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PEC East

Stage 3 Environmental Strategy

October 2026

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1. Project Background

1.1. Introduction

Project EnergyConnect NSW Eastern Section (The Project) involves the construction and operation of around 375km of new 330kV and just over 160km of 500kV transmission line infrastructure between Buronga and Wagga Wagga. Works also include construction of the new Dinawan substation and upgrades to the Wagga Wagga 330kV substation to integrate the transmission line. The key components of the project include:

- construction of 375 kilometres of 330kV double circuit transmission line and associated infrastructure between the Buronga substation and the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation
- construction of a new 330kV substation around 30 kilometres south of Coleambally, referred to as the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation
- construction of about 162 kilometres of new 500kV double circuit transmission line and associated infrastructure between the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation and the existing Wagga Wagga substation at Wagga Wagga, NSW
- upgrade and expansion of the Wagga Wagga substation to accommodate the new transmission line connections including the installation of new line bays, relocation and upgrade of existing bays and associated electrical and civil works (road, kerb, gutter, drainage works and earthworks)
- provision of three optical repeater structures and associated connections to existing local electrical supplies
- new/and or upgrade of access tracks as required
- ancillary works required to facilitate the construction of the proposal (e.g. laydown and staging areas, concrete batching plants, brake/winch sites, site offices and accommodation camps).

The project was approved under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* by the Minister for Planning on 2 September 2022. Determination here: (Project determination).

1.2. Project Planning Approval

The purpose of this Stage 3 Environmental Strategy is to ensure operational activities associated with Project EnergyConnect East meet the environmental requirements set out for the project, including:

- NSW Infrastructure approval (Infrastructure approval)
- Environmental Impact Statement and appendices (EnergyConnect NSW Eastern Section EIS - Volume 1, Transgrid 2022)
- Amendment report (EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern section) - Amendment report, Transgrid 2022)

The NSW project determination and further supplementary information can be sourced here: Project EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) | Planning Portal – Department of Planning and Environment

Table 1-1: NSW - State Significant Infrastructure Determination

Project Detail	
Application Number	SSI-9172452
EPBC ID Number	2020/8766
Assessment Type	State Significant Infrastructure

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Local Government Areas	Balranald Shire Council, Edward River Council, Federation Council, Hay Shire Council, Lockhart Shire Council, Murray River Shire Council, Murrumbidgee Council, Wagga Wagga City Council, Wentworth Shire Council
Decision	Approved
NSW Determination Date	2/9/2022 (decision) 30/8/2024 (variation)
Commonwealth Determination Date	5/12/2022 (decision) 17/6/2024 (variation)

1.3. Project Location

Figure 1-1 shows the overall project layout from the Infrastructure Approval.

Figure 1-1: Project layout (Operational) (Appendix 1 of Infrastructure Approval)

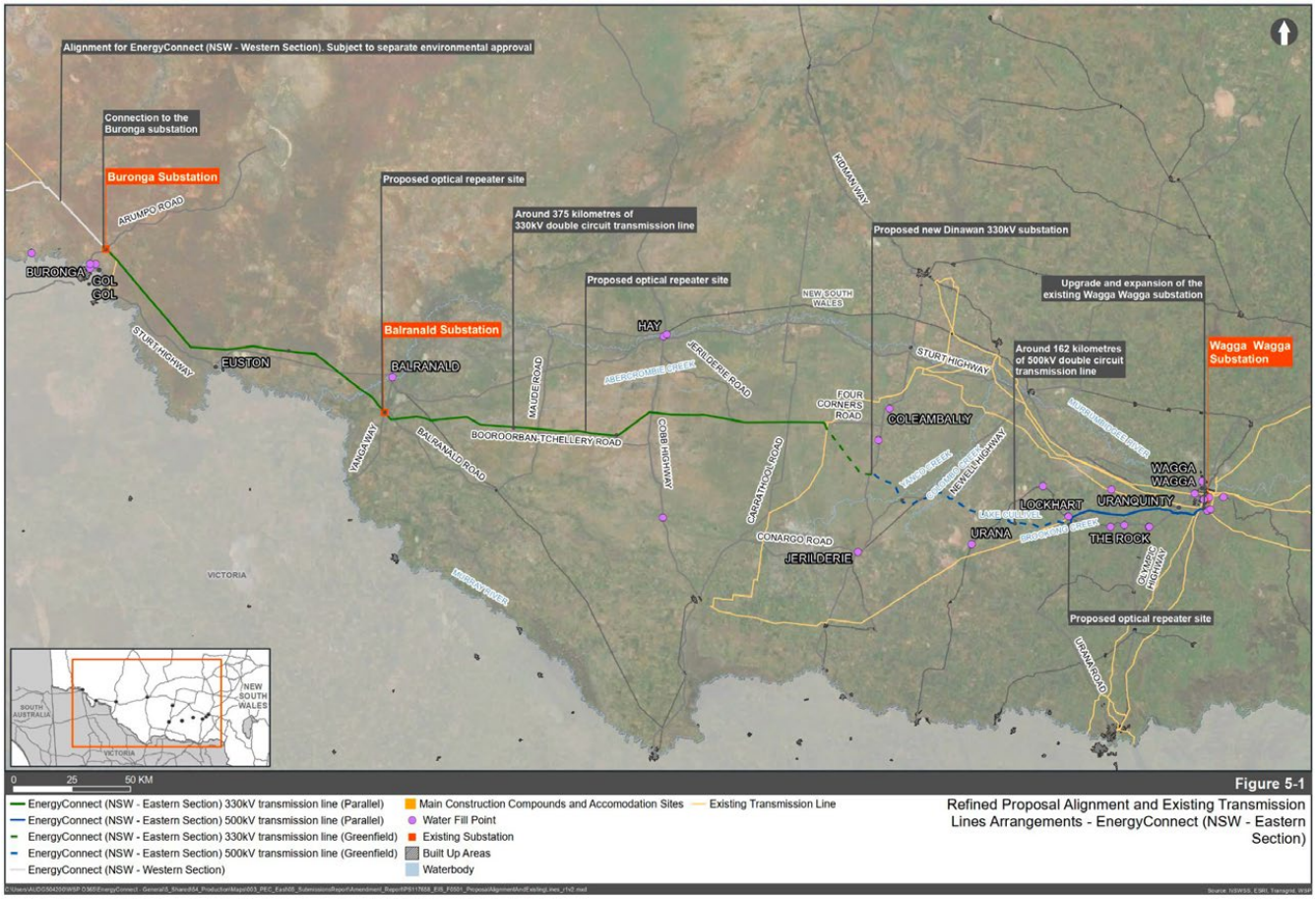


Figure 5-1
Refined Proposal Alignment and Existing Transmission Lines Arrangements - EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern Section)

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1.4. Project Description

1.4.1. Construction phase scope of work

The scope of the construction phase of the project works is summarised as per below. Note that the principal contractor has prepared the Approved Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for this phase of works to comply with the Infrastructure approval.

- Enabling works (including site establishment, survey works, installation of environmental management measures)
- Construction and commissioning of the new or upgraded transmission lines (including vegetation clearance, earthworks, tower foundations and erection, conductor stringing)
- Construction and commissioning of Dinawan Substation and the Wagga Wagga substation upgrade and expansion (including vegetation clearing, earthworks, foundation installation, electrical and communication infrastructure installation, security systems installation)
- Construction of optical repeater sites at Balranald, Boorooban and Lockhart (including site establishment, earthworks, installation of communication huts, electrical equipment, trenching and waste removal from site)
- Residual construction activities (including remediation of sites, repair/replacement of items damaged during construction, installation of security systems)

1.4.2. Commencement of Operational phase

Project EnergyConnect East is currently estimated to enter its operational phase (expected November 2026), once all assets are ready for inter-network testing with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to enable the carrying out of the approved purpose of the development. This date is considered the anniversary date where specified in this Environmental Strategy unless otherwise defined.

Operation as defined by the Infrastructure Approval is “The carrying out of the approved purpose of the development upon completion of construction, but does not include commissioning trials of equipment or use of temporary facilities. Note: There may be overlap between the carrying out of construction and operation if the phases of the development are staged. Commissioning trials of equipment and temporary use of any part of the development are within the definition of construction.”

1.4.3. Operational phase maintenance

Upon completion of the construction phase and commencement of the ongoing operational phase, maintenance activities for the project would include:

Regular inspection (ground and aerial) and maintenance of electrical assets (transmission lines, towers and substation assets)

- General building, asset protection zone and general landscaping maintenance
- Fire detection system inspection and maintenance
- Fence, signage and gate maintenance and repair
- Stormwater and drainage infrastructure maintenance
- Easement vegetation maintenance
- Access track maintenance; and
- Maintenance works based on defects raised in inspections.

General maintenance activities and frequency can be found in Transgrid Plan: Generic Maintenance Plan.

Scheduled inspection and specific maintenance of assets is managed as per Transgrid maintenance plans listed in the Table 1-3 and Table 1-4 below. The purpose of this maintenance is to maintain network reliability and mitigate incidents, bushfire risk and public safety risk.

Further detail on the operational phase maintenance requirements for electrical transmission assets, substation, and easement and access tracks is specified in the following tables and sections.

1.4.3.1. Maintenance plans – NSW

Table 1-2: Maintenance plan: New South Wales

Asset	Maintenance	Frequency	Transgrid plan reference
Transmission lines	Aerial inspections	1 year	Maintenance Plan – Transmission Line Assets
	Climbing inspection/ Thermographic inspection	End of Defect Liability period for new line	
	Compliance inspection	1-3 years	
	Structure earth testing (proximity to publicly frequented areas)	10 years	
	Thermographic inspection	2-4 years	
	Maintenance works	As required based on inspections. All maintenance works will comply with Transgrid NSW EAF (refer to Section 3)	
Transmission towers	Drone/climbing inspections	6 years	
Dinawan and Wagga Wagga substations	Substation inspections – CCTV	Monthly	Maintenance Plan – Substation Assets
	Substation equipment Inspections	6 monthly	
	Annual Substation inspection	Annually	
	Bushfire inspections	Annual - completed in June	
	Thermographic inspection	Annual - completed in June	
	Bushfire maintenance	Annually – completed prior to 1st October	

Asset	Maintenance	Frequency	Transgrid plan reference
Easements	Defect liability inspection	End of Defect Liability period for new line	Maintenance Plan – Easements and Access tracks
	LiDAR and/or compliance inspections – easement vegetation	Annually between February and 1st August. And after fire.	
	Easement vegetation maintenance work	2-6 years as required based on vegetation growth and condition.	
Access tracks	Condition inspection	As required	
	Maintenance	As required based on condition/risk	

All environmental authorisation for maintenance works in Table 1-3 will be managed as per the Transgrid Environmental Assessment Framework – NSW.

Refer to Section 3.2 of this plan for detail on how asset maintenance integrates with Transgrid's Environmental Management System. This includes the Environmental Assessment Framework (Section 3.1.2), the Environmental handbook (Section3.1.3), and Environmental Guidance Notes (Section3.1.4).

Refer to Table 4-1 of this plan for Transgrid responsibilities (RACI).

1.4.3.2. Transmission Line Assets Maintenance

Maintenance activities include regular inspection and maintenance of transmission lines, towers and poles to ensure safety and function including:

- An annual aerial helicopter or ground inspection of the transmission lines as part of the bushfire season preparedness to identify any urgent corrective action for remediation.
- Two-four yearly aerial or ground thermographic inspection to identify any defects on joints, fittings and insulators prior to bushfire season.
- Routine infrastructure inspection on a six-yearly cycle for self-supporting towers and three-yearly cycle for guyed towers. This would typically involve two to three maintenance crew driving a light vehicle from public roads to the easement utilising access tracks, and along the easement centreline inspecting each transmission line tower in turn. Towers would be inspected from the ground, by personnel climbing the tower or use of drones
- Routine / planned line maintenance using a light vehicle(s), an elevated work platform and a medium sized truck with up to around five to ten personnel to rectify any defects found from routine inspections. Generally, this would occur within the same three to six-year maintenance cycles as the routine infrastructure inspection.
- Ad hoc fault and emergency fly over(s) to assess infrastructure condition should an unplanned outage occur (for example through a weather event or other failure of infrastructure). This maintenance would occur as required. The amount of maintenance and/or crew required for repair of any damaged infrastructure would depend on the extent of repairs required.

Maintenance will be undertaken as per Transgrid controlled document: Maintenance Plan – Transmission Line Assets.

1.4.3.3. Dinawan and Wagga Wagga Substations Operation and Maintenance

Maintenance at the new and expanded substation sites would typically include attendance (up to three times a week) of one or two switching operators to undertake planned and unplanned switching of equipment. It is expected that these activities would only require light vehicles and/or small to medium plant (depending on the works required).

Any waste generated during operation would be minimal and disposed of on an 'as need' basis by the attending maintenance personnel.

Additional maintenance activities at the substations would typically include:

- Routine substation infrastructure inspection (such as transformers and other electrical plant and equipment) throughout the year by around two to three personnel.
- Routine / planned substation maintenance of equipment, property and switchyard areas on a scheduled basis. This would typically be monthly and undertaken by around three to five maintenance personnel.
- Ad hoc fault and emergency works for repair of any damaged infrastructure (for example through a weather event or other failure of infrastructure).

All maintenance would occur on a as required basis. The amount of maintenance and/or crew required to access for repair of any damaged infrastructure would depend on the extent of repairs required. Equipment for the substation is expected to have a service life of around 50 years. Maintenance would be regularly undertaken for the different infrastructure components and plant items such as transformers. These components would be replaced/refurbished towards the end of their serviceable life, allowing the service life of the substation to be extended.

Maintenance will be undertaken as per Transgrid controlled document: Maintenance Plan – Substation Assets.

1.4.3.4. Maintenance – Easements and Access Tracks

Access to the easement for operational purposes will use existing public and private roads and tracks. Access tracks created for construction may be retained for the operational phase to provide safe access and as part of residual construction phase activities.

Access easements may be required to provide Transgrid with access from the nearest public road to the easement. These access easements are negotiated with landholders as required. Transgrid may install locked and signed access gates to access the easement should a landholder not have a suitable existing gate nearby.

Easement maintenance may also include the below works:

- An annual aerial LiDAR survey as part of seasonal bushfire prevention will be undertaken to determine vegetation intrusion.
- Routine cyclical based ground vegetation inspection and management below transmission lines to ensure electrical safety clearances are maintained. The required clearance of vegetation within the corridor would be undertaken in accordance with Transgrid's maintenance guidelines and procedures.
- Off easement hazard tree pruning/removal.

- On easement hazard tree pruning/removal.
- Satisfy biodiversity requirements during vegetation management.
- Identification and management of any unauthorised encroachments
- All fences and gates on easement must be earthed and isolated in accordance with Transgrid's Fencing Guidelines during this phase.
- Liaison with landowners to manage vegetation on easement.

Maintenance of easements and access tracks will be undertaken as per Transgrid controlled document: Maintenance Plan – Easements and Access Tracks.

1.4.4. Operational Phase – other actions

All maintenance measures undertaken during the operational phase will be conducted in line with the Transgrid Environmental Management System (EMS). For all actions Transgrid maintains a structured process: The Transgrid Environmental Assessment Framework. This process requires that all Transgrid actions go through an environmental risk review process prior to carrying out any work to ensure:

- Transgrid's actions comply with relevant legislation, regulations and statutory environmental requirements.
- An appropriate level of environmental risk review is completed prior to the conducting of any action.
- Any construction and operational activities are appropriately assessed to identify environmental risks.
- Appropriate mitigation measures to eliminate or minimise risks are prescribed and put in place before works are started.
- Work teams are provided training and induction regarding the management of environmental aspects/constraints.

1.4.5. Upgrading

Upgrades or Upgrading includes:

- Upgrading of conductor type across the transmission line;
- Upgrading of optical fibre ground wire (OPGW) along an existing transmission line;
- Construction of new access tracks;
- Upgrade to Dinawan or Wagga Substations involving installation of new outdoor equipment, for example:
  - > installation of a new transformer
  - > installation of a new switch bay
  - > construction of a new oil containment tank or facility

These items are outside the scope of this Stage 3 Strategy and requirements are addressed as part of Stage 4 in the Staging Report.

2. Operational Phase: Environmental Management Requirements

2.1. Stage 3 Environmental Strategy

Transgrid is committed to conducting its activities in a manner that minimises environmental impacts and complies with project approvals, relevant legislation, industry standards and codes of practice. To fulfil these commitments, Transgrid maintains an Environmental Management System (EMS) certified to AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016. Pursuant to its management system, Transgrid will establish and implement this Environmental Strategy for this project and in accordance with its EMS.

