbook and location specific requirements. A specific Special Protection Biodiversity Zone Environmental Guidance Note has been developed and includes specific mitigation measures.

Activity Type	Environmental Assessment Process (EAF) Summary
	• Work will be completed by appropriate authorised staff and instructed to the description of work to be carried out. • Completed works must be signed off that all environmental controls have been successfully implemented.
Works requiring assessment records to be submitted to Cwth DCCEEW	• Where proposed clearing during operations is outside the Biodiversity Study Area, or approaches residual EPBC clearing limit headroom for any MNES value (Appendix 2, Consolidated Consent), the following additional process applies before clearing occurs: • Suitably qualified ecologist surveys proposed clearing area • Assessment records compiled confirming no habitat of protected matters (EPBC Condition 2a) or confirming total clearing will not exceed EPBC limits (EPBC Condition 2b) • Assessment records submitted to Cth DCCEEW prior to clearing • Any offsetting required addressed in accordance with EPBC Condition 8.

5.4. Vegetation management controls

Table 5-6 outlines the environmental controls to be applied to undertake vegetation management activities.

Table 11: Vegetation management methodologies

Issue	Management controls
Flora, fauna, ecological communities and sensitive habitat	• Delineate, barricade or tag known threatened species, habitat and sensitive areas (including habitat requiring protection such as dead trees, hollow logs, swamps and rocky areas) prior to works and leave in place for the duration of works. Retain dead trees and hollow logs on site if they do not pose a risk to the integrity of the line or personal safety. • All staff and contractors must be made aware of any flagged, known/verified threatened species and the control measures required mitigating any impacts prior to the commencement of work. Attach Threatened Species Information Sheets to the work package and apply the control measures or refer to Threatened species profiles on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website. • Where threatened species information sheets or OEH threatened species profiles indicate breeding/nesting/flowering season sensitivity for known or verified populations, undertake works outside this season wherever feasible . • For known or verified populations or threatened ecological communities TEC, restricted and selective clearing may apply. Consult with Transgrid Environment Business Partner to assess the proposed works prior to undertaking on-ground work. • Vegetation management should aim to clear less than the full width of easement (safety clearance only) and only remove tall growing species that will encroach on safe electrical clearances or vegetation that creates a bushfire risk. • Avoid mechanical disturbance to environmentally sensitive habitat such as rocky areas and swamps/waterlogged areas. • Where habitat trees require management, vegetation must be inspected prior to works commencing to determine the presence of hollows, nests or fauna (identified fauna may need to be relocated). Prune hollow bearing trees to

Issue	Management controls
	avoid damage to hollows and retain screening branches. Refer to and work in accordance with Environmental Guidance Note - Habitat Trees.
Mulching and Slashing	• Mulching/Trittoring should not be undertaken on lands classed as Vulnerable Land –Steep or Highly Erodible- (generally land exceeding 18°) • Avoid mulching/trittoring long runs slopes >12°, leave some standing vegetation to intersect the slope and assist soil stability • AVOID disturbing soil by locking tracks or undertaking tight turns • AVOID disturbing the soil with mulcher/trittor heads. Set mulched heads to have 100mm of clearance (minimum) • Ensure mulcher hammer/cutters/blades are set a minimum 100mm above ground level to minimise damage to ground cover and minimise soil disturbance • Slashers should be set to 200mm in areas dominated by native vegetation • Mulch depth should not exceed 100mm • Mulched material should be evenly spread over the treated area; a minimum of 70% mulch cover is required to mitigate soil erosion • If significant damage, removal of low growing ground cover or significant soil disturbance is likely to occur consult an Environment Business Partner for advice prior to undertaking works
Habitat trees	• Removal of habitat trees should only be undertaken if a risk assessment determines that the tree must be removed for safety reasons. Pruning to retain hollows is the preferred option. • Where threatened species flag in the vicinity, check the Threatened Species Fact Sheets or Threatened species profiles on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website for details of habitat requirements. • Any pruning or removal of habitat trees that are habitat for fauna, work must be undertaken outside the breeding season (refer to Threatened Species Information Sheets located on The Wire). • If it is not practicable to undertake pruning or removal of the tree outside of the breeding season for fauna species, contact your local Transgrid Environment Business Partner for advice. • Pruning or removal of habitat trees that fall into category habitat for listed threatened fauna (vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered) or a species of tree listed as threatened (vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered), may require a 5 Part Test. Seek advice from an Environment Business Partner. Hollows should be checked for the presence of fauna prior to tree felling or pruning. Pruning of hollow bearing trees must be undertaken so that where possible hollows are retained
Pesticide application	• The Transgrid Schedule of Approved Pesticides outlines the list of pesticides approved for use. • The appropriate pesticide with the lowest residual risk rating must be used where possible. Use targeted or narrow spectrum pesticides as far as possible. • Application of pesticides must be controlled by measures that minimise the potential for off target impacts and ensure that the pesticide effectiveness is maximised.

Issue	Management controls
	• Personnel applying pesticides must review the Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or equivalent documentation prior to its use. The relevant Safety Data Sheet (SDS) must be understood and available during the work. • A Pesticide Application Record must be completed. • Pesticide applications should be at the minimum dose and frequency possible for effective control. Wherever possible, a vertical down jet at minimum pressure should be used. Where appropriate, an approved marker dye should be used to indicate that a pesticide has been applied. • Signage must be displayed at the site during pesticide application • Application of pesticides must be controlled by measures that minimise the potential for off target impacts and ensure that the pesticide effectiveness is maximised. • Personnel applying pesticides must review the Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or equivalent documentation prior to its use. The relevant Safety Data Sheet (SDS) must be understood and available during the work. A Pesticide Application Record must be completed. • Pesticide applications should be at the minimum dose and frequency possible for effective control. Wherever possible, a vertical down jet at minimum pressure should be used. Where appropriate, an approved marker dye should be used to indicate that a pesticide has been applied.
Bird nest removal	• If a nest is found to cause a potential hazard, it will be necessary to relocate or remove the nest. • If the nest is known or found to be in use, the removal of the nest should be postponed (if possible) until after the chicks have fledged. • If the nest is of a threatened species, a Biodiversity Conservation License is likely required • Where a nest above a conductor is in use and there is a potential risk to safety, the nest must be removed – contact your Environmental Business partner whom will assist with contacting the local wildlife rescue organisation to provide assistance and advice for removal of the nest, chicks, and/or eggs. • If a nest is not in use, it can be removed as routine maintenance.

