

**Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern Section)  
Ecology Pre-Clearance Survey Report**



**General information**

Item	Detail
Ecologist / Fauna Spotter(s) completing Pre-Clearance Survey	Name: Scott Rolph, Hannah Roberts, Madeleine Cicchelli Qualification: Ecologist
Date of Pre-Clearance Survey	16/01/2026
Specific Pre-Clearance Survey location (Line No./ Tower / Span No.)	<b>Survey Extent:</b> T150-200
Scope methodology	<b>Desktop Survey:</b> A desktop survey was undertaken that encompasses the full Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) assessment extent. <b>Infield Survey:</b> The in-field survey encompassed the full easement, including a 15-metre buffer on both sides of B10.

**Pre-clearance Survey details**

<b>Infrastructure surveyed</b>				
Tower footprint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Centreline		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brake and winch site, OPGW, EPZ, hurdle and/or crane pad site	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parking areas		<input type="checkbox"/>
Access track (existing)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Access track (new)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Disturbance Area B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any other details:	Full easement with 15-meter buffer to accommodate for hazard & tall growing trees			

**Protected Matters**

Item	Presence identified		Quantum surveyed (Ha)	Quantum which will be disturbed (Ha)	Comments
	Yes	No			
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland <sup>1,2</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	43.09 Ha	0.09Ha	EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including additional disturbance areas)
Grey Box ( <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> ) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia <sup>1,2</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.30 Ha		EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including additional disturbance areas)
Weeping Myall Woodlands <sup>1,2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains <sup>1,2</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8.50 Ha		EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including additional disturbance areas)
Habitat for Mossgiel Daisy <sup>1,2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

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<b>Pre-clearance Survey details</b>					
Habitat for Chariot Wheels <sup>1,2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Habitat for Slender Darling Pea <sup>1,2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critically endangered BC Act TEC <i>White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland</i> identified within the surveyed area.</li> <li>• Endangered BC Act TEC <i>Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Peneplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions</i> identified within the surveyed area.</li> <li>• Critically Endangered BC Act TEC <i>Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains</i> identified within the surveyed area</li> </ul>					
<b>Management measures required to avoid or minimise impacts to Protected Matters:</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusion zones not required as clearing has already occurred within the easement.</li> <li>• No additional mitigation measure required. Clearing works to be managed in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Management Plan.</li> </ul>					
<b>Hollow Bearing / Habitat Trees</b>					
Habitat trees and habitat features identified & marked?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Comments: Hollow-bearing trees and nests identified (includes initial pre-clearance surveys marked with GPS and incidental observations recorded on Field Maps). All trees to be re-assessed by ecologists prior to clearing due to the high likelihood of new nests being established since initial pre-clearance surveys.</p> <p>Additional violation trees marked for pruning or removal by ENSPEC have been assessed based on in-field and prior GIS data and identified as containing habitat.</p>		
GPS coordinates and habitat trees recorded?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Comments: Total of 252 existing GPS waypoints recorded during pre-clearance surveys between Tower 150-200 (includes trees previously removed)</p> <p>Nine additional violation trees identified have the following ENSPEC IDs: 5, 9, 10, 14, 34, 37, 39, 42, 57; as well as 11 trees that lack ENSPEC IDs (total of 20 violation trees).</p>		
Nest boxes required?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Comments: Nest boxes previously installed.</p>		
Fauna spotter required to be present during clearing activities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Comments: Pre-inspection of all trees by an ecologist required prior to tree trimming and/or removal.</p> <p>Pre-inspection of all grassland habitat by an ecologist required before any ground stripping activities (including PCT 0).</p> <p>Ecologist required during removal of any hollow-bearing and/or nest trees.</p>		

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**Pre-clearance Survey details**

			Ecologist required during ground stripping activities (only required in PCT 0 if suitable fauna habitat is identified by an ecologist during pre-inspection).
<b>Weeds</b>			
Were any Weeds of National Significance or Priority Weeds identified?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Details: African Boxthorn ( <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> ) - Tower 164-165, 168-169, 192-193
<b>Environmental exclusion zones</b>			
Threatened Species Identified within Disturbance Area B?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Details: Spotted Harrier ( <i>Circus assimilis</i> ) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 172-173, 195-196, 197-199 Superb Parrot ( <i>Polytelis swainsonii</i> ) (EPBC and BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 155-156 Grey-crowned Babbler ( <i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i> ) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 161-164, 192-193 White-fronted Chat ( <i>Epthianura albifrons</i> ) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 172-173, 181-183, 188-189 Flame Robin ( <i>Petroica phoenicea</i> ) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 184-185, 198-199 Southern Whiteface ( <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> ) (EPBC and BC Act-listed as Vulnerable - Tower 198-200)
Environmental exclusion zones required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details: Not required due to prior clearing within easement.
<b>Unexpected Finds</b>			
Were any Unexpected Finds identified?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details:
If yes, has the Environmental Manager been notified?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details:
<b>Additional comments:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ecologist required for pre-inspection of all vegetation prior to removal (ground stripping and tree trimming/removal).</li> <li>- Ecologist required during removal of all vegetation (excludes non-habitat trees, cropped and/or pasture paddocks, and grassland with no habitat features identified during ecologist pre-inspection).</li> <li>- Ecologist required for pre-inspection prior to removal or relocation of log piles or large hollow-bearing logs (if logs have remained in-situ for four (4) weeks or longer).</li> <li>- Vegetation removal has previously occurred within easement.</li> <li>- Squirrel Glider habitat mapped within Disturbance Area B (Tower 150-165, 191-200).</li> <li>- Assumed species presence Superb Parrot (Tower 176-177).</li> <li>- Hollow-bearing limbs/logs to be retained as fauna habitat where possible.</li> <li>- Weeds to be managed in accordance with the Biosecurity Management Plan.</li> </ul>			

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**Pre-clearance Approval**

**Ecologist**

Name	Hannah Roberts
Signature	
Date	16/01/2026
<b>Elecnor</b>	
Name	Oluwatobi Aina
Position	Environmental Advisor
Signature	
Date	01/02/2026

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