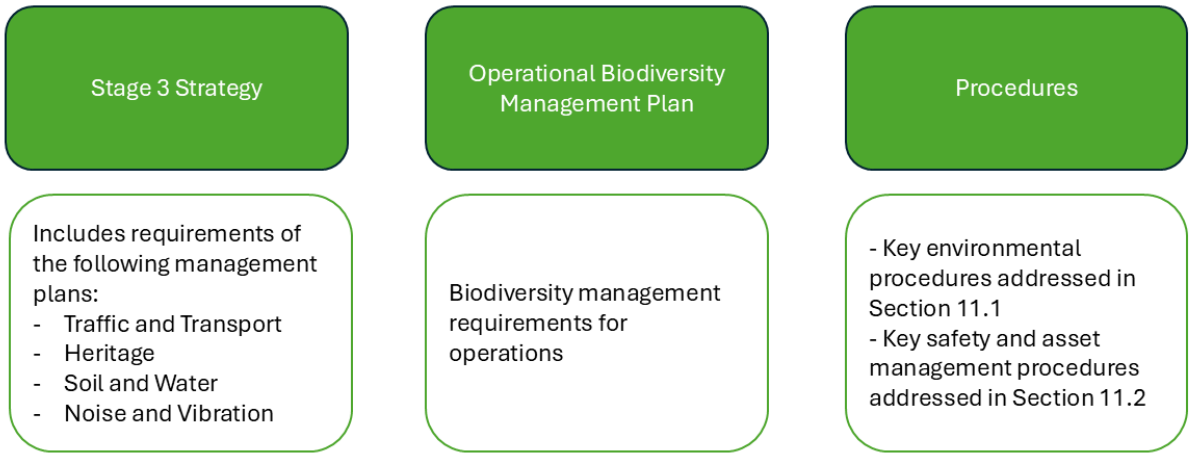
This Environmental Strategy details how Transgrid will meet the commitments made in the Staging Report for Stage 3 (operations), and the environmental impacts and mitigation measures identified in the EIS and in the relevant conditions from the Infrastructure Approval will be implemented and achieved during the operational phase of this project.

The Environmental Strategy achieves this by identifying:

- Conditions of approval to be met during the operational phase.
- Environmental aspects, key impacts and mitigation measures as detailed in the EIS and planning permit report.
- How adherence with Transgrid's EMS and existing processes and procedures will mitigate the risks associated with the operational phase.
- Environmental management responsibilities and management structures related to the operational phase.
- Environmental monitoring requirements associated with the operational phase.
- Reporting requirements for Transgrid during the operational phase.

As per the NSW Infrastructure Approval, Project EnergyConnect East requires an approved environmental plan(s) to be in place and implemented for the construction and operational phases of the NSW project components. An approved Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) was in place for the construction component of the works and focused on construction phase mitigation measures.

For the operational stage of the development, the following image sets out the documents required:



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This document (and associated Operational Biodiversity Management Plan) will require Planning Secretary approval and supersede the Stage 2 Construction documents once the development enters operations. They will be published on Transgrid's external website.

Transgrid procedures will be managed in accordance with the relevant ISO standard they are associated with.

2.2. Legislative and Regulatory Obligations

Key Commonwealth and State legislation relevant to the operation of Transgrid infrastructure are managed through the Environmental Legal and Other Obligations registers.

The Environmental Legal and Other Obligations registers are a vital part of Transgrid's Environmental Management System and is used to ensure policies and procedures that form part of the system take into consideration all aspects of legal and regulatory requirements across Transgrid's operations.

2.3. Approval Conditions

2.3.1. NSW

Infrastructure Approval, SSI 9172452, includes conditions of approval specifically in relation to the post-construction and operational phase of the project. Table 2-1 describes these commitments and provides a concordance table referencing where each item has been addressed in this Environmental Strategy. These Conditions of Approval were identified in the Staging Report for Stage 3 (Operations) and it is noted that not all conditions apply to operations.

Table 2-1: Infrastructure approval conditions of consent - operational phase

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
A1	In meeting the specific performance measures and criteria of this approval, all reasonable and feasible measures must be implemented to prevent, and if prevention is not reasonable and feasible, minimise, any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, rehabilitation, upgrading or decommissioning of the development.	This document
A2	The development must be carried out: a) in compliance with the conditions of this approval; b) in accordance with all written directions of the Planning Secretary; c) generally in accordance with the EIS; and d) generally in accordance with the Layout in Appendix 1.	Section 1.2 Project Planning Approval
A3	The Proponent must comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of: a) any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this approval;	Section 10 Environmental Strategy Review

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	b) any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this approval; and c) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.	
A4	The conditions of this approval and directions of the Planning Secretary prevail to the extent of any inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict between them and a document listed in condition A2(c) or A2(d). In the event of an inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict between any of the documents listed in condition A2(c) or A2(d), the most recent document prevails to the extent of the inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict.	Noted
A5	Any document that must be submitted within a time frame specified in or under the terms of this approval may be submitted within a later timeframe agreed with the Planning Secretary. This condition does not apply to the immediate written notification required in respect of an incident under condition D6.	Noted
A7	Where conditions of this approval require consultation with an identified party, the Proponent must: a) consult with the relevant party prior to submitting the subject document to the Planning Secretary for approval; and b) provide details of the consultation undertaken including: (i) the outcome of that consultation, matters resolved and unresolved; and (ii) details of any disagreement remaining between the party consulted and the Proponent and how the Proponent has addressed the matters not resolved.	Section 7.1 Government Agency Consultation
A8	With the approval of the Planning Secretary, the Proponent may: a) prepare and submit any strategy, plan, program or report required by this approval on a staged basis (if a clear description is provided as to the specific stage and scope of the development to which the strategy, plan, program or report applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan, program or report); b) combine any strategy, plan, program or report required by this approval (if a clear relationship is demonstrated between the strategies, plans, programs or reports that are proposed to be combined); and c) update any strategy, plan, program or report required by this approval (to ensure the strategies, plans, programs or reports required under this approval are updated on a regular basis and incorporate	Section 10.2 Staging EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) Staging Report, approved 20 January 2023)

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	additional measures or amendments to improve the environmental performance of the development). If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan, program or report may be staged or updated without consultation being undertaken with all parties required to be consulted in the relevant condition of this approval. If approved by the Planning Secretary, updated strategies, plans, programs or reports supersede the previous versions of them and must be implemented in accordance with the condition that requires the strategy, plan, program or report. If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan, program or report may be staged without addressing particular requirements of the relevant condition of this approval if those requirements are not applicable to the particular stage.	
A14	The Proponent must pay all reasonable costs incurred by the Department to engage a suitably qualified, experienced and independent expert(s) to review the adequacy of any strategy, plan, program or report required under this approval.	Noted
A15	Unless the Proponent and the applicable authority agree otherwise, the Proponent must: a) undertake any works on or in the vicinity of public infrastructure in consultation with the applicable public authority or service provider responsible for that public infrastructure; b) repair, or pay the full costs associated with repairing, any public infrastructure that is damaged by the development; and c) relocate, or pay the full costs associated with relocating, any public infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a result of the development. This condition does not apply to any damage to roads caused as a result of general road usage which is expressly provided for in the conditions of this approval.	Section 5.2.9 Public Infrastructure
A17	The Proponent must ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA; and where the BCA is not applicable, to the relevant Australian Standard. Notes: Under Part 6 of the EP&A Act, the Proponent is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the development. EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the development.	Noted Section 3.1.2 Environmental Assessment Framework

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
A18	The Proponent must ensure that all of its employees, contractors (and their sub-contractors) are made aware of, and are instructed to comply with, the conditions of this approval relevant to activities they carry out in respect of the development.	Section 4.2 Environmental Training, Induction and Authorisation
A19	All plant and equipment used on site, or in connection with the development, must be: a) maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and b) operated in a proper and efficient manner.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
A20	References in the conditions of this approval to any guideline, protocol, Australian Standard or policy are to such guidelines, protocols, Standards or policies in the form they are in as at the date of this approval.	Noted
A21	Consistent with the conditions of this approval and without altering any limits or criteria in this approval, the Planning Secretary may, when issuing directions under this approval in respect of ongoing monitoring and management obligations, require compliance with an updated or revised version of such a guideline, protocol, Standard or policy, or a replacement of them.	Noted
B1	Prior to commencing construction, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) comprising the Sub-plans listed in Table 1 must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced persons, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.	This document Operational Biodiversity Management Plan
B2	The EMP Sub-plans must be prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines and in consultation with the relevant government agencies identified for each Sub-plan in Table 1, and include: a) a summary of relevant background or baseline data; b) details of: (i) the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval, licence or lease conditions); (ii) any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; (iii) the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures; and (iv) any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the EIS; c) a description of the management measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures and criteria; d) a program to monitor and report on the:	This document Operational Biodiversity Management Plan

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	(i) impacts and environmental performance of the development (including a table summarising all the monitoring and reporting obligations under the conditions of this approval); and (ii) effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph (c); e) a contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible; f) a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time; g) a protocol for managing and reporting any: (i) incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion or performance criterion; (ii) complaint; or (iii) failure to comply with other statutory requirements; h) public sources of information and data to assist stakeholders in understanding environmental impacts of the development; and i) a protocol for periodic review of the EMP and EMP Sub-Plans. The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.	
C8	Except for corona discharge noise, the Proponent must ensure that the noise generated by the operation of the development does not exceed 35 dB(A) LAeq,15min, at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, in accordance with the NPfI, at any non-associated residence.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.3 Noise monitoring Appendix A– Noise and vibration management plan assessment
C9	The Proponent must: a) take all reasonable and feasible steps to minimise corona discharge noise during operation of the project; b) identify residences predicted to experience corona discharge noise levels above 35 dB(A) LAeq,15min at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, determined in accordance with the NPfI, and how often corona noise is expected to be above this this level per year; c) implement all reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures, determined in accordance with the NPfI, at receivers predicted to experience corona discharge noise levels that exceed the noise level identified in condition C8; and	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.3 Noise monitoring Section 5.2.5 Noise Research Program Section 5.2.5 Noise Research Program Appendix A– Noise and vibration management plan assessment

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	d) prepare and implement a Research Program and allocate $150,000 to this program, prepared in consultation with EPA, and be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval prior to commencement of operation, which must provide further scientific and engineering understanding of corona discharge noise and best practice noise mitigation measures.	
C10	The Noise and Vibration EMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must: a) ensure the requirements in conditions C1 to C9 are complied with; b) include a description of the reasonable and feasible measures that would be implemented to minimise noise and vibration impacts of the development; c) include a detailed description of the noise and vibration management system for the development; d) include a protocol for the identification, notification and management of works that exceed the noise management levels; e) include a monitoring program that evaluates and reports on the effectiveness of the noise and vibration management system; and f) include an Out-of-Hours Work Protocol to identify a process for the consideration, management and approval of works that are outside the hours defined in conditions C1 and C6, which must: (i) be prepared in consultation with the relevant Council; (ii) identify low risk activities that can be undertaken without the approval of the Planning Secretary and with the approval of the ER; (iii) identify high risk activities that must be approved by the Planning Secretary; and (iv) identify Department, Council and community notification arrangements for approved out of hours work.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.3 Noise monitoring Appendix A– Noise and vibration management plan assessment
C11	In addition to the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures specified in the EIS, the Proponent must take all reasonable steps to: a) minimise the off-site dust, fume, blast emissions and other air pollutants of the development; and b) minimise the surface disturbance of the site.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
C12	The Proponent must ensure that it has sufficient water for all stages of the development, and if necessary, adjust the scale of the development to match its available water supply.	Noted
C13	The Proponent must report on water take at the site during construction (whether direct or indirect and	Not applicable to Stage 3

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	whether licensable or exempt) in the Independent Audit, including water taken under each water licence.	
C14	Note: Under the Water Act 1912 and/or the Water Management Act 2000, the Proponent is required to obtain the necessary water licences for the development. The Proponent must: a) minimise erosion and control sediment generation; and b) ensure all land disturbances have appropriate drainage and erosion and sediment controls designed, installed and maintained in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater - Soils and Construction Volume 1 (Landcom, 2004), Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume 2A Installation of Services (DECC, 2008) and Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume 2C Unsealed Roads (DECC, 2008);	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.17 Soil and Water Appendix E - Soil and water management plan assessment
C15	Unless otherwise authorised by an EPL, the Proponent must ensure the development does not cause any water pollution, as defined under Section 120 of the POEO Act.	Section 5.2.17 Soil and Water Appendix E - Soil and water management plan assessment
C16	The Proponent must: a) ensure that appropriate components of the concrete batching plants and substation are suitably bunded; and b) minimise any spills of hazardous materials or hydrocarbons, and clean up any spills as soon as possible after they occur.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
C17	The Proponent must ensure that any groundwater dewatering activities do not discharge to watercourses.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.17 Soil and Water
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; and b) the geomorphic condition of the major rivers and distributary channels crossed by the development is not impacted.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.17 Soil and Water Section 3.1.2 Environmental Assessment Framework
C19	The Proponent must ensure that the development:	Section 5.2.16 Flooding

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	a) does not materially alter the flood storage capacity, flows or characteristics in the development area or off-site; and b) is designed, constructed and maintained to reduce impacts on surface water, localised flooding and groundwater at the site, unless otherwise agreed by Council or BCS.	
C22	The Soil and Water EMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include provisions for: a) ensuring the requirements in conditions C12 to C21 are complied with; b) managing flood risk during construction; c) investigating, assessing and managing contaminated land, soils and groundwater in the development area; d) investigating, assessing and managing the potential for asbestos and other hazardous materials in the development area; and e) managing any unexpected and / or suspected contaminated land, asbestos and unexploded ordinance excavated, disturbed or otherwise discovered during construction.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.17 Soil and Water Appendix E - Soil and water management plan assessment
C23	Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must: a) ensure that clearing does not exceed the limits identified in Appendix 2; and b) minimise: (i) the impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees; (ii) the impacts of the development on threatened flora and fauna populations; and (iii) the clearing of native vegetation and key habitat.	Section 5.2.6 Biodiversity
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;	Section 5.2.6 Biodiversity

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	(v) minimising the potential indirect impacts on threatened flora and fauna species, migratory species and 'at risk' species; (vi) rehabilitating and restoring disturbance areas to its pre-existing condition; (vii) avoiding and 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; and (xv) bushfire management; b) a detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures.	
C28	The Proponent must: a) ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect harm to Aboriginal heritage items located outside the development area; b) implement all reasonable and feasible measures to avoid and minimise harm to Aboriginal heritage items and PADs within the development area; and c) salvage and relocate the item/s that would be impacted to a suitable alternative location, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010), or its latest version.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.7 Heritage Appendix B - Heritage Management Plan assessment
C29	The Proponent must: a) ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect harm to any heritage items located outside the development area; and b) implement all reasonable and feasible measures to avoid and minimise harm to PEC-E- H1 (Survey Marker Tree), the Yanga Pastoral Station Complex sheep yards	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.7 Heritage Appendix B - Heritage Management Plan assessment

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	and PEC-E- H3 (Bundure railway station dwelling artefact scatter), prior to carrying out any development that could harm the items or deposits.	
C30	The Heritage EMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must: a) include a description of the measures that would be implemented for: (i) protecting Aboriginal heritage items and PADs in accordance with conditions C28(a) and C28(b); (ii) minimising and managing the impacts of the development on heritage items within the development area, including: - salvaging and relocating the Aboriginal heritage items identified in accordance with condition C28(c); - archival recording and/or salvage of the heritage items and sites identified in condition C29, where impacts cannot be avoided, including consultation with NPWS for the Yanga Pastoral Station Complex sheep yards and Heritage Council for PEC-E-H3 (Bundure railway station dwelling artefact scatter); - a strategy for the long-term management of any heritage items or material collected during the test excavation or salvage works; (iii) a contingency plan and reporting procedure if: - heritage items outside the approved disturbance area are damaged; - previously unidentified heritage items are found; or - skeletal material is discovered; (iv) ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site, and that records are kept of these inductions; and (v) ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders during the implementation of the plan; and b) include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and any heritage impacts of the development.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.7 Heritage Appendix B - Heritage Management Plan assessment
C31	All over-dimensional vehicles associated with the development must only travel to and from the site via the Primary Access Routes described in the EIS, as identified in the figure in Appendix 3, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. Notes: The Proponent is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of over-dimensional vehicles on the road network.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.8 Traffic and transport Appendix C - Traffic and transport management plan assessment