5.5. Transgrid Environmental Management System

Table 12: Transgrid policies and procedures - operational phase

Transgrid document	Purpose	Operational phase application
Transgrid's Environmental Policy	Outlines Transgrid's commitment to conducting its activities and services in a manner that minimises pollution and complies with relevant legislation, industry standards and codes of practice.	Applies to all activities and services undertaken from planning, building and operation of infrastructure, ongoing management of these assets and their decommissioning.
Environmental Management System Framework	Outline's the core elements of Transgrid's environmental management system and their interaction to meet the requirements of ISO14001.	Applies to all activities and services undertaken from planning, building and operation of infrastructure, ongoing

Transgrid document	Purpose	Operational phase application
		management of these assets and their decommissioning.
Transgrid's NSW Environmental Assessment Framework (EAF)	Outlines Transgrid processes for the categorisation and assessment of Transgrid's Actions.	For works or actions required during the ongoing operational phase – the EAF provides an environmental risk assessment and mitigation measures for managing environmental aspects and impacts.
Preparation and approval of Environmental Checklists	Outlines the tasks required when undertaking negligible, low and moderate risk actions under the Environmental Assessment Framework – NSW.	For works during the operational phases that are negligible, low or moderate risk actions under the Environmental Assessment Framework – NSW.
Transgrid's Environmental handbook	The Environmental handbook provides the default level of environmental management for all staff and contractors	All actions / activities must be undertaken in accordance with Transgrid's Environmental handbook during the operational phase of this project. All staff and delivery partners are instructed on the Environmental handbook as part of Environmental Authorisation training.
Environmental Guidance Notes (EGNs)	EGNs provide more detailed management requirements for specific environmental aspects and actions / activities.	There are numerous guidance notes with application during ongoing maintenance and other works during the operational phase. Application to specific environmental aspects is found in Table 5.1
Hot Work or Fire Risk Work Procedure	Identifies and manages the risks associated with Hot Work and Fire Risk Work conducted by Transgrid employees and contractors.	Applies to all Transgrid staff and contractors undertaking Hot Work or Fire Risk Work on Transgrid easements, access tracks, substations, switching stations, depots, buildings, communication facilities, perimeter lands and non-operational lands.
Site Management Plans	Site Management Plans for substations only are compiled for each managed site where minor maintenance activities are required on non-operational property (note: this doesn't include transmission line easements). 1. Mowing and slashing 2. Minor building maintenance.	Provides task and site-specific environmental mitigation measures as required for non-operational Transgrid property/land.

Transgrid document	Purpose	Operational phase application
	3. Minor civil works involving maintenance and repair of services (such as water supply, sewer etc).	
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment	This Due Diligence Assessment includes Transgrid's Unexpected Finds Protocol	If previously unrecorded or unanticipated Aboriginal objects are encountered, the protocol provides guidance for action.
Environmental Spatial Data Due Diligence	Identifies the environmental spatial data that Transgrid utilises to undertake environmental constraints, risks and due diligence assessments within NSW and ACT	Provides assurance that the latest datasets are being utilised and that any risks associated with the spatial data have been considered and are documented.
Ecological Due Diligence Assessment	Transgrid's legal obligations in relation to the NSW Biodiversity Conservation (BC) Act (2016) and Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act (1999) the protection of animals and plants covered by both Acts.	Provides a process for Transgrid personnel and external contractors to assess the potential for harm to protected flora, fauna and ecological communities for Transgrid's construction and maintenance activities on Transgrid Managed Land
Authorisation to Work	This procedure applies to all workers requiring authorisation to access, observe or perform work on Transgrid sites	Ensures that all workers and contractors have an appropriate level of environmental training and competence as required for their specific role on site.
Health, Safety and Environmental Objectives	The purpose of this document is to set objectives for Transgrid's health and safety, and environmental management systems.	Applies to setting specific health, safety and environmental performance objectives, to support the overall corporate objective of reducing health, safety and environmental risk and encouraging continual improvement in performance.
HSE Monitoring, Measurement, Analysis and Performance Evaluation	This procedure establishes a systematic process for the monitoring, measurement, analysis and performance evaluation of health, safety and environmental performance.	Applies to monitoring and measurement being undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the EMS and evaluate HSE performance.
HSE Incident Management	This procedure sets out the process for health, safety and environmental hazard and incident management, and notification in Transgrid	Ensures that environmental incidents are reported to all relevant stakeholders.
HSE Inspection	This procedure sets out the process for conducting health, safety and environment (HSE) inspections at Transgrid, to identify process improvements, highlight any further	Ensures operational environmental aspects are inspected.

Transgrid document	Purpose	Operational phase application
	training or audit requirements and ultimately improve safety 'on the job' and across the business	
HSE Audit and Assurance	This document sets the direction for internal and external health, safety and environmental audits.	Ensures operational environmental aspects are audited.

6. Ecological monitoring

Ongoing monitoring serves to validate key outcomes around vegetation management, fauna management and compliance as well as inform adaptive management as required. This section outlines the ongoing monitoring that will be conducted during operation of the project.

