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



Table 1 - Information

Item	Detail
Ecologist / Fauna Spotter(s) Completing Pre-Clearance Survey	Name: Estelle Kayler-Thomson, Justine On, Madeleine Cicchelli, and Dinithi Koswatta-Gamage
	Qualification: Ecologists
Date of Pre-Clearance Survey	15-07-2023 – 17-07-2023
Specific Pre-Clearance Survey Location (Line No./ Tower / Span No.)	L5 Dinawan Substation + Camp 3
Scope Methodology	Desktop review of vegetation mapping for nominated area
	In field visual inspection by ecologists of the proposed disturbance area.
Work Package ID	L5 Ecology – Pre-clearance surveys

Table 2 - Pre-Clearance Survey Details

Infrastructure Surveyed					
Tower Footprint		Ce	ntreline		
Break and Winch Site		Pa	rking Areas		
Access Track (existing)			cess Track (new)		
Disturbance Area B	□ Ot		ner	\boxtimes	
Details of Other:	Dinawan Substation + Camp 3 Laydown Areas				
Protected Matters					
Item	Presence Identified			Comments	
	Yes	No	Clear (Ha)		
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland 12		\boxtimes			
Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia ¹²		\boxtimes			
Weeping Myall Woodlands ¹²	\boxtimes		0.145Ha (Substation Boundary)	EPBC Act Thre Ecological Com	
			0.076Ha (Camp Laydown Area)	Quantum including Access Track 5118 – 5119 within Substation Boundary, Substation, and Camp Laydown Area.	
			0.01Ha (Access Track)		
Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains 12		\boxtimes			
Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions ²		\boxtimes			
Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion ²		\boxtimes			

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Plains mallee box woodland of the Murray Darling Depression, Riverina and Naracoorte Coastal Plains bioregions ²		\boxtimes		
Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains ²		\boxtimes		
Habitat for A spear-grass (austrostipa metatoris) ²				
Habitat for A spear-grass (austrostipa	\boxtimes		5.08	Habitat mapped
wakoolica) ²			(Substation Boundary)	
Habitat for Mossgiel Daisy 12				
Habitat for Sand-hill Spider Orchid ²		\boxtimes		
Habitat for A burr-daisy ²		\boxtimes		
Habitat for Winged Peppercross ¹		\boxtimes		
Habitat for Chariot Wheels 12		\boxtimes		
Habitat for Slender Darling Pea 12		\boxtimes		
Habitat for Yellow Swainson-pea ²				
Habitat for Plains Wanderer 12		\boxtimes		
Habitat for Regent Parrot (eastern subspecies) ¹²	\boxtimes		5.14Ha (Substation Boundary)	Breeding habitat mapped
Habitat for Superb Parrot ¹²	\boxtimes		5.14Ha (Substation Boundary)	Habitat mapped
Notes: 1 Protected matter listed within the Notification	of Approval E	nergyConne	ect NSW – Eastern Secti	on (EPBC 2020/8766)

Management measures required to avoid or minimise impacts to Protected Matters:

- 0.231Ha BC Act listed TEC 'Myall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain, Murray-Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions' (Endangered).
- Exclusion zones to be installed to restrict access to protected matters outside the construction footprint.
- No additional mitigation measures required. Clearing works to be in accordance with the Biodiversity Management Plan.

Hollow Bearing / Habitat Trees			
Habitat trees and habitat features identified & marked?	Yes ⊠	No □	Comments: Habitat identified. Hollow bearing trees and stick nests.
GPS coordinates and habitat trees recorded?	Yes ⊠	No □	Comments: WP ID605 – 703 WP ID188B – 228B
Nest boxes required?	Yes ⊠	No □	Comments:
Fauna spotter required to be present during clearing activities?	Yes ⊠	No □	Comments:
Weeds			
Were any Weeds of National Significance or Priority Weeds identified?	Yes ⊠	No □	Details: African Boxthorn (<i>Lycium</i> ferocissimum)

² Protected matter listed within the Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (August 2022)

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Environmental Exclusion Zones			
Threatened Species Identified within Disturbance Area B?	Yes ⊠	No □	Details: Spotted Harrier (Circus assimilis)
Environmental exclusion zones required?	Yes ⊠	No □	Details: EPBC Act and BC Act Threatened Ecological Community.
Unexpected Finds			
Were any Unexpected Finds identified?	Yes □	No ⊠	Details:
If yes, has the Environmental Manager been notified?	Yes □	No ⊠	Details:

Additional Comments

- Two Spotted Harrier (Vulnerable under BC Act) observed foraging on the ground and circling over Dinawan Substation.
- Hollow bearing logs identified within Dinawan Substation and Camp 3 Laydown Area. Recommend hollow bearing logs be retained and moved outside of construction footprint for future utilisation by fauna.
- Exclusion zones to be installed prior to construction works commencing.
- Ecologist to be present during clearing activities.
- 5.08Ha of Leptorhynchos orientalis habitat to be removed.
- 5.08Ha of Silky Swainson-pea (Swainsona sericea) habitat to be removed.
- Weeds to be managed in accordance with the Biosecurity Management Plan.
- Additional weeds: Bathurst Burr (Xanthium spinosum), Spear Thistle (Cirsium vulgare), Witch Grass (Panicum capillare),
 Stinging Nettle (Urtica dioica), Flaxleaf Fleabane (Conyza bonariensis), and Paterson's Curse (Echium plantagineum).

Table 3 - Pre-Clearance Approval

Ecologist				
Pre-clearance Assessment Timeframe for Nominated Works	3 months			
Name	Scott Rolph			
Signature	souther			
Date	20-08-2023			
SecureEnergy				
Name	Glenn Hayden			
Position	Senior Environmental Advisor			
Signature				
Date	22.08.2023			