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
C35	The Traffic and Transport EMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include: a) details of the transport route to be used for all development-related traffic; b) details of the road upgrade works required by condition C33 of this approval, including: (i) final number, location and type of Minor Access Points intersections to be implemented; and (ii) verification that the proposed types of intersection treatments have sufficient capacity for the proposed vehicle numbers; c) details of the measures that would be implemented to: (i) minimise traffic safety impacts of the development and disruptions to local road users during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, including: - a description of the proposed dilapidation surveys required by condition C34 of this approval; - a description of the proposed measures for managing traffic flow around the work sites, construction compounds and accommodation camps; - temporary traffic controls, including detours and signage; - procedures for stringing cables and transmission lines across roads; - notifying the local community about development-related traffic impacts; - procedures for receiving and addressing complaints from the community about development- related traffic; - minimising potential cumulative traffic impacts with other projects in the area; - minimising potential conflict between development-related traffic and rail services, stock movements and school buses, in consultation with local schools, including preventing queuing on the public road network; - implementing measures to minimise development-related traffic on the public road network outside of standard construction hours; - minimising dirt tracked onto the public road network from development-related traffic; - details of the employee shuttle bus service (if proposed), including pick-up and drop-off points and associated parking arrangements for construction workers, and measures to encourage employee use of this service; - encouraging car-pooling or ride sharing by employees;	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.8 Traffic and transport Appendix C - Traffic and transport management plan assessment

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	- scheduling of haulage vehicle movements to minimise convoy length or platoons; - responding to local climate conditions that may affect road safety such as fog, dust, wet weather and flooding; - ensuring loaded vehicles entering or leaving the site have their loads covered or contained; - responding to any emergency repair or maintenance requirements; - provisions for maintaining emergency vehicle access at all times; - a traffic management system for managing over-dimensional vehicles; - fatigue management; and (ii) comply with the traffic conditions in this approval; d) include a drivers code of conduct that addresses: (i) travelling speeds; (ii) procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development adhere to the designated over-dimensional and heavy vehicle routes; (iii) procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development implement safe driving practices; and (iv) include a detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and the code of conduct; and e) a flood response plan detailing procedures and options for safe access to and from the site in the event of flooding.	
C36	Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, for a period of 2 years from the commencement of operations, the owners of R186, R233, R385, R422, R432, R450, R461, R501, R502 and R26749 may ask the Proponent to implement visual impact mitigation measures on their land to minimise the visual impacts of the development on their residence (including its curtilage). Upon receiving such a written request from the owner of these residences, the Proponent must implement appropriate mitigation measures (such as landscaping and vegetation screening) in consultation with the owner. These mitigation measures must be reasonable and feasible, aimed at reducing the visibility of the transmission line and towers from the residence and its curtilage, and commensurate with the level of visual impact on the residence. All agreed mitigation measures must be implemented within 12 months of receiving the written request, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.	Section 5.2.14 Visual mitigation

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	If the Proponent and the owner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Planning Secretary for resolution. To avoid any doubt, mitigation measures are not required to be implemented to reduce the visibility of transmission lines and towers from any other locations on the property other than the residence and its curtilage.	
C38	The Proponent must: a) take reasonable steps to minimise the off-site visual impacts of the development; and b) not mount any advertising signs or logos on site, except where this is required for identification or safety purposes.	Section 5.2.14 Visual mitigation
C39	The Proponent must: a) take all reasonable steps to minimise the off-site lighting impacts of the development; and b) ensure that any external lighting associated with the development: (i) is installed as low intensity lighting (except where required for safety or emergency purposes); (ii) does not shine above the horizontal; and (iii) complies with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4282:2019 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
C40	If the development results in the disruption to any radio communications services (including point-to-point microwave links) in the area, then the Applicant must make good any disruption to these services as soon as possible following the disruption, but no later than 1 month following the disruption of the service unless the relevant service provider or user or Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
C41	The Proponent must ensure that the storage, handling, and transport of dangerous goods is undertaken in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and guidelines, particularly AS1940 The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids and AS/NZS 1596:2014 The storage and handling of LP Gas, the Dangerous Goods Code, and the EPA's Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection – Participants Manual.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
C42	The Proponent must ensure that the design, construction and operation of the development is managed to comply with the applicable electric and magnetic fields (EMF) limits in the International	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric and magnetic fields (1Hz – 100kHz) (ICNIRP, 2010).	
C44	The Proponent must: a) minimise the fire risks of the development, including managing vegetation fuel loads on- site; b) ensure that the development: (i) complies with the relevant asset protection requirements in the RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent) and Standards for Asset Protection Zones; (ii) is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site, including provision of a 20,000 litre water supply tank fitted with a 65 mm Storz fitting and a FRNSW compatible suction connection located at each of the construction compounds and accommodation camps (including all-weather access to the water supply tanks for Category 1 tankers); (iii) incorporates the recommendations of a fire risk assessment as per Transgrid's design standards; c) ensure that buildings within the compounds and accommodation camps comply with Australian Standard AS3959-2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas (or equivalent) and RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019; d) develop procedures to manage potential fires on site, in consultation with the RFS and FRNSW; e) assist the RFS, FRNSW and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site; and f) notify the relevant local emergency management committee following construction of the development, and prior to commencing operations.	a) Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements b) Not applicable to Stage 3 c) Not applicable to Stage 3 d) Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements e) Not applicable for Stage 3 f) Section 6.3 Reporting requirements
C45	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Plan and detailed emergency procedures for the development, in consultation with RFS, and provide a copy of the plan to the local Fire Control Centre. The Proponent must keep two copies of the plan on-site in a prominent position adjacent to the site entry point(s) to the Buronga Substation, Dinawan Substation and Wagga Wagga Substation at all times. The plan must: a) be consistent with: (i) RFS's *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* (or equivalent);	Section Appendix F- - Emergency Plan

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	(ii) RFS's *Development Planning - A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan*; (iii) the *Fire and Rescue NSW Act 1989*; (iv) the *Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2011*; b) identify the fire risks and hazards and detailed measures for the development to prevent or mitigate fires igniting, including risks associated with the revegetation within the inner maintenance zone; c) include procedures that would be implemented if there is a fire on-site or in the vicinity of the site; d) list works that should not be carried out during a total fire ban; e) include availability of fire suppression equipment, access and water; f) include procedures for the storage and maintenance of any flammable materials; g) detail access provisions for emergency vehicles and contact details for both a primary and alternative site contact who may be reached 24/7 in the event of an emergency; h) include a figure showing site infrastructure, any Asset Protection Zones and the on-site water supply tank(s); i) include location of hazards (physical, chemical and electrical) that may impact on fire fighting activities and procedures to manage identified hazards during fire fighting activities; j) include details of the location, management and maintenance of any Asset Protection Zone (including maintaining the Asset Protection Zones at a height of 100 mm or less at the substations, construction compounds and accommodation camps) and who is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Asset Protection Zone; k) include bushfire emergency management planning; l) include details of the how RFS would be notified, and procedures that would be implemented, in the event that: (i) there is a fire on-site or in the vicinity of the site; (ii) there are any activities on site that would have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; or (iii) there are any proposed activities to be carried out during a bushfire danger period that have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; and m) include details on how live transmission infrastructure can be safely isolated in an emergency.	

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
C46	Waste generated during construction, operation, upgrading and decommissioning must be dealt with in accordance with the following priorities: a) waste generation must be avoided and where avoidance is not reasonably practicable, waste generation must be reduced; b) where avoiding or reducing waste is not possible, waste must be re-used, recycled, or recovered; and c) where re-using, recycling or recovering waste is not possible, waste must be treated or disposed of.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.15 Waste Management
C47	The importation of waste and the storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal of such waste must comply with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014, and orders or exemptions under the regulation.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.15 Waste Management
C48	Waste must only be exported to a site licensed by the EPA for the storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal of the subject waste, or in accordance with a Resource Recovery Exemption or Order issued under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014, or to any other place that can lawfully accept such waste.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.15 Waste Management
C49	All waste that is removed from site must be classified in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines, with appropriate records and disposal dockets retained for audit purposes.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.15 Waste Management
C52	Within 6 months of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Proponent must rehabilitate the areas where ancillary facilities, accommodation camps and earthwork material sites are located. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives in Table 3.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.13 Rehabilitation
D1	The Proponent must prepare an Environmental Management Strategy for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This strategy must: a) provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the development; b) identify the statutory approvals that apply to the development; c) set out the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development; d) set out the procedures to be implemented to:	This document

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	(i) keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the construction, operation and environmental performance of the development; (ii) receive record, handle and respond to complaints; (iii) resolve any disputes that may arise during the course of the development; (iv) respond to any non-compliance and any incident; (v) respond to emergencies; and e) include: (i) references to any strategies, plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent; and (ii) a clear plan depicting all the monitoring to be carried out under the conditions of this consent. The Proponent must not commence construction until the Environmental Management Strategy is approved by the Planning Secretary. The Proponent must implement the Environmental Management Strategy as approved by the Planning Secretary.	
D2	The Proponent must review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans, programs or reports required under this approval to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within 3 months of the: a) submission of an incident report under condition D6; b) submission of an audit report under condition D11; or c) any modification to the conditions of this approval.	Section 10.1 Terms of the approval
D3	Prior to commencing development, construction, operations, upgrading or decommissioning of the development or, the Proponent must notify the Department in writing via the Major Projects website portal of the date of commencing the relevant phase. If any of these phases of the development are to be staged, then the Proponent must notify the Department in writing prior to commencing the relevant stage, and clearly identify the development that would be carried out during the relevant stage.	Section 6.3 Reporting requirements
D6	The Department must be notified via the Major Projects website portal immediately after the Proponent becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the development application number and the name of the development) and set out the location and nature of the incident. Subsequent notification requirements must be given, and reports submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 4.	Section 6.3 Reporting requirements

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
D7	The Planning Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after the Proponent becomes aware of any non-compliance.	Section 6.3 Reporting requirements
D8	A non-compliance notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of approval that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.	Section 6.3 Reporting requirements
D9	A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.	Noted
D11	Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out at the frequency described and in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020), unless otherwise agreed or directed by the Planning Secretary.	Section 6.2.2 Independent Environmental Audits
D12	The Proponent must: (a) make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development: (i) the EIS; (ii) current statutory approvals for the development; (iii) approved strategies, plans, programs or reports required under the conditions of this approval; (iv) the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, decommissioning and/or operation of the development is to be staged; (v) a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, which have been reported in accordance with the various plans and programs approved under the conditions of this approval; (vi) a record of complaints, which is to be updated on a monthly basis; (vii) any independent environmental audit, and the Proponent's response to the recommendations in any audit; and (viii) any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and (b) keep this information up to date.	Section 2.1 Stage 3 Environmental Strategy

2.3.2. Commonwealth

Under the Commonwealth Approval – Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation – EPBC 2020/8766, the additional conditions of approval are relevant to the operational phase of this project.

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Table 2-2: Conditions under Commonwealth Approval

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
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 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	Section 5.2.6 Biodiversity
EPBC 2	The approval holder must not clear outside the Biodiversity Study Area unless such clearing is limited to locations with no habitat of protected matters.	Section 5.2.6 Biodiversity
EPBC 6	To mitigate impacts on protected matters the approval holder must implement conditions B1, B2 and C26 of the State Infrastructure Approval, where they relate to monitoring, managing, mitigating, and avoiding impacts to protected matters.	Section 5.2.6 Biodiversity
EPBC 12	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish each plan on the website within 15 business days of the date: a. the plan is approved by the Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment as required under a state/territory government condition which must be complied with in accordance with these EPBC Act conditions.	Section 6.2.5 Commonwealth information on the website
EPBC 13	The approval holder must keep all plans required by these conditions published on the website until the expiry date of this approval.	Section 6.2.5 Commonwealth information on the website
EPBC 14	The approval holder is required to exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or otherwise provided to a member of the public.	Section 6.2.5 Commonwealth information on the website
EPBC 15	If sensitive ecological data are excluded or redacted from a plan in accordance with condition 14, the approval holder must notify the department in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the website.	Section 6.2.5 Commonwealth information on the website
EPBC 18	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records.	Section 6.2 Environmental Monitoring and Auditing

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
EPBC 19	If the department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the department within the timeframe specified in the request.	Section 6.2 Environmental Monitoring and Auditing
EPBC 20	Note: Compliance records may be subject to audit by the department, or by an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, and/or be used to verify compliance with the conditions. Summaries of the results of an audit may be published on the department's website or through the general media.	Section 6.2 Environmental Monitoring and Auditing
EPBC 21	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018), or any subsequent official version or as otherwise specified by the Minister in writing.	Section 6.2 Environmental Monitoring and Auditing
EPBC 23	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the department's Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects (2021), or any subsequent official version or as otherwise specified by the Minister in writing.	6.2.3 - Commonwealth Annual Compliance Report
EPBC 24	Each compliance report must be consistent with the department's Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014), or any subsequent official version.	6.2.3 - Commonwealth Annual Compliance Report
EPBC 25	Each compliance report must include: a. Accurate and complete details of compliance and any non-compliance with the conditions and the plans, and any incidents. b. One or more shapefile showing all clearing of any protected matters, and/or their habitat, undertaken within the 12-month period at the end of which that compliance report is prepared. c. A schedule of all plans in existence in relation to these conditions and accurate and complete details of how each plan is being implemented.	6.2.3 - Commonwealth Annual Compliance Report
EPBC 26	The approval holder must: a. Publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the end of the 12-month period for which that compliance report is required. b. Notify the department electronically, within 5 business days of the date of publication that a compliance report has been published on the website.	6.2.3 - Commonwealth Annual Compliance Report

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	c. Provide the weblink for the compliance report in the notification to the department. d. Keep all published compliance reports required by these conditions on the website until the expiry date of this approval. e. Exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website or otherwise provided to a member of the public. f. If sensitive ecological data is excluded or redacted from the published version, submit the full compliance report to the department within 5 business days of its publication on the website and notify the department in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the website. Note: Compliance reports may be published on the department's website.	
EPBC 27	The approval holder must notify the department electronically, within 2 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan in relation to protected matters.	Section 8.3 Environmental Incidents
EPBC 28	The approval holder must specify in the notification: a) Any condition or commitment made in a plan which has been or may have been breached. b) A short description of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance. c) The location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance.	Section 8.3 Environmental Incidents
EPBC 29	The approval holder must provide to the department in writing, within 12 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non- compliance, the details of that incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non- compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan. The approval holder must specify: a. Any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken b. The potential impacts of the incident and/or non-compliance and/or non-compliance c. The method and timing of any corrective action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.	Section 8.3 Environmental Incidents
EPBC 30	The approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions is conducted for every five-year period following the commencement of the Action until this approval expires, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister.	Section 6.2.4 Commonwealth Five Yearly Audit

Sensitive

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
EPBC 31	For each independent audit, the approval holder must: a. Provide the name and qualifications of the nominated independent auditor, the draft audit criteria, and proposed timeframe for submitting the audit report to the department prior to commencing the independent audit. b. Only commence the independent audit once the nominated independent auditor, audit criteria and timeframe for submitting the audit report have been approved in writing by the department. c. Submit the audit report to the department for approval within the timeframe specified and approved in writing by the department. d. Publish each audit report on the website within 15 business days of the date of the department's approval of the audit report. e. Keep every audit report published on the website until this approval expires.	Section 6.2.4 Commonwealth Five Yearly Audit
EPBC 32	Each audit report must report for the five-year period preceding that audit report.	Section 6.2.4 Commonwealth Five Yearly Audit
EPBC 33	Each audit report must be completed to the satisfaction of the Minister and be consistent with the department's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines (2019), or any subsequent official version.	Section 6.2.4 Commonwealth Five Yearly Audit
EPBC 34	The approval holder must notify the department electronically 60 business days prior to the expiry date of this approval, that the approval is due to expire.	Section 6.3 Reporting requirements
EPBC 35	Within 20 business days after the completion of the Action, and, in any event, before this approval expires, the approval holder must notify the department electronically of the date of completion of the Action and provide completion data.	Section 6.3 Reporting requirements
EPBC 36	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any proposed change to the State Infrastructure Approval that may relate to protected matters within 2 business days of formally proposing a change and within 5 business days of becoming aware of any proposed change.	Section 6.3 Reporting requirements
EPBC 37	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any change to the State Infrastructure Approval conditions that may relate to protected matters, within 10 business days of a change to conditions being finalised.	Section 6.3 Reporting requirements

2.3.3. EIS Revised Mitigation Measures

As per EIS the following environmental aspects and mitigation measures relate to the operational phase of this project. These are as per requirements specified in the EIS and amendment report.