6.1. Paired BAM Plot Monitoring

Operational phase monitoring will be conducted in partial clearing vegetation management zones for a three year period and will be undertaken as paired plots, with one plot in the transmission line corridor and the other in adjacent undisturbed vegetation. The latter provides a control plot to decouple the effect of easement management from background changes due to seasonality, climate and other factors. Monitoring will inform adaptive management including:

- Revising maintenance methods
- Native vegetation management
- Weed management
- Feral fauna management
- Mulch management
- Approaches to managing ecological function including habitat features and connectivity
- Protected flora / fauna species management

6.1.1 Objective

The objective of the paired plot monitoring is to assess vegetation condition within the easement to inform adaptive management where required to ensure, as a minimum that vegetation condition is representative of the post clearing condition assessed in the BDAR.

6.1.2 Monitoring Design

To assess the post-construction partial impact against the predicted effects, field verification of the partial impact area will be sampled across the project study area within a selection of PCTs and IBRA Subregions. The monitoring program is a continuation of the method used for post construction Vegetation Integrity (VI) monitoring for the project.

Due to the known influencing variables of seasonality and climatic trends on BAM vegetation integrity values, direct analysis of predicted VI scores within the BDAR with current VI scores collected from of the partial impacted zones is uninformative. To mitigate these influences, paired remnant control plots will be surveyed for each sampled partial impact plot. Remnant control plots will represent the pre clearing vegetation condition within partial impact areas while allowing for seasonal and climatic variations in affecting condition attributes that determine the VI values.

In this way evaluation of VI loss between the remnant control plot and partial impact plot can be directly compared with the predicted VI loss assessed in the BDAR.

- The BAM 2020 survey method will be used to conduct plot surveys

- Monitoring including field survey, data analysis and reporting will be conducted by suitably qualified ecological contractors
- VI scores will be generated using the BAMC
- Monitoring will be conducted annually over a three year period from the commencement of operations..
- Paired plot locations have been established during the construction phase of the project within adjacent retained vegetation outside the easement representing the same vegetation class. Paired plot monitoring locations will be recorded in TSS Viewer.

Paired plots have been located with the following considerations:

- located within the same vegetation class
- share similar soil, landform and disturbance history
- represent equivalent pre-clearing vegetation and are restricted to plots that represent moderate-good condition
- paired plots are generally located <100m apart to avoid microclimate variability

This approach allows direct comparison of vegetation integrity between partially cleared vegetation and retained reference vegetation.

6.1.4 Stratification of Monitoring Locations

Monitoring sites will be selected to provide representative coverage of vegetation subject to partial clearing across the project area.

Monitoring locations will be stratified based on:

- Vegetation Management Zones
- Vegetation classes

Table 13: Vegetation Classes

IBRA Subregion	Vegetation Class (Moderate-Good)	PCT Association
South Olary Plain	Sand Plain Mulga Shrublands	PCT 143, 199
	Riverine Chenopod Shrublands	PCT 163
	Inland Floodplain Woodlands	PCT 15
	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	PCT 22, 23
	Semi-arid Sand Plain Woodlands	PCT 58
	Sand Plain Mallee Woodlands	PCT 170
	Dune Mallee Woodlands	PCT 171, 172
Lachlan	Riverine Shrublands	PCT 163
	Inland Floodplain Shrublands	PCT 24
	Inland Floodplain Woodlands	PCT 15
	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	PCT 23
	Semi-arid Sand Plain Woodlands	PCT 58
	Sand Plain Mallee Woodlands	PCT 170
Murrumbidgee	Sand Plain Mulga Shrublands	PCT 143
	Riverine Chenopod Shrublands	PCT 157, 163, 164, 216

IBRA Subregion	Vegetation Class (Moderate-Good)	PCT Association
	Inland Floodplain Shrublands	PCT 17, 24, 47, 53, 160, 182
	Inland Riverine Forests	PCT 5, 7, 8, 11
	Riverine Plain Grasslands	PCT 44, 45, 46
	Inland Floodplain Woodlands	PCT 13, 15
	Riverine Plain Woodlands	PCT 26
	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	PCT 23, 28, 75
	Semi-arid Sand Plain Woodlands	PCT 58
	Sand Plain Mallee Woodlands	PCT 170
Lower Slopes	Inland Riverine Forests	PCT 5
	Floodplain Transition Woodland	PCT 74, 76, 80
	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	PCT 75
Inland Slopes	Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests	PCT 110
	Floodplain Transition Woodland	PCT 74
	Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands	PCT 267, 277
	Inland Rocky Hill Woodlands	PCT 319

During the construction phase a total of 48 BAM plots across 13 PCTs were sampled, covering Semi-arid Woodlands (Grassy sub-formation), Semi-arid Woodlands (Shrubby sub-formation), Grassy Woodlands, Forested Wetlands and Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation). In addition, a further 8 BAM plots were sampled from three dominant formations within existing ETLs that have been historically managed by Transgrid for >20 years.

These pairs will continue to be monitored where viable for 3 years during the operational phase. Some the locations planned for survey may not be suitable due to small patch size or a change in partial clearing zones that has led to a total loss of vegetation during the construction phase. Monitoring plots will be located to ensure monitoring includes sensitive ecological communities and areas of regulator interest.

An update to the number and distribution of monitoring sites will be determined in consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist to ensure this provides representative assessment of vegetation subject to operational management. Paired plot locations will be updated in TSS Viewer as required.

