

EnergyConnect Ecology surveys

FACT SHEET

EnergyConnect

EnergyConnect is an energy infrastructure project that will lower power bills for homes and businesses and create 1,500 jobs, primarily across regional NSW.

The Australian energy landscape is transforming, with an increased focus on renewable energy sources. To connect Australian communities and businesses to these new energy sources, the national electricity grid needs to evolve.

EnergyConnect will deliver the infrastructure to support this evolution by connecting the energy grids of NSW, SA and Victoria with a new 900 km electricity transmission line, known as an interconnector.

The proposed interconnector would run between Wagga Wagga in NSW and Robertstown in SA, with a connection to Red Cliffs in VIC.

Ecology surveys

We are undertaking ecology surveys and investigations to help identify existing animal and plant species and their habitats within the local area. These surveys will help us understand the local environment, and identify issues to be taken into account during engineering design and project planning.

A combination of public and private land will be identified for the surveys. If access to private land is required, we will seek landowner consent. Transgrid representatives will seek all necessary permits and approvals prior to commencing any surveys and will comply with the New South Wales and Australian Government ecological survey guidelines.

What to expect

Transgrid representatives will work with landowners to understand their expectations and requirements before undertaking and completing the ecology surveys proposed on their land. We will cover requirements to access the property and the types of activities proposed, including the duration and timing. After all necessary permits and approvals are in place, the team will schedule work in the survey area as agreed with the landowner.



On-site landowner discussion near Balranald, NSW

How are ecology assessments done?

The assessment methods can vary greatly depending on the focus of the survey. The surveys can focus on flora (plant), fauna (animal) and/or aquatic (water-based).

Some surveys may be required at specific times of the year when certain species can be more easily identified (e.g. when flowering occurs or during breeding season).

Flora

Flora surveys are usually conducted during daylight hours by teams of 2–4 ecologists walking through identified areas, cataloguing the plant species found. In some instances samples may be required to accurately catalogue the plant, however photographs are usually sufficient.



Spinifex dune mallee, SA/NSW border

Fauna

Fauna surveys are usually conducted by teams of 2–4 ecologists during the day and occasionally at night. The survey method will depend on the species being investigated but can involve observations and gathering of samples. In some instances the humane use of nets and traps may be necessary. To prevent harm to any fauna, traps are checked and any captured animals are photographed and released.



Emu in paddock

Aquatic

Aquatic surveys are usually conducted by teams of 2–4 ecologists within and along streams, creeks and rivers to identify aquatic life. The field team will use a variety of methods to better understand the existing species.



Murray River, Euston NSW

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the construction of EnergyConnect. Please connect with us if you need any information.



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