Table 2-3: EIS mitigation measures - operational phase

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
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.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.6 Biodiversity
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.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.6 Biodiversity
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.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.6 Biodiversity
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.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.6 Biodiversity
AH13	Features/items of heritage significance that would remain in–situ within the transmission line easement would be mapped and recorded within GIS systems managed by Transgrid and would be entered on the NSW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). Relevant Transgrid systems and procedures would be updated as required with protocols that would be implemented during operation to ensure that impacts to the features/items of significance do not occur during maintenance activities.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.7 Heritage
NAH6	Features/items of heritage significance that would remain in–situ within the transmission line easement and along access tracks would be mapped and recorded within GIS systems managed by	Section 5.1 General Operational

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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	Transgrid to reduce the potential for inadvertent impacts to occur during maintenance activities.	Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.7 Heritage
NAH7	Relevant Transgrid systems and procedures would be updated as required with protocols to avoid harm to heritage items and implemented during operation.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.7 Heritage
LP11	Fencing and access arrangements, such as locked gates, would be determined in consultation with landholders (where required such as around the new substation and optical repeater sites). Management of access including opening and closing of gates would be done in accordance with landholder requirements. Any damage caused by maintenance activities would be repaired promptly.	Section 5.2.10 Land Use and Property
LP12	If landholders indicate adverse effects on agricultural precision farming GPS signals due to operation of the project within 12 months from commencement of operation, the claims would be investigated. Any disruption due to operation of the project would be addressed in consultation with the affected landholder. Where it is identified there is a disruption, Transgrid would investigate and implement mitigation measures (such as signal boosting equipment) in consultation with the affected operator.	Section 5.2.10 Land Use and Property
LP13	Biosecurity controls, confirmed in consultation with the affected landholders, would be implemented during operation to minimise the risk of off–site transport or spread of disease, pests, or weeds during maintenance activities.	Section 5.2.11 Biosecurity
LP14	Where present within the operational transmission line easement and associated areas for permanent infrastructure, weeds would be managed in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2015.	Section 5.2.11 Biosecurity
LV6	Lighting at the substations would be designed and operated in accordance with AS/NZS 4282:2019 Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
HF7	Maintenance works in the vicinity of waterways would be conducted in accordance with Transgrid's Environmental Guidance Notes.	Section 3.1.4 Transgrid Environmental Guidance Notes
NV10	For each residence where potential operational noise levels are predicted to exceed project trigger levels, noise monitoring to confirm actual operational noise levels would be carried out: • within six months of the commencement of operation (where meteorological conditions permit); and • at the request of the landowner of the residence at any time within two (2) years after the commencement of operation.	Section 5.2.4 Operational noise monitoring

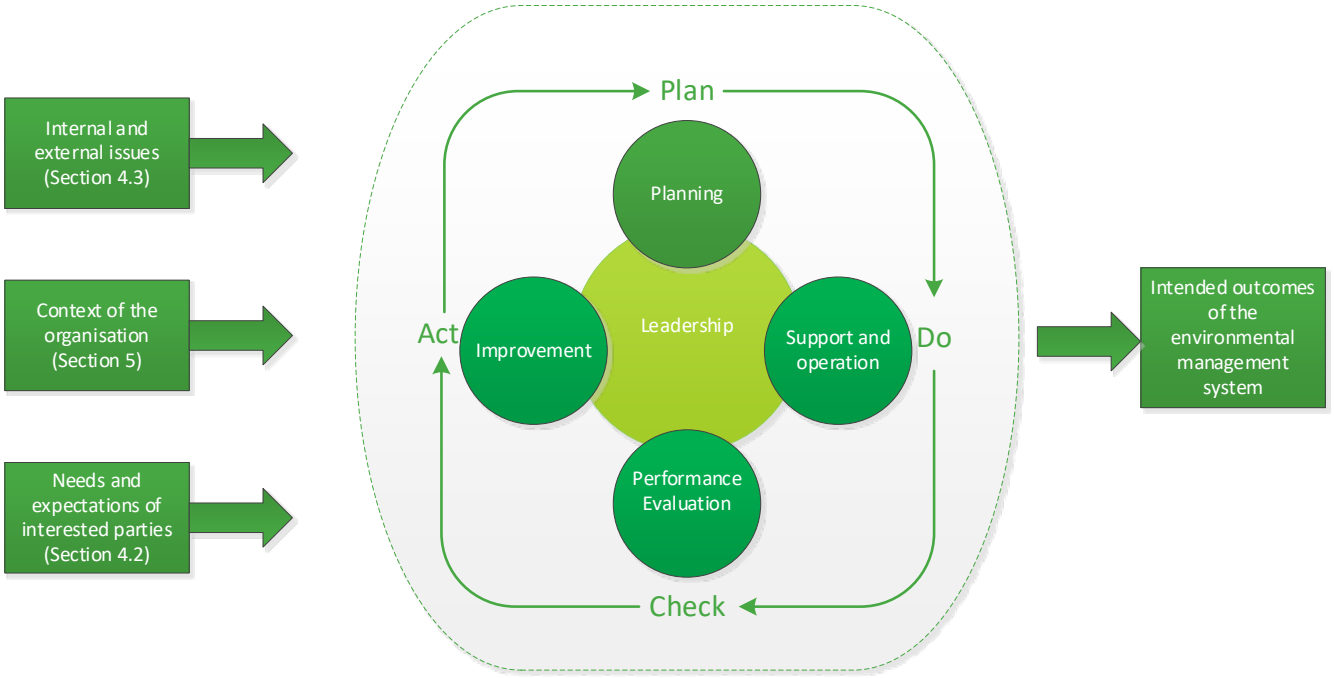
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Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
	The noise monitoring would occur during weather/atmospheric conditions conducive to generating the corona effect. For residences where the monitoring identifies operational noise levels in excess 35 dB(A) LAeq,15min and internal noise levels in excess of 25 dB(A) as a result, consultation would occur with the landowner of the affected residence to identity if treatment is required and, if so, confirm appropriate treatments. Once appropriate treatments have been confirmed in consultation with the landholder, the treatments would be implemented within 12 months. For the 500kV line between Dinawan 330kV substation and Wagga Wagga substation this assessment would be required to occur once the line is operational at the initial 330kV voltage and subsequently once the line is increased in operational capacity to 500kV (at a point in the future following the required additional network upgrades).	
TA5	A Driver Code of Conduct would be developed and implemented. The code would: • define acceptable driver behaviour for proposal personnel to promote road safety • address fatigue management • ensure that the impacts of construction–related vehicle movements on local roads and the local community are minimised.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.8 Traffic and transport
TA18	Construction access tracks would be retained for operational access, where required and practicable in consultation with the relevant landholder.	Section 5.2.10 Land Use and Property
HR17	All chemicals or other hazardous substances at the Dinawan 330kV substation and existing Wagga Wagga substation would be stored in bunded and weatherproof facilities away from drainage lines, and in accordance with supplier's instructions and relevant legislation, Australian Standards, and applicable guidelines. The capacity of the bunded area would be at least 130 per cent of the largest chemical volume contained within the bunded area. The location of the bunded enclosure/s would be shown on the site plans.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
HR18	Emergency spill procedures would be implemented to avoid and manage accidental spillages of fuels, chemicals or fluids during operation and maintenance activities in accordance with the Transgrid's HSE Guideline. Environmental spill kits would be provided at strategic, accessible locations, and staff would be trained in spill response procedures.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
HR19	The Wagga Wagga substation Emergency Response Manual would be updated to include the new proposed design and required revised emergency response procedures.	Section 5.2.12 Hazards and risks – Dinawan and Wagga Wagga substations

Reference	Description	Environmental Strategy reference
HR20	An Emergency Response Manual would be prepared for the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation and include emergency response procedures.	Section 5.2.12 Hazards and risks – Dinawan and Wagga Wagga substations
HR21	The proposal would be designed, operated, and maintained in accordance with Transgrid's Bushfire Risk Management Plan. This includes reduction in fuel loads, management of APZs and inspections of infrastructure.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
SCG8	All chemicals, fuels or other hazardous substances would be stored in accordance with the supplier's instructions and relevant legislation, Australian Standards and applicable guidelines. The capacity of any bunded area shall be at least 130 per cent of the largest chemical volume contained within the bunded area. The location of the bunded enclosure/s shall be shown on the site plans.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
SCG12	Environmental spill kits containing spill response materials suitable for the works being undertaken would be available at the proposed Dinawan and Wagga substations with extras available to be carried in vehicles for use at maintenance work sites.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements
WM7	Waste during operations would be managed in accordance with Transgrid's existing Environmental Management System and processes for the identification, classification, handling and management of waste.	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.15 Waste Management
WM8	All waste would be assessed, classified, managed and disposed of in accordance with the Waste Classification Guidelines (NSW EPA, 2014).	Section 5.1 General Operational Environmental Requirements Section 5.2.15 Waste Management

3. Transgrid Environmental Management System

Transgrid's Environmental Management System (EMS) is certified under the international standard, ISO 14001:2015. An EMS is part of an organisation's management system used to develop and implement its environmental policy and manage its environmental aspects and mitigate impacts.



Transgrid's EMS is designed to meet the commitments of its environment policy by identifying and assessing environmental risks, and where reasonable and practicable, implementing controls to avoid or limit these risks. Transgrid's EMS:

- Provides the framework for setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets
- Provides an approach that recognises sensitive environmental and cultural sites on or near Transgrid infrastructure
- Integrates environmental management considerations into the maintenance, operation, commissioning and disposal of all assets
- Facilitates engagement with stakeholders regarding potential environmental or cultural impacts associated with Transgrid plans or activities
- Provides environmental training under Transgrid Environmental Rules to employees and Delivery Partners (contractors) to enable them to perform their duties in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Compliance with the policy, procedures, plans, handbook and guidance notes listed in Table 3-1 in compliance with Transgrid's Environmental Management System (EMS) and the additional project specific requirements set out in this Environmental Strategy Section 5 will aid the organisation to meet the obligations set out in the Infrastructure Approval for this project.

Table 3-1: 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 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.

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Transgrid document	Purpose	Operational phase application
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. 3. Minor civil works involving maintenance and repair of services (such as water supply, sewer etc).	Provides task and site-specific environmental mitigation measures as required for non-operational Transgrid property/land.
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.

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

3.1. Transgrid Environment Policy

Environment Policy

The Transgrid Group is committed to conducting its activities and services in a manner that protects the environment, prevents pollution, meets our compliance obligations, and supports the development of a green energy future. Transgrid actively supports and encourages employees and contractors to consider the environmental impact of their daily activities, aligning with our commitment to sustainability.

The Environment Policy covers all activities and services undertaken by the Transgrid Group including the planning, building and operation of infrastructure, ongoing management of these assets and their decommissioning.

We aim to enhance our systems and processes in a manner that promotes continuous improvement in environmental management and performance which will lead to the achievement of good industry practice and a reduction in our environmental footprint.

In meeting these commitments, Transgrid:

- Maintains an Environmental Management System that provides the framework for setting and reviewing our environmental objectives and targets, including the implementation, monitoring and review of these objectives and targets, as well as facilitating continuous improvement in environmental performance.
- Continues to develop systems that recognise sensitive environmental and cultural sites on or near our infrastructure, and provides processes to manage our activities with the aim of preventing environmental harm or adversely impacting the environment
- Integrates environmental management considerations into the planning, design, siting, construction, maintenance, operation, decommissioning and disposal of all Transgrid assets
- Provides environmental training, assessment and authorisation under our Environmental Management System to employees and contractors to enable them to perform their duties in an environmentally sensitive manner
- Engages with the community, customers, employees, government and other stakeholders regarding potential environmental or cultural impacts associated with our plans and activities
- Pursues opportunities to maximise resource efficiencies and reduce the generation of waste through reduction, reuse and recycling programs
- Identifies, sets and monitors realistic environmental performance measures and communicates them to all employees and stakeholders.

Approved by: Brett Redman, CEO, May 2025

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3.1.1. Risk management

Transgrid manages the operational environmental risk through a number of mechanisms, these include:

- Environmental Critical Risks – see Section 3.2.5
- Environmental Assessment Framework – see Section 3.2.2

For most maintenance works required during the operational phase of the project, it is expected that the actions would meet the criteria for low or negligible risk.

3.1.2. Environmental Assessment Framework

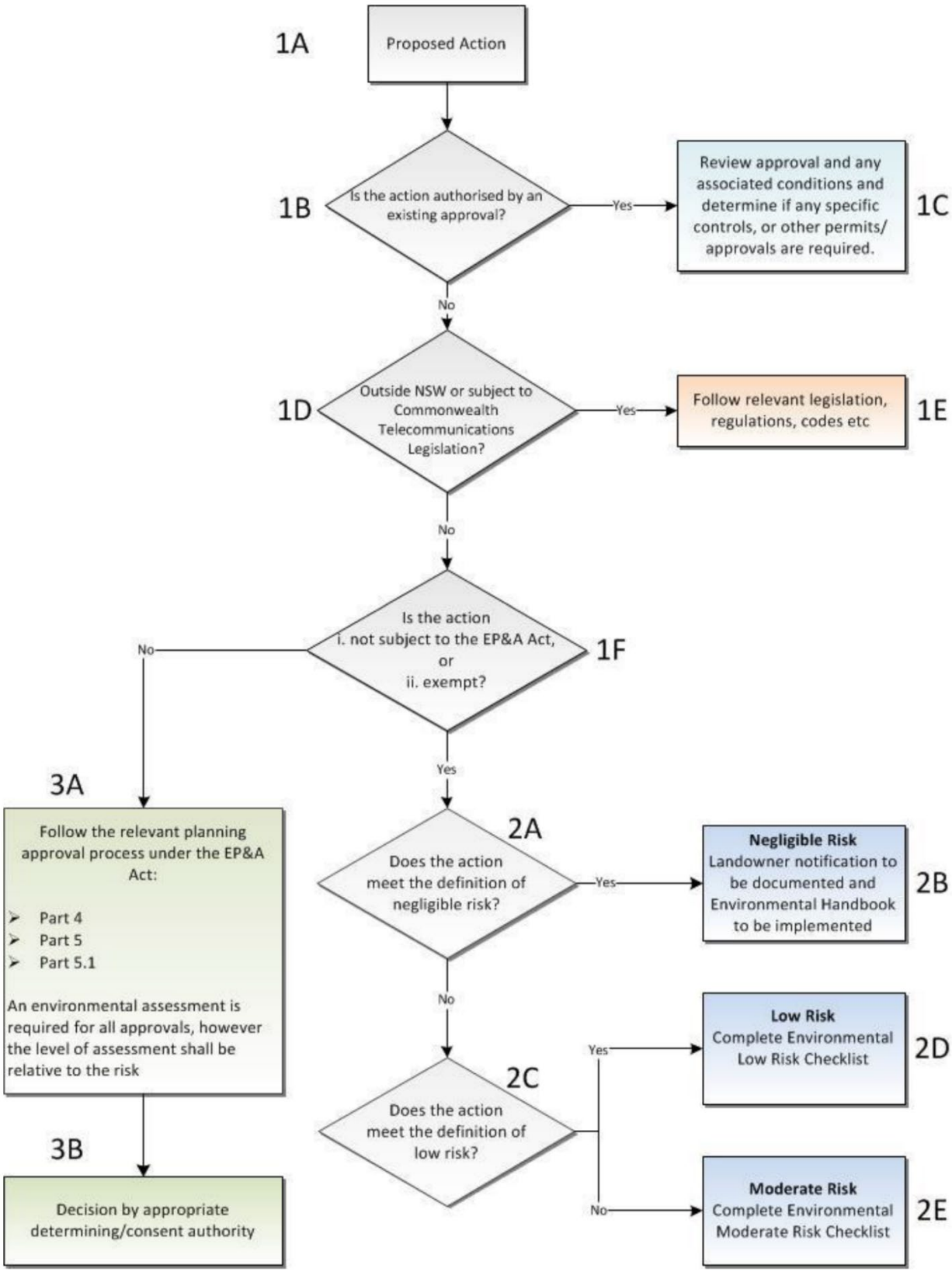
To mitigate this risk Transgrid has developed an Environmental Assessment Framework (EAF) to streamline the way maintenance activities are assessed. The EAF is designed to ensure that all Transgrid actions go through a risk review process prior to carrying out any work, and that the assessment is undertaken in line with current legislation and best practice. Figure 3-1 illustrates the process to be followed for any works to be undertaken.