6.1.5 Vegetation Monitoring Data Analysis

Vegetation monitoring data analysis will be conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist and will include:

- Survey plot data will be entered into the BAMC to determine the VI values for partial impact and corresponding paired plots.
- Average VI scores within each vegetation class will be calculated for both remnant and partial impact condition states.
- VI loss will be calculated for vegetation class by comparing average remnant VI values with those of partial impact areas.
- VI loss for each vegetation class will be assessed against the average predicted VI loss assessed in the BDAR. This comparison of VI loss for each monitoring cycle compared with the predicted VI loss

assessed in the BDAR will be the primary metric used to determine thresholds for adaptive management actions detailed in Section 6.4.

- Comparison of VI values and identification of trends across monitoring cycles.

This data analysis will inform whether triggers for adaptive management have been met. Where adaptive management is triggered VI attribute scores for, composition, structure and composition for remnant and partial impact condition states will also inform the restoration actions required.

6.2. 6.1.6 Monitoring Schedule

Vegetation Integrity monitoring will be undertaken over a three year operational monitoring period.

Monitoring schedule:

1.Baseline Monitoring: Completed during the construction phase of the project (refer to Section 3.3)

2. Follow up Monitoring: Undertaken approximately 12 months following the commencement of operations and on an annual basis for three years.

3. Reporting:

- Annual reports will be generated by a suitably qualified ecological consultant on an annual basis
- A final consolidated report will be produced on the 3rd year of monitoring after the commencement of operations. This report will be provided to DPHI for information.

Reports will include:

- Monitoring methodology
- Monitoring locations
- VI scores
- Comparison of VI with reference vegetation
- Trend analysis
- Comparison with BDAR predicted outcomes
- Assessment of partial clearing impacts against those assessed in the BDAR
- Recommendations and any use of adaptive management in the three year period (if required)

6.3. Monitoring of nest boxes

Transgrid will maintain and monitor the existing nest boxes from the construction phase for the first three years of operation. The nest boxes will be inspected annually by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Nest boxes found to be uninhabitable due to condition during the three-year operational monitoring period will be replaced, rather than maintained. Replacement activities will be reported through operational monitoring, excluding boxes outside monitoring scope or affected by bushfire.

6.3.1. Nest box monitoring methodology

Monitoring considers the following methodologies:

Undertaken in a team of two and overseen by a Project Ecologist.

- A representative sample of the total number of nest boxes will be selected to monitor approximately 15% or otherwise agreed with the project ecologist. This sample will include a variety of species box types and locations, where possible.
- Nest boxes will be randomly selected.
- Nest boxes will be inspected both from the ground (external observations) and from a ladder, whereby the inside of the box can be checked for fauna presence or evidence of activity.

Data collected during monitoring will be recorded and will include details such as:

- Date of monitoring
- Location coordinates of box
- Box ID number
- Box species type
- Host tree species
- Box height
- Signs of fauna presence/ activity
- Box structural integrity
- Photographs.

Monitoring will occur annually by a suitably qualified ecologist who will determine the appropriate monitoring period. .

6.4. Monitoring of glider poles

Glider poles were installed at two locations of confirmed squirrel glider habitat outlined in the approved Appendix G of the Connectivity Strategy Rev G part of the BMP Rev 5. (at Burkes Creek and Cullivel State Forest). The glider poles will be monitored for a period of three years and will involve a series of fixed wildlife cameras (low light / motion detect) with cloud upload capabilities. The cameras are intended to detect glider usage over time on the connectivity infrastructure installed.

Transgrid appreciates that application of connectivity infrastructure does not guarantee usage by the species, and together with the Principal Contractor has undertaken due diligence when setting up the glider poles.

6.5. TARP

The Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) in Table 6.1 outlines the specific steps to be taken in response to a trigger event. Triggers have been developed for monitoring outcomes that trigger levels which require action to occur to ensure that the biodiversity-related objectives of the project are met.

Table 14: Trigger Action Response Plan

Measure	Trigger (monitoring outcome)	Action/Response	Timeframe
Not meeting required thresholds for vegetation monitoring	VI scores from monitoring indicates a greater VI loss than that predicted in the Revised BDAR.	Environmental Business Partner/Biodiversity team to consider treatments including: • Revise weed control program • Scarification to trigger natural regeneration • Brush matting in sparse areas using material with woody fruits and intact seed from within the easement	Annual monitoring for three years. Action/response within 3 months of trigger.
	VI scores from monitoring indicates a greater VI loss than that predicted in the Revised BDAR for the 2nd consecutive monitoring cycle, or monitoring is showing a trend in declining VI.	Environmental Business Partner / Biodiversity team to review vegetation management methods including cycle period, and external factors (e.g. climate, herbivory), to determine potential cause and appropriate response. In addition to actions above, management action to consider will include: • Actions as for initial trigger (above) • Direct seeding or hydro mulching with native seed mix • Treatment for browsing animals as below • Review of monitoring period and increase monitoring frequency to for affected areas as required • Engage a suitably qualified specialist to investigate causes and propose restoration actions required to address lower than predicted vegetation condition, or declining trend in VI (e.g. diseases such as Phytophthora).	
Bird diverters	Routine inspection finds damaged or missing conductor line markers (flappers/diverters) within 1km of key waterbodies.	Record specific spans/towers where diverters are missing or fail to meet spacing requirements. Reinstall "flapper" style diverters via drone or hot-stick to maintain design standards.	Identified during annual aerial or ground inspections
Glider poles	Inspection identifies that timber poles or retained tall tree stumps are damaged, decayed, collapsed, or have lost canopy connectivity.	Engage a qualified arborist (minimum Level 3) to assess the structural integrity and residual risk. Repair or replace poles/stumps; prune excessive coppice growth that poses a strike risk; restore canopy connectivity.	Inspection every few years as advised by an arborist
Connectivity Corridors	Inspection identifies that a designated 20-metre-wide corridor	Conduct an ecological audit of the affected corridor to assess the impact on local fauna movement guilds.	Evaluated during routine 3-yearly or 6-yearly

Measure	Trigger (monitoring outcome)	Action/Response	Timeframe
	has lost its "stepping-stone" function due to unauthorised clearing or vegetation failing to reach allowed heights.	Restore connectivity through selective pruning (rather than removal) or supplemental plantings to maintain the 10m height target where safe.	ground inspections
Nest Box Viability	Annual monitoring program (section 6.2) identifies nest boxes that are damaged, missing, or invaded by pest species	Assess the viability of the box for target species; determine repair or replacement needs. Replace boxes; implement pest removal protocols.	Annual monitoring; repairs within the next growing season.

6.6. Summary of ecological monitoring requirements

Table 6-1 provides a summary of monitoring activities, timeframes, reporting requirement and responsibilities during operation.

Table 15: Summary of ecological monitoring requirements

Monitoring activity	Timeframe	Reporting requirement	Responsibility
Vegetation monitoring	Three years from commencement of operation	The report should include vegetation performance, any corrective actions undertaken, any extension to monitoring, and intended future actions to support vegetation integrity	Head of Environment and Sustainability
Nest boxes	Three years from commencement of operation	Data from monitoring will be reported annually. Reporting will be shared with CPHR.	Head of Environment and Sustainability
Glider poles	Three years from commencement of operation	Data from monitoring will be reported annually for three years. Usage reporting will be shared with CPHR.	Head of Environment and Sustainability
Connectivity Corridors	Three years from commencement of operation	Data from monitoring will be reported annually for three years. Usage reporting will be shared with CPHR.	Head of Environment and Sustainability

7. Reporting and compliance

Environmental reporting obligations and non-conformance and incident response are detailed in Section 6.3 and Section 8.0 of the *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy* respectively. Additional biodiversity reporting considerations are included in this section.

Documentation and record keeping requirements will be in accordance with Transgrid Document and Record Management Procedure as described in Chapter 9 of the *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy*.

7.1. Biodiversity reporting considerations

It will be the responsibility of the Transgrid Operations team to ensure environmental records are recorded such that biodiversity reporting obligations are met, and compliance outcomes are demonstrated during operation. Table 7-1 provides the biodiversity reporting obligations, timeframe for delivery and role / responsibility of the Transgrid Operations team.

Table 16: Biodiversity reporting considerations

Reporting obligation	Timing	Delivered to	Role / responsibility
COA D6 – notification of incident	Immediately upon becoming aware of the incident Information	DPHI, NSW Planning Secretary and uploaded to the project website	Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager
COA D7 – notification of non-compliance	Within seven days upon becoming aware of any non-compliance information	DPHI, NSW Planning Secretary and uploaded to the project website	Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager
EPBC 23 – 12 monthly compliance reporting	Refer to *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy*		
EPBC 30 – 5 yearly audit of compliance	Refer to *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy*		
COA D12 and EPBC 12 – making project information publicly available (e.g. compliance reporting, plans etc)	Refer to *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy*		
EPBC 14 and EPBC 15 – redact or exclude sensitive ecological data from Stage 3 plans and notify Cth DCCEEW	Prior to publishing Stage 3 plans on the project website	Cwth DCCEEW and uploaded to the project website	GM Environment, Strategy and Planning
Nest Box Monitoring	For three (3) years following the start of operations	CPHR	GM Environment, Strategy and Planning
Glider Pole Usage Monitoring	For three (3) years following the start of operations	CPHR	GM Environment, Strategy and Planning

Reporting obligation	Timing	Delivered to	Role / responsibility
Vegetation Monitoring	For 3 years following the start of operations	CPHR	GM Environment, Strategy and Planning

7.2. Biodiversity non-conformance and incident response

Biodiversity non-conformance and incident response considerations are tied to standard operational non-conformance and incident response already highlighted in Section 8.0 of the *Stage 3 Environmental Strategy*. These considerations relate to specific outcomes required in relation to biodiversity matters and requirements of the approval. Transgrid Operations and an Environment Business Partner will support these considerations and outcomes as required and ensure reporting obligations on these matters are achieved.

Table 17: Biodiversity non-conformance and incident considerations

Condition, trigger or event	Consideration and action	Follow up	Timing
Fire event impacting biodiversity values	Emergency response, event determination/consideration, and notification	Revise this OBMP if applicable.	If triggered during the life of the asset
Applied bird diverters damaged or missing	Determine if identified defect is significant enough for rectification and type of diverter to use as replacement	Engage work group/contractor for diverter defect rectification and fix defect(s)	Life of the asset
Glider pole monitoring not showing glider usage	Transgrid to advise CPHR as part of the ecological monitoring reporting	Implement remedial actions to ensure longevity of glider populations, such as additional connectivity measures or active relocations (refer to Section 6.3)	Glider pole monitoring for first 3 years of operation
Glider poles damaged and connectivity impacted (e.g. fire, storms etc)	Transgrid to advise regulator and determine remedial action(s)	Implement glider pole replacement works to ensure longevity of glider populations and initiate supplementary monitoring for gliders	Glider pole monitoring for first 3 years of operation
Connectivity corridors damaged or degraded and connectivity impacted	Transgrid to engage a qualified ecologist for a connectivity assessment. Report to advise connectivity status and recommendations for required actions	Transgrid to consider required actions and implement those necessary for protected species. Engagement with CPHR possibly required	First 3 years following operations
Nest box monitoring showing no evidence of occupancy or use	Transgrid to advise usage to CPHR through reporting	No remedial action required (refer to Section 6.2)	Nest box monitoring for first 3 years of operation

Condition, trigger or event	Consideration and action	Follow up	Timing
Nest boxes degraded, missing or damaged	No action required. Nest boxes degrade over time. Nest boxes initially applied to buffer habitat losses during construction	No action required	Life of the asset or until next boxes are no longer viable
SPBZ / Protected Matter requirements not met during operations	Progress as a reportable non-conformance/incident and investigate root cause. Also check for any potential impact to clearing limits	Determine corrective and preventative action(s) and implement.	Life of the asset

8. Document review and update

Documentation and record keeping requirements will be as per Transgrid Document and Record Management Procedure outlined in Chapter 9 of the *Stage 3 Environment Strategy*.