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.
-

Figure 3-1: Environmental Assessment Framework – decision making process

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1A
Proposed Action
1B
Is the action authorised by an existing approval?
Yes
Review approval and any associated conditions and determine if any specific controls, or other permits/ approvals are required.
1C
No
1D
Outside NSW or subject to Commonwealth Telecommunications Legislation?
Yes
Follow relevant legislation, regulations, codes etc
1E
No
Is the action
i. not subject to the EP&A Act, or
ii. exempt?
1F
No
Yes
3A
Follow the relevant planning approval process under the EP&A Act:
Part 4
Part 5
Part 5.1
An environmental assessment is required for all approvals, however the level of assessment shall be relative to the risk
3B
Decision by appropriate determining/consent authority
2A
Does the action meet the definition of negligible risk?
Yes
Negligible Risk
Landowner notification to be documented and Environmental Handbook to be implemented
2B
No
2C
Does the action meet the definition of low risk?
Yes
Low Risk
Complete Environmental Low Risk Checklist
2D
No
Moderate Risk
Complete Environmental Moderate Risk Checklist
2E

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Note: The EAF ensures all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA.

3.1.3. Transgrid Environmental handbook

Transgrid's environmental practices to be adhered to on site are set out in the Environmental handbook. This is a practical focused, and easily accessible document with a focus on ground staff and contractors. The Environmental handbook includes mitigation measures for common environmental aspects and impacts that may be encountered during operational, and maintenance works on Transgrid assets.

The Environmental handbook applies to Transgrid workers and contractors involved in the construction, operation and maintenance of the network. It specifies the minimum environmental controls for all construction and maintenance work on Transgrid's network. Note that additional task specific controls may be identified during the assessment phase. The Environmental handbook applies to all construction and maintenance work and must be available on site.

3.1.4. Transgrid Environmental Guidance Notes

Transgrid publishes environmental guidance notes to assist staff and delivery partners in understanding environmental aspects and impacts of activities undertaken on Transgrid sites and detail the mitigation measures required. These include guidance on:

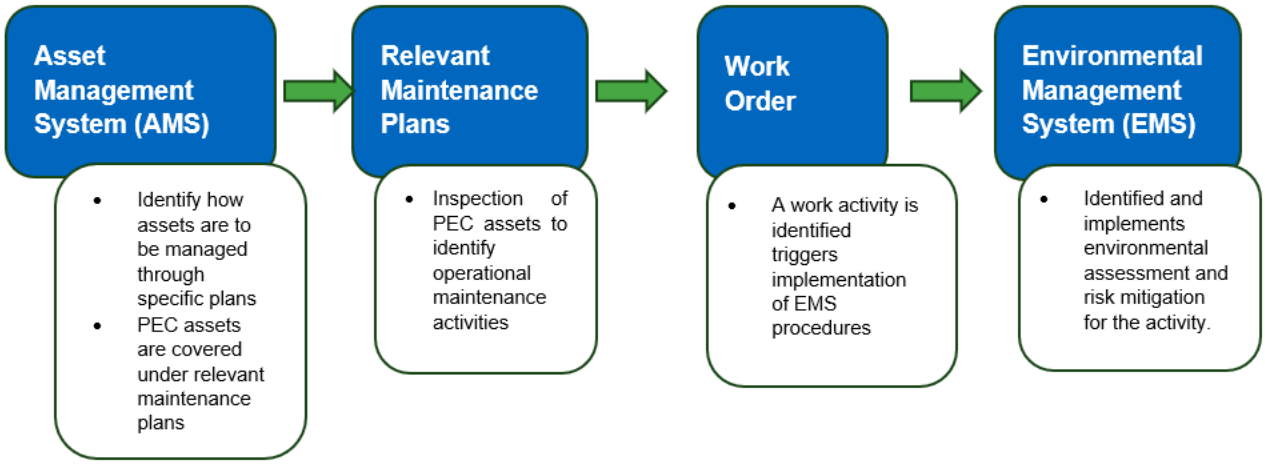
- Biosecurity (including for specific weed species)
- Access and Work Mandatory Environmental Controls
- Acid Sulphate Soils
- Bird Nest Removal
- Construction Noise
- Easement Environmental Aspects
- Excavation and Machine Work
- Flora Fauna, Ecological Communities and Sensitive Habitats
- Habitat Trees
- Heritage
- Hot Work and Fire Risk Work
- LiDAR Processes
- Minor Civil Works - Dewatering
- Minor Civil Works - Erosion and Sediment Control
- Mulching and Slashing
- Naturally Occurring Asbestos
- Out of Hours Construction Noise
- Pesticide Application and Storage
- Protected Land
- Regulated Land
- Transport of Harmful Material and Spill Response
- Wombat Holes
- Working near Watercourses

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3.2. Asset Management System

Transgrid maintains an Asset Management System, certified to ISO55001, to identify how assets are managed, inspected and maintained. This Asset Management System interacts with the Transgrid EMS to ensure that environmental risk is managed as part of asset maintenance. The relationship with the EMS is as per below figure:

Figure 3-2: Interaction between Asset Management System and Environmental Management System



The expanded substation and transmission lines would be inspected by field staff and contractors on a regular basis, with other operational activities occurring in the event of an emergency, or for repair as required during the ongoing operational phase.

Table 3-2: Transgrid asset management policies and procedures - operational phase

Transgrid document	Purpose	Operational phase application
Maintenance plan - Easements and Access tracks	Details the maintenance activities for easements and access tracks. The plan includes - Vegetation Clearance Requirements to conductors. - management of hazard trees - Management of access tracks - Management of signage - Methods and frequency of maintenance activities.	Section 7.7 details environmental requirements to be complied with during operational phase
Maintenance plan - Substation assets	Details the preventative and corrective maintenance of substation assets installed in Transgrid substations	Section 22.1 details environmental requirements to be complied with during operational phase.
Maintenance Plan – Network Property	Details the preventative, condition based, and corrective maintenance requirements of Network Property assets within Transgrid's network	Section 5.2 Governing Principles notes that Network Property assets are designed to support Transgrid's objective of providing a safe, reliable, environmentally

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		effective, and economic bulk electricity transmission network service to our customers and community.
Maintenance plan – Transmission line assets	Details the inspection and routine and corrective maintenance of all transmission lines assets maintained by Transgrid	Section 8.2 details environmental requirements to be complied with during operational phase.
Maintenance plan – Telecommunications systems	Details the planned, corrective and condition-based maintenance for telecommunication assets managed by Transgrid.	Section 8 details corrective maintenance for any problems identified with the system.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Transgrid has overall responsibility and accountability to ensure the Project EnergyConnect East is operated in compliance with the Infrastructure Approval.

4.1. Structure and Responsibilities

This section outlines the project specific organisation, indicating the hierarchy of all positions with environmental management responsibilities for the project. This section will include all roles and responsibilities that have been referred to throughout the Environmental Strategy. Responsibilities identified will include:

- Ongoing review of the Environmental Strategy
- Management of environmental inductions
- Ensuring that all staff are appropriately trained in the project's environmental and contractual requirements as set out in the Environmental Strategy
- Monitoring and reporting on the compliance with all the environmental requirements
- Reviewing and implementing Transgrid's environmental inspection and audit findings
- Authority to order Stop-Work
- Assignment of specific environmental control measures

Table 4-1: Project environmental responsibilities.

Role	Responsibility	Authority
General Manager, Environment Strategy and Planning	• Oversee implementation of environmental management during the operational phase • Oversee review and amendments to Environmental Strategy as required	• Order Stop-work for an activity that may cause environmental harm. • Act on behalf of Transgrid with Environmental regulators • Notification to Environmental regulators for environmental incidents.

Head of Environment and Sustainability	• Oversee implementation of Transgrid Environmental Management System (EMS). • Responsible for ensuring all Transgrid activities comply with relevant legislation, regulations and guidelines • Support project handover for Stage 3 (Operational) environmental management	• Order Stop-work for an activity that may cause environmental harm. • Notification to Environmental regulators for environmental incidents. • Act on behalf of Transgrid with Environmental regulators
Environmental Business Partner - Delivery	• Review and approve Environmental Moderate Risk Checklists • Inspect Maintenance Works as required or where directed (e.g. vegetation management works in National Parks) • Provide waste management and/or disposal advice as requested. • Reviewing and actioning environmental inspection and audit findings (if required). • Monitoring the environmental aspects of the work, particularly in relation to waste indigenous heritage, biodiversity management, access works, and soil management. • The timely and proper response to requests for information for environmental issues raised by regulatory bodies. • Support / seek specific biodiversity advice on relevant matters • Inspection / review of environmentally sensitive sites prior to works.	• Order Stop-work for an activity that may cause environmental harm. • Approve material changes to environmental sub-plans. • Review of Environmental Strategy. • Respond to Environmental Hazards and Incidents where required.
All Transgrid staff and sub-contractors	• Work in accordance with this Environmental Strategy. • Work in accordance with the Transgrid Environmental handbook. • Report and raise any issues that arise that may have an environmental impact. • Report and raise the discovery of any artefacts, Aboriginal relics or places and cease work until the matter has been addressed. • Be appropriately authorised for the work being undertaken.	• Report any issues that may have the potential to cause environmental harm. • Report any incidents or near-misses that may impact on the environment in Riskonnect or to their leader. • Respond to environmental hazards and incidents where safe to do so. • Notify of environmental hazards and incidents.

4.2. Environmental Training, Induction and Authorisation

4.2.1. Environmental Training and Induction

Transgrid staff are trained in environmental aspects through a number of mechanisms:

- environmental authorisation training (explained in Section 4.2.2)
- site induction is required for all works under the Contractor Health, Safety and Environmental Management procedure.
- specific induction requirements in Environmental Guidance Notes (i.e. Plains Wanderer)

4.2.2. Transgrid Environmental Authorisation

As part of the EMS, Transgrid maintains an environmental authorisation system to ensure that staff and contractors appropriately understand environmental risks and legislative requirements. This is set out in the Authorisation to Work procedure.

Transgrid have identified five levels of authorisation for environmental work (for both employees and contractors). All workers during the operational phase of this project will be trained to the appropriate level for their role as per the below levels (E1-E5):

E1 – Access and Inspection (Observation Only)

- This level of training is for people who are required to access Transgrid property, private lands and/or public lands on behalf of Transgrid
    - It is for visual inspection and light vehicle access activities only
    - The E1 authorised person must ensure that access and inspection activities are undertaken with negligible environmental impact.

E1 Authorisation is not required for:

- People who are accessing/inspecting for the purposes of observation only and are supervised by an appropriately authorised person
- People accessing Depot's for the purpose of office-based activities
- Registered Aboriginal Parties.

E2 – Carry out Work

- This level of authorisation is for persons undertaking physical work activities on behalf of Transgrid
- Persons undertaking work must do so in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Environmental Checklist, Environmental Guidance Notes and Transgrid's Environmental handbook
- E2 authorised persons must be supervised by an E3 authorised person, unless the work being undertaken is of negligible environmental risk as defined in Transgrid's Environmental Assessment Framework
- If there is an Environmental Checklist associated with the work, there must be an E3 authorised supervisor.

E2 Authorisation is not required for

- Registered Aboriginal Parties, if directly supervised by an E3 authorised person or working under an existing Environmental Management Plan.

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E3 – Supervise Work

- This level of authorisation is for persons supervising work or inducting others into the requirements of CEMPs, SMPs and SEPs
- Persons supervising work must ensure that all work is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Environmental Checklist, Environmental Guidance Notes and Transgrid's Environmental handbook.

E4 – Prepare Environmental Checklists (Low and Moderate).

- This level of authorisation is for persons who prepare documentation for Transgrid's Environmental Checklists for Low-Risk and Moderate-Risk Actions (General, Vegetation Maintenance, Water Crossing, Oil/PCB Transport Form).
- Persons who hold an E4 authorisation may also approve the above-mentioned Environmental Checklists for Low and Moderate Risk Actions provided that no environmental triggers have been exceeded.

E5 – Prepare and Approve Environmental Documentation

- This level of authorisation is for persons who are approving Environmental Checklists where environmental triggers have been exceeded.
- Preparing environmental impact assessments (including Part 4, 5 and 5.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979) and preparing other environmental documentation (including CEMPs and SEPs).

5. Operational Environmental Management

All maintenance and inspection during the operational phase are to be undertaken as per the existing Transgrid EMS procedures. Project specific requirements from the Infrastructure Approval and EIS, are identified in Table 5-1. References to relevant Transgrid documents are included as hyperlinks for publicly available Transgrid documents. Note some documents are controlled internal documents, in this case the document reference is provided only (not hyperlinked).

Further project specific mitigation measures are in the Environmental Strategy reference sections as per below.

5.1. General Operational Environmental Requirements

Table 5-1: General Operational Environmental Requirements

Aspect	Potential Impact	Control Measure	Mitigation Reference
Air quality	Dust, smoke, fumes and odours can adversely impact the environment, human health and property	• Environmental Handbook, Section 2.2	CoA C11
Biodiversity – fauna	Impacts to fauna from operation Impacts to from access track maintenance works	• Stage 3 Operational Biodiversity Management Plan • Transgrid procedure – Environmental Assessment Framework • Transgrid procedure – Ecological Due Diligence Assessment • Environmental Handbook, Section 5.2 • Transgrid procedure – Environmental Spatial Data Due Diligence • Transgrid procedure - Maintenance Plan - Easement and Access Tracks (S7.7) • Environmental Guidance Note - Wombat Holes • Environmental Guidance Note - Bird Nest Removal • Environmental Guidance Note - Access and Work Mandatory Environmental Controls • Environmental Guidance Note - Easement Environmental Aspects • Environmental Guidance Note - Flora Fauna Ecological Communities and Sensitive Habitats • Environmental Guidance Note - Protected Land, • Environmental Guidance Note - Working near Watercourses	EPBC 1, 2, 3, 6 CoA B1, B2, C18, C23, C26, C52 RMM B12, B13, B14, B17, B20, B21

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Aspect	Potential Impact	Control Measure	Mitigation Reference
		Threatened Species Information Sheets	
Biodiversity – flora	Impacts to vegetation from operation Impacts to vegetation from maintenance of access tracks Impacts to vegetation from maintenance of easements Impact to biodiversity exclusion zones	• Stage 3 Operational Biodiversity Management Plan • Transgrid procedure – Environmental Assessment Framework • Transgrid procedure – Ecological Due Diligence Assessment • Environmental Handbook, Section 5.2 • Transgrid procedure – Environmental Spatial Data Due Diligence • Transgrid procedure - Maintenance Plan - Easement and Access Tracks (S7.7) • Environmental Guidance Note - Access and Work Mandatory Environmental Controls • Environmental Guidance Note - Easement Environmental Aspects • Environmental Guidance Note - Flora Fauna Ecological Communities and Sensitive Habitats • Environmental Guidance Note - Protected Land, • Environmental Guidance Note - Transport of Harmful Material and Spill Response • Environmental Guidance Note - Working near Watercourses • Threatened Species Information Sheets	EPBC 1, 2, 3, 6 CoA B1, B2, C18, C23, C26, C52 RMM B14, B17, B20, B21 & HR21
Biosecurity	Spread of weeds and pathogens to and from Transgrid land Application of pesticides	• All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per Transgrid Environmental handbook Section 5.4 • Application of pesticides will be undertaken as per Use of Pesticides and Approved Schedule of pesticides procedure as well as Environmental handbook Section 3.3 Pesticides • Transgrid procedure – Biosecurity • Transgrid procedure – Use of Pesticides • Environmental Guidance Note – Biosecurity • Transgrid pesticide use notification plan • Awareness of priority weeds as per Section 5.2.11 Biosecurity	RMM LP13, LP14

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Aspect	Potential Impact	Control Measure	Mitigation Reference
		• GIS Dataset currency maintained as per Transgrid procedure Environmental Spatial Data Due Diligence	
Contamination	Unexpected finds Asbestos works	• All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per Transgrid Environmental handbook Section 4.5 and Section 4.1 asbestos • Transgrid Easement Guidelines	
EMF	Reputational impacts Legislative non-compliance Human health impacts	• Transgrid procedure - Power Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields Management • Electric and Magnetic Fields Fact Sheet	CoA C42
Hazards - Bushfire risk	Damage to Transgrid or other infrastructure Starting bushfire due to operational works	• Transgrid has a network Bushfire Risk Management Plan that details Transgrid's management of bushfire risks in NSW and the ACT. This includes the effective management of the risks to an acceptable risk level in accordance with the Bushfire Formal Safety Assessment and ENSMS. The Plan demonstrates compliance with the NSW Electricity Network Safety Management System Regulation (2014). • Transgrid procedure - Electricity Network Safety Management System (ENSMS) Description • All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per Transgrid Environmental handbook Section 5.3 • Transgrid procedure- Hot Work and Fire Risk Work • Transgrid forms – Hot Work Permits and Fire Risk Assessment and Control Measures FRACM	CoA 44, RMM HR21
Hazards – chemical or hazardous substances	Storage of oil and other hazardous materials	All handling and storage of hazardous chemicals will comply with • Transgrid procedure: Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods • Environmental Guidance Note: Transport of Harmful Materials and Spill Response • All transport and storage of chemicals will comply with: Transgrid procedure - Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods	CoA C16, RMM HR18, SCG12