This OBMP will be reviewed following any changes in scope to activities to ensure that no additional risks or actions that have a potential impact on biodiversity from the project.

If any review is required during operational, an Environmental Business Partner will recommend the appropriate changes and seek the appropriate endorsement/approval pathway in accordance with Transgrid's EAF and in accordance with Transgrid Corporate Controlled documents requirements.

The review will outline:

- the need or reason for the proposed variation
- the potential biodiversity impacts of the change/variation and whether the change is consistent with the existing Infrastructure approval
- the proposed mitigation and control measures (reference may be given to existing control measures within the OBMP, or to new or altered control measures)
- an appropriate level of review, endorsement and approval from the process owner.

Each new revision of this OBMP will be distributed to all required personnel for review and approval by the Head of Environment and Sustainability in line with EMS.

9. References

- Biodiversity Conservation Trust (NSW), 2019. *Restoring Native Vegetation - Guidelines for assisted regeneration and revegetation*.
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust (NSW), 2020. *Guideline for Artificial Hollows - For private land conservation agreements.*
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Commonwealth) (former), 2021. *Guide to Providing Maps and Boundary Data for EPBC Act projects*.
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth), 2023. *Annual Compliance Report Guidelines.*
- Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW), 2008. *Book 4 Dryland Salinity: Productive use of Saline Land and Water.*
- Department of Environment and Energy (Commonwealth) (former), 2018.*Guidelines for Biological Survey and Mapped Data*.
- Department of Planning and Environment (NSW) (former), 2022a. *Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land*.
- Department of Planning and Environment (NSW) (former), 2022b. *Guidelines for Watercourse Crossings on Waterfront Land*.
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) (NSW) (former), 2020. *Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020*.
- Department of Primary Industries, 2012. *Guidelines for controlled activities on waterfront land*.
- Department of Primary Industries, 2014. *Salinity Training Manual.*
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Biosecurity (NSW), 2025. *New South Wales Weed Control Handbook – A guide to weed control in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations Edition 8.*
- NSW Fisheries, 2003. *Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings*.
- NSW Fisheries, 2013. *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat and Conservation and Management.*
- Standards Australia, 2007. *AS4373:2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees*
- Standards Australia, 2025. *AS4970:2025 Protection of Trees on Development Sites Habitat*.
- Transport for NSW, 2024. *Protecting and Managing Biodiversity on Transport for NSW Projects*.

Transgrid Environmental Guidance Notes

- Environmental Guidance Note – Special Protection Biodiversity Zones (PEC)
- Environmental Guidance Note – Flora/Fauna, Ecological Communities and Sensitive Habitats
- Environmental Guidance Note – Habitat Trees
- Environmental Guidance Note – Biosecurity
- Environmental Guidance Note – Transport of Harmful Material and Spill Response
- Environmental Guidance Note – Pesticide Application and Storage
- Environmental Guidance Note – Access and Work Mandatory Environmental Controls
- Environmental Guidance Note – Bird Nest Removal
- Environmental Guidance Note – Wombat Holes
- Environmental Guidance Note – Working near Watercourses
- Environmental Guidance Note - Regulated Land
- Environmental Guidance Note – Plains Wanderer

- Environmental Guidance Note – Mulching and Slashing
- Environmental Guidance Note – Project EnergyConnect Approved Impact and Maintenance Areas NSW

Transgrid Threatened Species Sheets

- Myall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain, Murray–Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions
- Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains
- White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland and derived native grassland
- Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Peneplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions
- Sandhill Pine woodland in the Riverina, Murray–Darling Depression and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions
- Acacia melvillei shrubland in the Riverina and Murray Darling Depression bioregions
- Plains mallee box woodlands of the Murray Darling Depression, Riverina and Naracoorte Coastal Plains Bioregions
- Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains
- Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion
- Swainsona murrayana (Slender Darling Pea)
- Maireana cheelii (Chariot Wheels)
- Brachyscome papillosa (Mossgiel Daisy)
- Leptorhynchos orientalis (Lanky Buttons)
- Swainsona sericea (Silky Swainson-pea)
- Austrostipa wakoolica (A spear-grass)
- Cullen parvum (Small Scurf-pea)
- Convolvulus tedmoorei (Bindweed)
- Calotis moorei (A burr-daisy)
- Lepidium monoplocoides (Winged Peppercress)
- Pimelea serpyllifolia subsp. serpyllifolia (Thyme Rice-Flower)
- Acacia acanthoclada (Harrow Wattle)
- Lasiopetalum behrii (Pink Velvet Bush)
- Swainsona pyrophila (Yellow Swainson-pea)
- Swainsona colutoides (Bladder Senna)
- Pilularia novae-hollandiae (Austral Pillwort)
- Pterostylis cobarensis (Greenhood Orchid)
- Leptorhynchos waitzia (Button Immortelle)
- Austrostipa metatoris (A spear-grass)
- Caladenia arenaria (Sand-hill Spider Orchid)
- Burhinus grallarius (Bush Stone-curlew)
- Polytelis swainsonii (Superb Parrot)
- Ninox connivens (Barking Owl)
- Lophochroa leadbeateri (Pink Cockatoo)
- Petaurus norfolcensis (Squirrel Glider)

- Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides (Regent Parrot)
- Myotis macropus (Southern Myotis)
- Hieraaetus morphnoides (Little Eagle)
- Pedionomus torquatus (Plains-wanderer)
- Litoria raniformis (Southern Bell Frog)
- Allocasuarina luehmannii Woodland

Appendix A

A.1 South Olary Plain

Table 18: Direct impacts on native vegetation and change in vegetation integrity within the South Olary Plain IBRA subregion for the B4 and B10 management zones (taken from Revised BDAR)

PCT	Veg. Zone # (BAM-C)	Veg. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Vegetation Class	Mgt. Zone	Current VI Score	Future VI Score	Change in VI Score	Average change in VI
PCT 199	VZ #10	199_Mod-good	Sand Plain Mulga Shrublands	Area B4	77.8	65	-12.8	-12.8
PCT 15	VZ #1	15_Mod-good	Inland Floodplain Woodlands	Area B4	56.1	30.6	-25.5	
PCT 15	VZ #1	15_Mod-good		Area B10	56.1	30.6	-25.5	-25.5
PCT 22	VZ #13	22_Mod-good	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	Area B4	60.8	28.9	-31.9	
PCT 22	VZ #13	22_Mod-good		Area B10	60.8	28.9	-31.9	
PCT 23	VZ #2	23_Mod-good		Area B4	77.4	40.1	-37.3	-33.7

Official

PCT	Veg. Zone # (BAM-C)	Veg. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Vegetation Class	Mgt. Zone	Current VI Score	Future VI Score	Change in VI Score	Average change in VI
PCT 58	VZ #3	58_Mod-good	Semi-arid Sand Plain Woodlands	Area B4	95	48.5	-46.5	
PCT 58	VZ #3	58_Mod-good		Area B10	95	48.5	-46.5	-46.5
PCT 170	VZ #6	170_Mod-good_bull	Sand Plain Mallee Woodlands	Area B4	75	40.5	-34.5	
PCT 170	VZ #7	170_Mod-good_whip		Area B4	69.7	37.5	-32.2	-33.35
PCT 171	VZ #8	171_Mod-good_whip	Dune Mallee Woodlands	Area B4	85.1	43.3	-41.8	
PCT 172	VZ #9	172_Mod-good_whip		Area B4	71.4	32.6	-38.8	-40.3

A.2 Lachlan

Table 19: Direct impacts on native vegetation and change in vegetation integrity within the Lachlan IBRA subregion for the B4 and B10 management zones (taken from Revised BDAR)

PCT	Veg. Zone # (BAM-C)	Veg. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Vegetation Class	Mgt. Zone	Current VI Score	Future VI Score	Change in VI Score	Average change in VI
PCT 15	VZ #1	15_Mod-good	Inland Floodplain Woodlands	Area B4	82.6	44.1	-38.5	
PCT 15	VZ #1	15_Mod-good		Area B10	82.6	44.1	-38.5	-38.5
PCT 23	VZ #2	23_Mod-good	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	Area B4	30.3	19.5	-10.8	-10.8
PCT 58	VZ #4	58_Mod-good	Semi-arid Sand Plain Woodlands	Area B4	46.4	24.1	-22.3	
PCT 58	VZ #4	58_Mod-good	Semi-arid Sand Plain Woodlands	Area B10	46.4	24.1	-22.3	-22.3
PCT 170	VZ #6	170_Mod-good_bull	Sand Plain Mallee Woodlands	Area B4	41.2	15.1	-26.1	-26.1

A.3 Murrumbidgee

Table 20: Direct impacts on native vegetation and change in vegetation integrity within the Murrumbidgee IBRA subregion for the B4 and B10 management zones (taken from Revised BDAR)

PCT	Veg. Zone # (BAM-C)	Veg. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Vegetation Class	Mgt. Zone	Current VI Score	Future VI Score	Change in VI Score	Average change in VI
PCT 7	VZ #1	7_Mod-good	Inland Riverine Forests	Area B4	76.2	28.2	-48	
PCT 7	VZ #1	7_Mod-good		Area B10	76.2	28.2	-48	
PCT 8	VZ #2	8_Mod-good		Area B4	61.8	13.3	-48.5	
PCT 8	VZ #2	8_Mod-good		Area B10	61.8	13.3	-48.5	
PCT 11	VZ #3	11_Mod-good		Area B4	82.2	37.3	-44.9	
PCT 11	VZ #3	11_Mod-good		Area B10	82.2	37.3	-44.9	-47.1
PCT 13	VZ #4	13_Mod-good	Inland Floodplain Woodlands	Area B4	96.7	51	-45.7	
PCT 13	VZ #4	13_Mod-good		Area B10	96.7	51	-45.7	
PCT 15	VZ #5	15_Mod-good		Area B4	84	45.9	-38.1	
PCT 15	VZ #5	15_Mod-good		Area B10	84	45.9	-38.1	-41.9
PCT 26	VZ #11	26_Mod-good	Riverine Plain Woodlands	Area B4	93.1	60.2	-32.9	
PCT 26	VZ #12	26_Moderate		Area B4	64.5	30.4	-34.1	-33.5
PCT 23	VZ #8	23_Mod-good	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	Area B4	72.5	36.5	-36	
PCT 28	VZ #14	28_Mod-good		Area B4	57.2	32.4	-24.8	
PCT 28	VZ #14	28_Mod-good		Area B10	57.2	32.4	-24.8	-28.5
PCT 58	VZ #20	58_Mod-good	Semi-arid Sand Plain Woodlands	Area B4	76.7	47.1	-29.6	
PCT 58	VZ #20	58_Mod-good		Area B10	76.7	47.1	-29.6	-29.6
PCT 75	VZ #30	75_Mod-good		Area B4	80.7	37.9	-42.8	