Aspect	Potential Impact	Control Measure	Mitigation Reference
		• Oil Management (such as for electrical equipment) as per the Transgrid Procedure: Oil Management All Transgrid substations have an Emergency Response Manual that describes the roles and responsibilities, response to incidents, procedures and oil containment/spill management and equipment. Any spill of hazardous materials or hydrocarbons will be minimised and spills will be cleaned up as soon as possible after they occur.	
Heritage	Impact to Aboriginal heritage item Impact to non-Aboriginal heritage item Unexpected finds	All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per: • Transgrid procedure - Environmental Assessment Framework • Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment procedure • Environmental handbook Section 6 • Environmental Guidance Note - Heritage • Section 5.2.7 Heritage • GIS Dataset currency maintained as per Transgrid procedure Environmental Spatial Data Due Diligence	CoA C28, C29, C30 RMM AH13
Hot works	Bushfire from maintenance and operation activities	All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per: • Transgrid procedure - Hot work and fire risk work • Environmental Guidance Note - Hot Work and Fire Risk Work • Transgrid form - Hot work permit • Transgrid form - Fire Risk Assessment and Control Measures (FRACM)	CoA 44, RMM HR21
Land use	Land access For any operational activities undertaken on transmission line easements or other property	All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per: • Section 5.2.10 Land Use and Property • Environmental Guidance Note – Access and Work Mandatory Environmental Controls • Easement Guidelines • Subdivision and Development Guidelines.	RMM LP11
Noise	Noise impacts above requirements to residences	All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per:	CoA C1-10, RMM NV10

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Aspect	Potential Impact	Control Measure	Mitigation Reference
		• Section 5.2.4 Operational noise monitoring • Section 5.2.1 Noise Management • Section 5.2.2 Noise Mitigation Measures • Section 5.2.3 Noise monitoring • Appendix A – Noise and vibration management plan assessment • Transgrid Environmental Guidance Note – Construction Noise • Transgrid Environmental guidance note - out of hours construction noise • Out of Hours Works Request form • Transgrid Construction Noise Tool • Complaints and Enquiries Management Procedure • Transgrid Environmental Assessment Framework • Environmental handbook • All equipment and plant will be maintained an operated in a proper and efficient manner.	
Plant and equipment	Not maintained or operated in a proper or efficient manner	• Transgrid procedure – Inspection, Test, Licensing and Competency • Transgrid Environmental Handbook	CoA A19
Radio communications	Disruption to radio communication services	If the development results in the disruption to any radio communications services (including point-to-point microwave links) in the area, then the Applicant must make good any disruption to these services as soon as possible following the disruption, but no later than 1 month following the disruption of the service unless the relevant service provider or user or Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.	CoA 40
Rehabilitation	Impact to ancillary sites, accommodation camps and earthwork material sites	All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per: • Section 5.2.13 Rehabilitation	CoA C52
Soils and water	Accelerated soil erosion and offsite sedimentation Spills or contaminant release to land or water Impacts to waterways Water take for operational works	All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per: • Section 5.2.17 Soil and Water • Environmental Handbook (S2, S7 and Appendix 1 & 2) • Environmental Assessment Framework • Environmental Guidance Note Easement Environmental Aspects • Environmental Guidance Note Excavation and Machine Work	CoA C14, C15, C16, C17, C18, C19, C20, C21, C22

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Aspect	Potential Impact	Control Measure	Mitigation Reference
	PAF/ASS/PASS? NOA?	• Environmental Guidance Note Minor Civil Works Erosion and Sediment Control • Environmental Guidance Note Minor Civil Works Dewatering • Environmental Guidance Note Working near Watercourses • Environmental Guidance Note Access and Work Mandatory Environmental Controls • Environmental Guidance Note - Acid Sulphate Soils • Environmental Guidance Note – Naturally Occurring Asbestos	
Traffic	Increased traffic volumes due to maintenance works	All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per: • Section 5.2.8 Traffic and transport • Critical Risk Protocols • Traffic Management • Fatigue Management • Safe Driving • Transgrid procedure - Chain of Responsibility	CoA C31, C32, C35 RMM TA5
Waste	Generation of waste materials during the operational phase	All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per: • Section 5.2.15 Waste Management • Transgrid Environmental handbook Section 4.3 and 4.4 • Transgrid procedure - Waste Management • Transgrid work instruction – Waste Management of Oil and Oil Filled Assets • Waste Management of Spoil – Work Instruction •	CoA C46, C47, C48, C49 RMM WM7, WM8
Visual amenity	• Visual impacts to residences • Obtrusive substation lighting	All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per: • Section 5.2.14 Visual mitigation • Lighting requirements have been designed as part of the detailed design process (for Construction). During operation lighting will be operated as per the approved designs. • Lighting at substations will be operated in accordance with AS/NZS 4282:2019 Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting	CoA C36, C38 RMM LV6

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5.2. Project specific operational requirements

5.2.1. Noise Management

A stand alone Noise and Vibration EMP Sub-plan was considered to be required for this EMS given that Transgrid's existing procedures and processes will address noise requirements for operational phase of the project. A copy of the assessment can be found in Appendix A.

Noise associated with Stage 3 operational and maintenance activities are managed through Transgrid's Environmental Management System (EMS), which provides a risk-based process for the assessment, authorisation and management of activities prior to works commencing.

The Environmental Assessment Framework – NSW – establishes the overarching environmental assessment and risk review process applicable to Transgrid activities. The Framework is used to determine the appropriate environmental assessment and authorisation pathway having regard to the nature, scale, location and duration of the proposed activity, proximity to sensitive receivers, plant and equipment to be used, working hours and the potential for environmental impacts, including noise. Where required, activities are subject to further environmental risk review and assessment in accordance with the Framework.

The applicable environmental assessment or risk review documentation, including the Environmental Risk Checklist where relevant is then used to identify activity and location-specific environmental risks and establish the controls required before works are authorised. For instance, the Moderate Risk Checklist specifically considers whether noise-generating works would occur outside standard working hours and whether sensitive receivers are located in proximity to the works. Where these circumstances apply, the potential impacts on sensitive receivers are assessed, applicable noise management requirements are identified and additional controls and/or approvals are established as required. The checklist also provides the mechanism for incorporating relevant Environmental Guidance Notes and activity-specific environmental controls into the authorised work package.

The Environmental Guidance Note – Construction Noise – provides the supporting requirements and guidance for managing noise-generating activities, including recommended noise management levels and mitigation measures based on the timing and nature of works and potential impacts on sensitive receivers. These measures include assessing potential noise generation and affected receivers, notifying affected properties and stakeholders where required, scheduling and undertaking works to minimise noise, appropriately positioning and operating plant and equipment, using screening where appropriate, managing complaints, and undertaking additional assessment where applicable noise management levels may be exceeded. Where noise-generating activities are proposed outside standard working hours.

The Environmental Guidance Note – Out of Hours Construction Noise and Out of Hours Work Request – process provide an additional level of assessment and approval by considering the justification for the works, nearest sensitive receivers, the noise-generating potential of the proposed activities and plant, proposed working times, and the controls required to manage potential impacts, with applicable approval requirements to be satisfied before the activity proceeds.

Accordingly, the EMS provides an integrated process whereby potential noise impacts associated with Stage 3 operational and maintenance activities are identified through environmental assessment and risk review, assessed in the context of the proposed activity and sensitive receivers, managed through activity-

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specific controls and guidance, and subject to additional assessment and approval where required, including for out-of-hours works.

The standard noise mitigation measures and controls implemented through this management system are outlined below and are applied, as relevant to the nature, location, timing and assessed noise risk of the Stage 3 operational or maintenance activity.

5.2.2. Noise Mitigation Measures

Noise mitigation measures implemented to minimise noise and vibration impacts of inspection and maintenance activities during the operational phase of the development are as follows:

- Assess the potential noise generation of the works,
- Identify potentially affected receivers and determine if noise impacts are likely,
- Notify affected properties and stakeholders prior to works commencing (refer to the Project environmental approval for details of notifications required and keep records for the duration of the project),
- Maintain a complaints register for any noise complaints received,
- The worksite must have signage with a 24 hour contact number,
- Schedule work to minimise noise generation outside standard hours,
- Minimise use of multiple noise generating tools or plant concurrently,
- Ensure machines aren't idling when not in use,
- Consider site setup to avoid excessive reversing alarms,
- Avoid dropping materials from a height,
- Avoid metal on metal contact on equipment,
- Provide respite periods for high impact receivers,
- Consider location of sensitive receivers prior to site setup, and
- Install portable screening around noise generating activities.
- Other noise mitigation measures may be required

These are the Standard Noise Mitigations / Controls taken from Environmental Guidance Note – Construction Noise to demonstrate the level of analysis that occurs in the operational phase of the project.

5.2.3. Noise modelling

A technical assessment was undertaken by Renzo Tonin and Associates in May 2026 to model and assess the worst-case operational noise for the development to demonstrate compliance with the project trigger noise levels (PNTL) (Condition C8). This modelling demonstrated compliance with Condition C8 at both Dinawan 330kV substation and Wagga Wagga 330kV substations.

A worst-case operational noise modelling assessment was by Renzo Tonin and associates under wet conditions and without asset mitigation (i.e. corona rings). The key findings of the assessment are as follows:

Table 5-2: Summary of the Project Noise Trigger Level (PNTL) exceedances during the base (wet) and base + 1% SVG (wet) scenarios

Scenario	Impact of PNTL exceedances	Number of receiver buildings (dwellings & sheds)
Base (wet)	Negligible (<2 dB)	8

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	Marginal (>2 to 5 dB)	7
	Moderate / Significant (>5 dB)	6
Base + 1% SVG (wet)	Negligible (<2 dB)	8
	Marginal (>2 to 5 dB)	7
	Moderate / Significant (>5 dB)	6

Where the PNTL are exceeded through operational noise monitoring, feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures will be evaluated, with the aim of reducing noise to the project noise trigger levels. Potential at receiver noise mitigation may be implemented in consultation with the affected receiver.

These impacts will be assessed in post operational noise monitoring (Section 5.2.4) and any residence identified with a moderate or significant impact will be evaluated against the above potential property noise mitigations in consultation with the landholder and informed by a detailed building condition survey and final predicted noise levels.

5.2.4. Operational noise monitoring

Monitoring of operational noise shall be undertaken in accordance with revised mitigation measure NV10. For each residence where potential operational noise levels are predicted to exceed project trigger levels, noise monitoring to confirm actual operational noise levels would be carried out:

- within six months of the commencement of operation (where meteorological conditions permit); and
- at the request of the landowner of the residence at any time within two (2) years after the commencement of operation.

The noise monitoring would occur during weather/atmospheric conditions conducive to generating the corona effect. For residences where the monitoring identifies operational noise levels in excess 35 dB(A) LAeq,15min and internal noise levels in excess of 25 dB(A) as a result, consultation would occur with the landowner of the affected residence to identity if treatment is required and, if so, confirm appropriate treatments. Once appropriate treatments have been confirmed in consultation with the landholder, the treatments would be implemented within 12 months.

The Environmental Strategy will be reviewed, and updated if required, after the noise monitoring is conducted within 6 months of the operations.

During the period from operations to the completion of the operational noise monitoring, the development will operate under Transgrid procedure: Environmental Assessment Framework and the Environmental handbook.

5.2.4.1. L5 uprating

For the 500kV line between Dinawan 330kV substation and Wagga Wagga substation this assessment would be required to occur once the line is operational at the initial 330kV voltage and subsequently once the line is increased in operational capacity to 500kV (at a point in the future following the required additional network upgrades).

5.2.5. Noise Research Program

Condition C9 of the approval requires Transgrid to prepare and implement a Research Program and allocate $150,000 to this program, prepared in consultation with EPA, and be submitted to the Planning

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Secretary for approval prior to commencement of operation, which must provide further scientific and engineering understanding of corona discharge noise and best practice noise mitigation measures.

WSP have been engaged to conduct the noise research program to further investigate corona noise to better understand the occurrence under different Australian meteorological conditions. The Research Program was approved by DPHI on 7 August 2026 and the key findings of the research program are as follows:

- Rainfall and humidity were confirmed as the dominant meteorological drivers of audible corona noise.
- The EPRI model considers rainfall rate as a direct input, while the BPA model includes an altitude correction and treats conditions as wet or dry.
- International models aligned with the higher voltage line but tended to overpredict for the lower voltage site, highlighting the need for field verification.
- Fog and mist can elevate audible corona noise under calm saturated conditions, but their occurrence is highly site specific and cannot be reliably predicted across an alignment due to dependence on local terrain and specific local humidity/dew point conditions. In addition, the occurrence of fog and mist conditions are not recorded by the Bureau of Meteorology.

5.2.6. Biodiversity

An Operational Biodiversity Management Plan has been developed with the purpose to implementation of specific management protocols, ongoing maintenance procedures, and monitoring established during the earlier stages of assessment and design.

The key issues addressed in the OBMP are the vegetation integrity monitoring and monitoring program.

5.2.7. Heritage

A stand alone Heritage EMP Sub-plan was considered but it was determined that Transgrid's existing procedures and processes will address heritage requirements for operational phase of the project. A copy of the assessment can be found in Appendix B.

All known sites as detailed in heritage assessment and reporting as part of the EIS and Post Approval and any unexpected finds or changes to cultural heritage sites, including Potential Archaeological Deposits (as a result of the Project, test excavation and salvage) have been recorded within Transgrid's GIS systems. Repatriation of salvaged artifats was completed during the construction phase of the project with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) in July 2026.

All operational activities with the potential to cause harm Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal heritage during the operational phase of PEC East shall be undertaken in accordance with Transgrid's:

- Environmental Assessment Framework;
- Environmental Handbook;
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment Procedure (including the Unexpected Finds Protocol); and
- Environmental Guidance Note – Heritage.

Where extant Aboriginal heritage or non-Aboriginal heritage features are located within or near the operational footprint are potentially at risk of harm, mitigation measures include:

- Locations of existing heritage sites in Transgrid's GIS must be shown on either Work Plans or associated maps
- All staff and contractors to be made aware of identified heritage sites/areas and the control measures to protect heritage items including tagging/barricading sites prior to the commencement of work
- Any excavation or ground disturbing works in the vicinity of identified cultural heritage sites must be reviewed by an environmental professional.
- Known heritage sites must be clearly marked or barricaded in the field prior to commencing work.

5.2.7.1. Unexpected Finds

All unexpected Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal heritage finds during maintenance or operation will be managed in accordance with the Unexpected Finds Protocol outlined in Appendix D of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Procedure. This includes:

- Ceasing work immediately upon discovery.
- Notifying the Transgrid Site Manager and Environmental Business Partner.
- Protecting the site from further disturbance.
- Notifying the relevant regulatory bodies, including the NSW Police (if human remains are found) and Heritage NSW.
- Consulting with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) where required.

5.2.8. Traffic and transport

A standalone Traffic and Transport EMP Sub-Plan was considered but it was determined that Transgrid's existing procedures and processes will address traffic and transport requirements for the operational phase of the project. A copy of the assessment can be found in Appendix C. These include:

- Critical Risk Protocols for the critical safety risks for the business, including driving. These set out the minimum requirements for safe driving by Transgrid workers and delivery partners.
- Safe Driving procedure – this document is to provide understanding of safe driving and operation of Trans grid vehicles to reduce work health and safety risks associated with driver and vehicle safety.
- Fatigue management procedure – this document provides rules and strategies for managing fatigue while working and travelling
- Traffic Management procedure – this document sets out requirements for the development, review, approval and implementation of Traffic Plans for interfacing with live vehicular traffic, including mobile plant and pedestrians.
- Chain of Responsibility procedure - sets a clear direction for all persons working for or on behalf of Transgrid to observe during the transportation of Transgrid plant, equipment and materials, the engagement of transport and/or civil contractor agencies, and the purchasing of bulk goods.
- Traffic route for development related traffic will be stored in TSS (Transgrid's GIS), as set out in Appendix 3 of the Infrastructure Approval, shown in Appendix D.

5.2.9. Public Infrastructure

If the upgrading or decommission works are undertaken on or in the vicinity of public infrastructure in consultation with the applicable public authority or service provider responsible for that public infrastructure; Transgrid will repair, or pay the full costs associated with repairing, any public infrastructure that is damaged by the development; and relocate, or pay the full costs associated with relocating, any public

infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a result of the development. This does not apply to any damage to roads caused as a result of general road usage.

5.2.10. Land Use and Property

Fencing and access arrangements (including retained access tracks) along the transmission line easement will be determined in consultation with the landholders (see Section 7.3), to meet the requirements of mitigation measure LP11. The requirements for access are recorded on Transgrid's spatial system (GIS) once agreements with landholders are determined, which is used to confirm the requirements prior to any works. Any damage caused to fencing and gates by maintenance activities will be repaired..

If landholders indicate adverse effects on agricultural precision farming GPS signals due to operation of the project within 12 months from commencement of operation, the claims would be investigated. Any disruption due to operation of the project would be addressed in consultation with the affected landholder.

Where it is identified there is a disruption, Transgrid would investigate and implement mitigation measures (such as signal boosting equipment) in consultation with the affected operator.

5.2.11. Biosecurity

Biosecurity during maintenance or operation will be managed in accordance with:

- Biosecurity Procedure
- Environmental Guidance Note – Biosecurity
- Environmental Guidance Notes for specific biosecurity threats
- Environmental Assessment Framework
- Preparation and Approval of Environmental Checklists
- Environmental handbook
- TSS (mapping of high priority weeds, where biosecurity management plans are in place and specific landowner concerns
- These processes have been developed to address the Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW).

5.2.11.1. Known Biosecurity Threats

There are a number of weeds of national significance (WoNS) and priority weeds (see Table 5-5: Priority Weeds and Pathogens) of concern within the Western, Riverina, and Murray Local Land Services (LLS) regions. These species pose significant threats due to their ability to:

- Outcompete native vegetation.
- Invade sensitive habitats.
- Reduce agricultural productivity.

Operational areas are also vulnerable to the introduction and spread of key pathogens and livestock diseases (see Table 5-5: Priority Weeds and Pathogens).

Known/recorded infestations of weeds and pathogens will be recorded spatially in TSS. All workers on site are to be made aware of weed species.

Table 5-3: Priority Weeds and Pathogens

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Weed / Pathogen	Category / Status	Risks	Control / Management Measures
African Boxthorn (Lycium ferocissimum)	WoNS / Regional Priority	Invades native vegetation, restricts stock movement.	Mechanical removal; targeted herbicide application; prevent spread via seed.
Wheel Cactus (Opuntia robusta) & other Opuntia	WoNS / Regional Priority	Infests rangelands and native habitats.	Manual removal; herbicide injection/spraying; dispose of pads/seeds securely.
Prickly Pears (Opuntia spp., Cylindropuntia spp.)	WoNS / High Risk	Forms dense infestations reducing biodiversity.	Biological control (Cactoblastis moth); herbicide treatments; prevent spread of cladodes.
Silverleaf Nightshade (Solanum elaeagnifolium)	WoNS / Noxious Weed	Deep-rooted perennial; depletes soil moisture, toxic to stock.	Long-term herbicide programs; integrated pasture management; avoid soil disturbance.
Blackberry (Rubus fruticosus aggregate)	WoNS	Invades riparian habitats, forms dense thickets.	Chemical control; mechanical clearing in combination with herbicide; monitor regrowth.
Coolatai Grass (Hyparrhenia hirta)	WoNS / Grass Weed	Alters fire regimes; displaces native groundcover.	Early detection; herbicide application; avoid disturbance; hygiene of vehicles/machinery.
Paterson's Curse (Echium plantagineum)	WoNS / Broadleaf Weed	Toxic to livestock; prolific seed production.	Herbicide; competitive pastures; clean-down of vehicles and stock movement controls.
Noogoora Burr (Xanthium occidentale)	Declared Noxious	Invades waterways; burrs affect livestock wool quality.	Herbicide; manual removal before burr set; manage stock access to infested areas.
Bathurst Burr (Xanthium spinosum)	Declared Noxious	Pasture invader; burrs contaminate wool.	Mechanical removal; chemical spraying; manage spread through livestock.
Khaki Weed (Alternanthera pungens)	Declared Weed	Lawn, roadside, and disturbed areas; spread by seed.	Manual removal; herbicide; clean-down protocols to stop seed spread.
Spiny Burrgrass (Cenchrus longispinus / C. spinifex)	Regional Priority	Seed burrs injure stock and people; degrades pasture.	Mechanical removal; chemical control; equipment hygiene before/after working in infested sites.
Giant Parramatta Grass (Sporobolus fertilis)	WoNS / Invasive Grass	Highly invasive, alters grazing systems.	Herbicide application; competitive grazing; regular monitoring to prevent spread.
Sagittaria (Sagittaria platyphylla)	Aquatic Weed	Blocks waterways, alters hydrology.	Targeted herbicide (aquatic safe); physical removal; restrict soil/water transfer from infested sites.
Cabomba (Cabomba caroliniana)	Aquatic WoNS	Invasive aquatic plant, impacts wetlands.	Aquatic herbicide; containment; restrict machinery movement from infested waterways.

Weed / Pathogen	Category / Status	Risks	Control / Management Measures
Phytophthora cinnamomi	Pathogen (soil-borne)	Causes dieback in native vegetation; significant biodiversity impacts.	Minimise soil disturbance; hygiene of vehicles/equipment; avoid moving soil/plant material from infested areas.
Ovine Footrot	Livestock Disease	Infects sheep hooves; reduces animal welfare and productivity.	Restrict access to affected properties; disinfect footwear/vehicles; follow landholder biosecurity plans.
Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD)	Livestock Disease	Chronic wasting disease in sheep; long survival in environment.	Implement property-specific access protocols; hygiene management; report to DPI if suspected.
Sheep Lice	Livestock Parasite	Reduces wool quality; spreads rapidly between flocks.	Avoid stock contact during operations; comply with landholder controls; hygiene of PPE and equipment.

5.2.12. Hazards and risks – Dinawan and Wagga Wagga substations

The Wagga Wagga Substation Emergency Response Manual (MNA-SUBERM-316, Rev 15) has been updated to include the required revised emergency response procedures as per the requirements of mitigation measure HR19.

The Dinawan Substation Emergency Response Manual has been updated to include the required revised emergency response procedures as per the requirements of mitigation measure HR20.

5.2.13. Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of ancillary facilities, accommodation camps and earthwork material sites are required within six months following the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning by NSW Infrastructure approval condition C52.

The construction contractor is responsible for ensuring compliance with Condition C52 and is a contractual requirement to reach Final Completion of the construction phase of the project. The project team will ensure sufficient evidence is captured to comply with this condition and support the initial Operational Independent Environment Audit.

5.2.14. Visual mitigation

From the commencement of operations the owners of R186, R233, R385, R422, R432, R450, R461, R501, R502 and R26749 may ask the Proponent to implement visual impact mitigation measures on their land to minimise the visual impacts of the development on their residence (including its curtilage). These requests can occur for two years post commencement of operations.

The approval requires that Transgrid completes the following if a request is received from the above mentioned owners:

- Upon receiving such a written request from the owner of these residences, the Proponent must implement appropriate mitigation measures (such as landscaping and vegetation screening) in consultation with the owner.

- These mitigation measures must be reasonable and feasible, aimed at reducing the visibility of the transmission line and towers from the residence and its curtilage, and commensurate with the level of visual impact on the residence.
- All agreed mitigation measures must be implemented within 12 months of receiving the written request, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.
- If the Proponent and the owner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Planning Secretary for resolution.
- To avoid any doubt, mitigation measures are not required to be implemented to reduce the visibility of transmission lines and towers from any other locations on the property other than the residence and its curtilage.

Transgrid will not mount any advertising signs or logos on site, except where this is required for identification or safety purposes.

5.2.15. Waste Management

All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per the following Transgrid documents:

- Transgrid procedure - Waste Management
- Transgrid Environmental handbook Section 4.3 and 4.4
- Transgrid Easement Guidelines
- Transgrid Work Instruction – Waste Management of Spoil
- Transgrid Work Instruction – Waste Management of Oil and Oil-Filled Assets
- Transgrid Work Instruction – Disposal of Asbestos
- Pollution Incident Response Management Plan – Transportation of Waste

These documents describe the processes for the storage, transportation and disposal of goods, assets and other solid or liquid wastes (collectively referred to as wastes) in a manner compliant with environmental legislation.

5.2.16. Flooding

The EIS noted that the development is not expected to result in notable changes to flood levels, depths or velocities. A Flood Assessment was also conducted is to provide guidance on flood levels and velocities in the floodplain for the design of the tower foundations. While sections of the transmission line will be located within floodplains, the project design ensures that impacts on flood behaviour are insignificant and localised.

Both the new Dinawan Substation and Wagga Wagga Substations are not located on flood prone land.

For any works undertaken, Transgrid adheres to the requirements of the Blue Book, including detailed erosion and sediment control plans and Soil and Water Management Plans by a CPESC.

5.2.16.1. Flood response

In the event of a potential flood, the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) will issue a Flood Watch, which provides early advice on a developing situation that may lead to flooding. This is generally issued up to four days in advance of the expected onset of flooding, with Flood Watches updated at least daily by the BOM.

In the event that the BOM becomes more certain that flooding is expected, often when rainfall has commenced, a Flood Warning will be issued for specific catchments, including expected severity and flood level predictions.

Flood warnings will also be issued by the NSW SES in the event of a flood. Local radio and media outlets will provide additional community information regarding potential flooding and responses.

The E3 authorised worker on site will monitor issued Flood Watch and Flood Warning bulletins issued by the BOM and SES during a period of high rainfall, including high rainfall levels upstream of the maintenance area.

Should the flooding eventuate, a direction to evacuate may be issued by the SES or alternative emergency services, or the Project Manager, Chief Warden or delegate may make the decision to evacuate the site. Personnel designated with responsibility for coordinating a site evacuation will execute the following actions:

- Prior to the flood event or storm reaching the site, inspect erosion and sediment control measures, stockpiles and chemical storage areas. Undertake maintenance if necessary and relocate facilities out of water levels wherever possible if flooding is likely and isolate plant and relocate, stow or tie down loose materials.
- If flooding is likely, site personnel to secure their work areas and move to higher ground. Plant, machinery and vehicles must be moved to the highest possible elevations. Do not attempt to drive through flood waters higher than axle-deep or where the road cannot be clearly seen.

Once all materials have been secured or relocated to higher ground, all personnel should gather at the site assembly point or an evacuation point.

5.2.17. Soil and Water

A stand alone Soil and Water EMP Sub-plan was considered but it was determined that Transgrid's existing procedures and processes will address soil and water requirements for operational phase of the project. A copy of the assessment can be found in Appendix E.

The disturbance of soil under operational conditions is generally limited to minor civil works and investigations (in close proximity to transmission line structures) and access track maintenance where required. All maintenance and other operational phase works will be undertaken as per the following Transgrid documents:

- Environmental Guidance Note Minor Civil Works Erosion and Sediment Control
- Environmental Guidance Note Minor Civil Works Dewatering
- Environmental Guidance Note Excavation and Machine Work
- Environmental Guidance Note Working Near Watercourses
- Environmental Guidance Note Acid Sulphate Soils
- Environmental Guidance Note Naturally Occurring Asbestos
- Environmental Assessment Framework
- Preparation and Approval of Environmental Checklist

For any works undertaken, Transgrid adheres to the requirements of the Blue Book, including detailed erosion and sediment control plans and Soil and Water Management Plans by a CPESC.

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6. Environmental Monitoring and Review

6.1. Environmental Monitoring of Operations

The purpose of ongoing monitoring is to continue to identify the potential for environmental impacts, and to determine whether controls, management and mitigation measures are applied and are effective in their methodology for the operational phase of the project.

6.2. Environmental Monitoring and Auditing

Transgrid will undertake ongoing monitoring and auditing of operations as per the HSE Audit and Assurance Schedule.

The Transgrid procedure: Health Safety and Environment (HSE) Audit and Assurance sets out the process for the planning, conduct and reporting of environmental audits. This procedure applies to internal and external environmental audits to ascertain compliance with:

- Transgrid's Environmental Management System,
- Environmental policies and procedures,
- Project's specific management plans
- Legislative requirements
- Memorandum of understandings with agencies such as NPWS
- Environmental licences and permits, and
- Any other requirements

6.2.1. Environmental Inspections

The Transgrid procedure: Health, Safety and Environmental Inspection sets out the process for conducting environment inspections at Transgrid, to identify process improvements and highlight any further training or audit requirements.

6.2.2. Independent Environmental Audits

Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out at the frequency described and in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020), unless otherwise agreed or directed by the Planning Secretary.

During operations, these must occur every three (3) years.

6.2.3. Commonwealth Annual Compliance Report

Transgrid must prepare an annual compliance report for each 12-month period following the date of this approval, unless the Minister provides written agreement otherwise. This obligation to prepare and keep reports published continues until the expiry date of the approval.

The process for completing the annual compliance report (reporting period is 5 December – 4 December) involves the following steps:

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Compliance Report steps	Detail
Gather Information and Draft the Report:	Prepare the report to be consistent with the department's Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014), or any subsequent official version. Ensure the report includes: • Accurate and complete details of compliance and any non-compliance with the conditions and the relevant plans, as well as details of any incidents. • One or more shapefiles showing all clearing of any protected matters, and/or their habitat, that occurred within the 12-month reporting period. • A schedule of all plans currently in existence related to these conditions, along with accurate and complete details of how each plan is being implemented.
Address Sensitive Ecological Data:	• Exclude or redact any sensitive ecological data from the version of the compliance report intended for public publication on the website or for distribution to the public. • If sensitive ecological data is excluded or redacted from the publicly published version, a full, unredacted compliance report must be prepared for submission to the department.
Publish the Report on the Website:	• Publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the end of the 12-month period for which the report is required. • The approval holder must keep all published compliance reports on the website until the expiry date of this approval.
Notify the Department:	• Within 5 business days of the date of publication on the website, notify the department electronically that the compliance report has been published. • This notification must include the weblink for the published compliance report.
Submit Full Report to Department (if applicable):	If sensitive ecological data was excluded or redacted from the version published on the website, the full, unredacted compliance report must be submitted to the department within 5 business days of its publication on the website.

6.2.4. Commonwealth Five Yearly Audit

An independent audit of compliance with the condition of the Commonwealth approval must be conducted for every five-year period following the commencement of the Action until this approval expires (31 October 2122), unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister.

The commencement of the action occurred on 31 January 2023, as such the first audit period is **31 January 2023 up to 30 January 2028.**

The following table sets out the process for the Commonwealth Five Yearly Audit

Audit step	Detail
1. Pre-Audit Submission for Approval:	Before commencing the independent audit, the approval holder must provide the department with the following information: • The name and qualifications of the nominated independent auditor. • The draft audit criteria. • The proposed timeframe for submitting the audit report. It is crucial that the auditor is truly independent, meaning they should not have any individual, financial, employment, or family affiliation, or any conflicting interests with the project, the approval holder, or their staff, representatives, or associated persons, other than for the purpose of undertaking the audit.
2. Departmental Approval to Commence Audit:	The independent audit must not commence until the nominated independent auditor, audit criteria, and timeframe for submitting the audit report have been approved in writing by the department.
3. Conducting the Independent Audit:	• The audit must be conducted by an independent and suitably qualified person. • Each audit report must cover the five-year period preceding that audit report. • The audit must be consistent with the department's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines (2019), or any subsequent official version. The audit report itself is a written report of compliance and fulfillment of the conditions, objectively evaluated against department-approved audit criteria.
4. Submission of Audit Report:	Transgrid must submit the audit report to the department for approval within the timeframe specified and approved in writing by the department.
5. Minister's Satisfaction with Audit Report:	Each audit report must be completed to the satisfaction of the Minister.
6. Publication of Audit Report:	Once the department approves the audit report, Transgrid must publish each audit report on the website within 15 business days of the date of the department's approval.
7. Ongoing Publication Requirement:	Transgrid must keep every audit report published on the website until this approval expires (31 October 2122)

6.2.5. Commonwealth information on the website

The following information must be kept on the website until the expiry date of the approval (31 October 2122)

- **Plans:** All plans required by the conditions must be published on the website within 15 business days of the date the plan is approved by the Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister. Sensitive ecological data must be excluded or redacted from plans published on the website or otherwise provided to a member of the public.