PCT	Veg. Zone # (BAM-C)	Veg. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Vegetation Class	Mgt. Zone	Current VI Score	Future VI Score	Change in VI Score	Average change in VI
PCT 75	VZ #30	75_Mod-good	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	Area B10	80.7	37.9	-42.8	-42.8
PCT 170	VZ #29	170_Mod-good_whip	Sand Plain Mallee Woodlands	Area B4	74	47.1	-26.9	-26.9
PCT 7	VZ #1	7_Mod-good	Inland Riverine Forests	Area HZ	76.2	75	-1.2	-3.5
PCT 11	VZ #3	11_Mod-good		Area HZ	82.2	76.3	-5.9	
PCT 75	VZ #30	75_Mod-good	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	Area HZ	80.7	77.6	-3.1	-3.1

A.4 Lower Slopes

Table 21: Direct impacts on native vegetation and change in vegetation integrity within the Lower Slopes IBRA subregion for the B4 and B10 management zones (taken from Revised BDAR)

PCT	Veg. Zone # (BAM-C)	Veg. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Vegetation Class	Mgt. Zone Name	Current VI Score	Future VI Score	Change in VI Score	Subregion average change in VI
PCT 5	VZ #1	5_Mod-good	Inland Riverine Forests	Area B4	71.7	16.5	-55.2	-47.15
PCT 5	VZ #1	5_Mod-good		Area B10	71.7	16.5	-55.2	
PCT 249	VZ #6	249_Moderate		Area B4	51.9	12.8	-39.1	
PCT 249	VZ #6	249_Moderate		Area B10	51.9	12.8	-39.1	
PCT 74	VZ #7	74_Mod-good	Floodplain Transition Woodland	Area B4	71.6	25.4	-46.2	-46.65
PCT 74	VZ #7	74_Mod-good		Area B10	71.6	25.4	-46.2	
PCT 76	VZ #2	76_Mod-good		Area B4	69.7	24.5	-45.2	
PCT 76	VZ #2	76_Mod-good		Area B10	69.7	24.5	-45.2	
PCT 80	VZ #4	80_Mod-good		Area B4	87.9	29.8	-58.1	
PCT 80	VZ #4	80_Mod-good		Area B10	87.9	29.8	-58.1	
PCT 80	VZ #3	80_Moderate		Area B4	49.2	12.1	-37.1	
PCT 80	VZ #3	80_Moderate		Area B10	49.2	12.1	-37.1	
PCT 75	VZ #10	75_Mod-good		Area B4	89.4	52.4	-37	

PCT	Veg. Zone # (BAM-C)	Veg. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Vegetation Class	Mgt. Zone Name	Current VI Score	Future VI Score	Change in VI Score	Subregion average change in VI
PCT 75	VZ #10	75_Mod-good	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	Area B10	89.4	52.4	-37	-37
PCT 5	VZ #1	5_Mod-good	Inland Riverine Forests	Area HZ	71.7	64.9	-6.8	-6.6
PCT 249	VZ #6	249_Moderate		Area HZ	51.9	45.3	-6.6	
PCT 74	VZ #7	74_Mod-good	Floodplain Transition Woodland	Area HZ	71.6	69	-2.6	-6.125
PCT 76	VZ #2	76_Mod-good		Area HZ	69.7	60.9	-8.8	
PCT 80	VZ #4	80_Mod-good		Area HZ	87.9	82.6	-5.3	
PCT 80	VZ #3	80_Moderate		Area HZ	49.2	41.4	-7.8	
PCT 75	VZ #10	75_Mod-good	Riverine Sandhill Woodlands	Area HZ	89.4	85.8	-3.6	-3.6

A.5 Inland Slopes

Table 22: Direct impacts on native vegetation and change in vegetation integrity within the Inland Slopes IBRA subregion for the B4 and B10 management zones (taken from Revised BDAR)

PCT	Veg. Zone # (BAM-C)	Veg. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Vegetation Class	Mgt. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Current VI Score	Future VI Score	Change in VI Score	Subregion average change in VI
PCT 110	VZ #3	110_Mod-good	Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests	Area B4	64.9	30.8	-34.1	-34.1
PCT 74	VZ #1	74_Mod-good	Floodplain Transition Woodland	Area B4	55.8	16.4	-39.4	-39.4
PCT 74	VZ #1	74_Mod-good		Area B10	55.8	16.4	-39.4	
PCT 267	VZ #6	267_Mod-good	Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands	Area B4	63.2	14.5	-48.7	-53.35
PCT 267	VZ #6	267_Mod-good		Area B10	63.2	14.5	-48.7	
PCT 277	VZ #4	277_Mod-good		Area B4	82.2	24.2	-58	
PCT 277	VZ #4	277_Mod-good		Area B10	82.2	24.2	-58	
PCT 319	VZ #5	319_Mod-good	Inland Rocky Hill Woodlands	Area B4	66.9	32.4	-34.5	-34.5
PCT 319	VZ #5	319_Mod-good		Area B10	66.9	32.4	-34.5	

PCT	Veg. Zone # (BAM-C)	Veg. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Vegetation Class	Mgt. Zone Name (BAM-C)	Current VI Score	Future VI Score	Change in VI Score	Subregion average change in VI
PCT 110	VZ #3	110_Mod-good	Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests	Area HZ	64.9	58.9	-6	-6
PCT 74	VZ #1	74_Mod-good	Floodplain Transition Woodland	Area HZ	55.8	52.6	-3.2	-3.2
PCT 267	VZ #6	267_Mod-good	Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands	Area HZ	63.2	55.8	-7.4	-4.6
PCT 277	VZ #4	277_Mod-good		Area HZ	82.2	80.4	-1.8	
PCT 319	VZ #5	319_Mod-good	Inland Rocky Hill Woodlands	Area HZ	66.9	58.5	-8.4	-8.4