- **Annual compliance reports:** Each compliance report must be published on the website within 60 business days following the end of the 12-month period for which it is required. Similar to plans, sensitive ecological data must be excluded or redacted from compliance reports published on the website or provided to the public.
- **Independent audit reports:** Each independent audit report must be published on the website within 15 business days of the date of the department's approval of the audit report.

6.2.6. Summary of monitoring requirements

The following table summarises the monitoring requirements for the performance of the development:

Table 6-1: Monitoring requirements - operational

Monitoring Requirement	Section	Details	Timing	CoA
Noise Monitoring	Section 5.2.4	Noise monitoring after 6 months in operations to confirm expected details.	6 months post operations	C8, C10 and NV10
Operational Independent Environmental Audits	Section 6.2.2	Independent audits undertaken every three years to obtain an independent and objective assessment of the environmental performance and compliance status of a project.	Every three years	D11
Commonwealth Annual Compliance Report	Section 6.2.3	Annual compliance statements regarding the Commonwealth environmental approval	Annually	EPBC 23
Commonwealth Audit	Section 6.2.4	Five yearly audit	Five Yearly	EPBC 30
Environmental Inspection	Section 6.2.1	To identify process improvements	As required	A1
Environmental Audits	Section 6.2	Ensures operational environmental aspects are audited.	As required	A1
Critical Risk Control Checks	Appendix C	A leadership engagement tool, targeted at verifying that the mandatory critical risk controls aligned to the Transgrid Critical Risk Protocols remain effectively implemented and understood by workers carrying out work for Transgrid.	As required	C35

6.3. Reporting requirements

As per the NSW Infrastructure and Commonwealth approval the following reporting requirements are detailed in Table 6-2 and includes the reporting timeframe.

These reporting requirements have also been captured in Transgrid's Health Safety Environment and Network Safety Communication and Reporting procedure to ensure these requirements have been embedded with 'business as usual' practices.

Table 6-2: Reporting requirements - operational

Reporting requirement	Timeframe for delivery	Delivered to	Responsible
D3 Transgrid to notify the of the date of commencing the operational phase	Prior to commencing operations	Department in writing via the Major Projects website portal	Project Environment and Sustainability Manager
C44 (f) Transgrid to notify the relevant local emergency management committee of completion	Following completion of construction and prior to commencing operations.	Local emergency services	Project Environment and Sustainability Manager
C52 Rehabilitate ancillary facilities, accommodation camps and earthwork material sites	Within 6 months of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning	Department in writing via the Major Projects website portal	Head of Environment and Sustainability(once in operation)
EPBC C23 Transgrid to submit an EPBC annual compliance report holder. It must exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website Where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication	For each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the action, (or as otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister). Transgrid to publish each compliance report on their website within 60 business days following the relevant 12-month period for the duration of operation unless otherwise directed by the Commonwealth	Notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website and provide the weblink for the report	Head of Environment and Sustainability (once in operation)
EPBC 34 Transgrid must notify the department that the approval is about to expire	6 August 2122	Notify the Department by email that the approval is about to expire (31 October 2122)	Head of Environment and Sustainability

Reporting requirement	Timeframe for delivery	Delivered to	Responsible
EPBC C35, Transgrid to notify the Department in writing and provide Completion data (an environmental report and spatial data clearly detailing how conditions of this approval have been met)	Within 20 business days after completion	The Department's preferred spatial data format is shapefile.	Project Environment and Sustainability Manager
EPBC 36 Transgrid must notify the Department if the any proposed change to the State Infrastructure Approval that may relate to protected matters	Within 2 business days of formally proposing a change OR within 5 business days of becoming aware of any proposed change	Notify the Department via email	Head of Environment and Sustainability
EPBC 37 Transgrid must notify the Department in writing of any change to the State Infrastructure Approval conditions that relate to protected matter	Within 10 business days of a change to condition being finalised	Notify the Department via email	Head of Environment and Sustainability
D34 Post-Construction Dilapidation Report	Within 1 month of completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning	To be prepared by construction contractor	Project Environment and Sustainability Manager
D3 Notification of commencement of future upgrading or decommissioning	Prior to commencing the relevant phase	Provided for information	Project Environment and Sustainability Manager
D5 Work as Executed Plans prior to commencing operations	Prior to commencing operations	Provided for information	Project Environment and Sustainability Manager
D6 Notification of Incident	Immediately upon becoming aware of the incident Information	Planning Secretary, via the Major Projects website.	Head of Environment and Sustainability (once in operation)
D7 Notification of Non-compliance	Compliance Within seven days upon becoming aware of any non-compliance Information	Planning Secretary, via the Major Projects website.	Head of Environment and Sustainability (once in operation)
D11 Independent Environmental Audits	Within 2 months of the completion of site inspection	Planning Secretary, via the Major Projects website.	Head of Environment and Sustainability (once in operation)

6.4. Environmental objectives, targets and performance indicators

As a means of assessing environmental performance, environmental objectives (performance measures), targets (criteria) and performance indicators have been established for the project and are provided in the table below.

Table 6-3:Objectives, targets and performance indicators - operational

Objective	Target	Performance Indicator
Compliance with Statutory Approvals and Infrastructure Approval	Full compliance with statutory approvals. No regulatory infringements (PINs or prosecutions). No formal regulatory warning.	Number of regulatory infringements (PINs or prosecutions), formal regulatory warning, audits.
Address all corrective and preventative actions arising from audits	All corrective and preventative actions arising from audits closed out within specific timeframes.	Action close-out timing statistics in corrective and preventative action close out reports.
Ensure timely communication of incidents	All incidents reported in accordance with this management plan.	Follow up action of incidents as recorded in incident reports.
Provide a safe environment for road users	No death or injury to workers and the public as a result of traffic incidents	Number of incidents recorded relating to traffic
Minimise and manage the impacts of the project on Aboriginal objects and non Aboriginal heritage items within the approved project corridor.	No unlawful harm to known Aboriginal and known non Aboriginal heritage.	Number of incidents involving harm to known Aboriginal heritage objects or known non-Aboriginal heritage items.

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7. Stakeholder and Community Engagement

7.1. Government Agency Consultation

For ongoing correspondence with government, outside the mandated reporting requirements set out in Section 6.3, all written government enquiries must be responded to in the timeframe determined by the relevant department or Minister.

Response to government enquiries is to be drafted in one of the following formats:

- A letter directly from the Transgrid CEO or relevant Executive General Manager to the enquirer
- A draft response requiring the signature of the relevant State or Federal MP or Minister.
- All written Government correspondence must be recorded in accordance with Transgrid's Complaints and Enquiries policy and procedure.
- All ministerial enquiries must be referred to the Government and Stakeholder Relations team.

7.2. Project Handover

Once the project is completed, there will be an initial handover from Elecnor to Transgrid and subsequently, from the Transgrid project team to the operations team. This will include the expectations for the maintenance of the project and will ensure that specific requirements are adequately captured and updated in Transgrid's operational spatial system (GIS) to ensure the information is captured and utilised throughout operations.

7.3. Landowner Consultation

During the construction phase, consultation and negotiation of fencing and gates for both construction and operation was managed by the Construction phase Contractor. Transgrid provided information to the Contractor detailing preferences for operational access to be negotiated with property owners. In almost all instances access will be via access points and access tracks constructed/used in the construction phase of the project.

During operations, property owner information will be stored in Salesforce. Transgrid will consult with landowners through the Environmental Assessment Framework (and Preparation and Approval of Environmental Checklists procedure) which requires Transgrid staff to complete a property owner access check in Transgrid's operational spatial system (GIS) and ensure this consultation is documented in the relevant environmental checklist.

Property specific biosecurity requirements are mapped in Transgrid's operational spatial system (GIS). Biodiversity control measures identified in property specific biodiversity management plans will be implemented.

Transgrid procedures mandate that prior to access a Property Check is undertaken to determine access requirements, including for biosecurity.

Transgrid maintains an external website which provides information to the community (including landowners) including the Land Access Code of Conduct, and support services for landowners.

7.4. Complaints handling

Transgrid maintains a Complaints and Enquiries Policy and procedures, which will be relevant for the operational phase of this project.

Complaints can be lodged through Transgrid's external website: www.transgrid.com.au The website contains information on:

- How to lodge a complaint, (Complaints and enquiries guidelines for community members
- escalation timeframes
- external dispute resolution
- Transgrid's Complaints and Enquiries Policy

Transgrid commits to provide timely, accurate and consistent responses to all complaints and enquiries related to Transgrid operations and services.

Transgrid aim to resolve all complaints and enquiries at the first point of contact. Where this is not possible and further investigation may be required, Transgrid will aim to acknowledge receipt of the complaint or enquiry within 2 business days and provide a resolution/response within 10 business days.

If Transgrid are unable to meet these timeframes, the complainant will be advised of a suggested course of action and timeframe, as well as the name of a contact person for any further queries regarding the matter.

Transgrid will respond via the same channel as the complaint or enquiry is received unless advised otherwise.

Records will be stored in Salesforce.

7.5. Dispute resolution

In circumstances where Transgrid has taken all reasonable steps to resolve the complaint and has exhausted all available options to reach an agreed outcome, and the complainant remains unsatisfied with the action taken, the following steps will apply:

- The Responsible Transgrid Officer will advise the stakeholder of their right to have the complaint escalated to a higher level within Transgrid's management structure for further review and consideration.
- following further internal investigation, where a complaint cannot be resolved to the stakeholder's satisfaction, or the stakeholder's conduct is believed to be unreasonable, the Responsible Transgrid Officer will provide the stakeholder with information and referral details for the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC), the Energy & Water Ombudsman of New South Wales (EWON).
- Where a complaint is unable to be resolved through referral to the AEIC, EWON or EWOV, Transgrid will assess whether any further avenues for resolution remain available. Where no further reasonable resolution options exist, Transgrid will notify the stakeholder and cease efforts to resolve the complaint.
- The Responsible Transgrid Officer will ensure that all information is recorded in Salesforce.

7.6. Website

During operations, a Project Energy Connect site will be maintained on the Transgrid (www.transgrid.com.au) website. Information on this site will include:

- Environmental management plans for the current stage of development
- Independent audit reports
- Current statutory approval
- Record of complaint, updated on a monthly basis
- Staging report
- Any other matters required by the Planning Secretary

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8. Environmental Hazard and Non-conformance

8.1. Emergency Response

Once operational, the PEC East development becomes part of the electricity transmission network. Transgrid has a robust emergency response process including:

- Emergency Management Standard - provides Transgrid mandatory requirements for developing crisis management plans, emergency management plans, response plans and escalation plans for emergencies
- Wagga 330kV Substation - Emergency Response Manual - An Emergency Response Manual (ERM) is maintained at each Substation or Switching Station and contains relevant information for use at that site during emergency situations.
- Dinawan 500kV Substation - Emergency Response Manual - An Emergency Response Manual (ERM) is maintained at each Substation or Switching Station and contains relevant information for use at that site during emergency situations.
- Transmission Lines - Emergency Response Procedure - provides an Emergency Response Procedure to be followed for instruction and information to enable Transgrid Lines staff to respond to a transmission line emergency which has or may impact on reliability of the Transgrid Network System.
- Bushfire Risk Management Plan - outlines Transgrid's approach to proactively manage our exposure to bushfire risks in NSW, ACT and supports Bushfire Mitigation Plans for Victoria. This includes the effective management of these risks to an acceptable risk level in accordance with the Bushfire Formal Safety Assessment.
- Bushfire Formal Safety Assessment - details how Transgrid assesses and manages bushfire risk throughout the business. This Plan demonstrates compliance with the NSW Electricity Network Safety Management System Regulation (2014).
- Emergency Communications Plan - guiding framework for approving, preparing, and delivering communications in the event of a critical incident impacting the network
- Hot Work and Fire Risk Work - identify and control the risks associated with Hot Work and Fire Risk Work conducted by Transgrid employees and contractors.
- Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods – outlines the processes to protect the health, safety and environment of Transgrid workers and delivery partners when working with hazardous chemicals and dangerous goods
- HSE Incident Management procedure - explains what needs to happen in response to, and after an incident and actions taken to prevent it from happening again
- Power System Safety Rules - to keep our people safe when exposed to the hazards of working on infrastructure such as substations, transmission cables and transmission lines.
- 24 hour community, landowner and easement enquiries line

8.2. Hazards and incidents

Potential hazards and incidents for the operational phase of this project (not exclusively) may comprise actual or potential harm, including:

- Oil or fuel spills or other Pollution incidents.
- Inappropriate disposal of waste

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- Encroachment into No Go Zones
- Damage to cultural heritage
- Damage to flora / fauna
- Damage to habitat
- Uncontrolled Hot Work /Fire Risk Work
- Unauthorised ground disturbance
- Non-compliance with environmental mitigation measures or Conditions of Approval

In the first instance, all hazards, incidents, including near miss incidents, must be reported within 12 hours to the Supervisor/Team leader who will determine the appropriate course of action.

The supervisor may contact Transgrid HSE Group for advice and assistance.

8.3. Environmental Incidents

For any suspected environmental incident, Transgrid staff and delivery partners are to follow the incident response procedure as set out in the Transgrid Environmental Handbook and provide in Figure 8-1.

In the event of an environmental incident, staff must take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the impacts of the incident on the environment if safe to do so.

Figure 8-1 Transgrid's Incident Management process

Transgrid employees can find further information in the HSE Incident Notification procedure.

If pollution goes unreported, the people who know of the incident can be fines up to $500,000 and a further $120,000 each day the offence goes unreported.



Oil spill into a waterway

Environmental Pollution Incidents:

- A spill of sediment in a sensitive area, drain or waterway
- Any volume of oil or chemical spilled on or off-site
- A spill that contains hazardous materials such as PCB or mercury

Other Environmental Incidents:

- Discovering contamination
- Damage to heritage items
- Unauthorised vegetation clearing
- Illegal waste disposal (e.g. asbestos dumping)
- Works without the necessary approval, licence or permit

Critical Risk Incidents are those incidents that cause or threaten significant or serious environmental harm.

These include:

- Pollution incidents reportable under the POEO Act
- Significant planning and conservation breaches
- Significant unauthorised vegetation clearing
- Damage to a heritage item

In the case of an incident, Transgrid employees must report the incident to their supervisor/team leader and enter the incident details into the CAMMS Incident Reporting Module at the earliest possible opportunity.

Contact Transgrid's HSE Group if you require any assistance.

For pollution incidents that fall into the Critical Risk (CR) category and are potentially reportable to the regulator, please contact the Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager for advice

If neither can be contacted within a reasonable time period, notify the appropriate authorities immediately.

Refer to HSE External reporting of incidents on the Wire.

8.3.1. Incident Management

Management of response to hazards and incidents that occur must be in accordance with the requirements of Transgrid's Hazard, risk, waste, incident, audit and compliance management system (Riskonnect) and the HSE Incident Management procedure.

For incident management purposes, the following information must be provided for all hazards and incidents:

- Location, time and duration of hazard or incident.

- Site details: address and site description.
- Hazard / Incident details:
- A description of the hazard / incident and what happened (an estimation of quantity if a spill),
- Actions taken to deal with the hazard / incident,
- Names of persons who may have witnessed the hazard / incident, and
- Provide details of other stakeholders or properties affected (including adjacent land uses) by the hazard / incident.

All workers have an obligation to notify and escalate incidents as soon as possible. Once the site has been controlled, the following notifications must be completed:

- Emergency Notifications - Ambulance, Fire, Police via 000 (externally), 0 – 000 (internal phone system) or 112 from a mobile phone out of a service coverage area, Transgrid Control Room via 555 and alert to other workers/persons in the area of the situation to warn of danger/evacuation.
- Management notification – line leader or next up in reporting line in the organisational structure. All major and catastrophic incidents must be reported to the GM of Environmental Strategy and Planning as soon as practicable.
- HSE notification – Safety and Environment Delivery team to determine if the incident is notifiable and whether scene requires preserving. Safety and Environment Delivery to contact the Corporate Environment/Stakeholder and Corporate Affairs team to determine if the incident is notifiable to the regulator. All regulator notifications must be done in line with the requirements of the HSE External Notification of Incidents procedure.
- System notification – all incidents must be reported in Riskonnect, Transgrid's hazard and incident reporting system.

Note: Should any person in the normal notification process not be contactable (in person) then the notification must be escalated to the next person in the organisation chart and so on until 'in person' contact has been established and the incident notified. A message must be left at each contact point in the process where the person was unable to be reached.

Any incidents (where material harm to the environment has occurred) must be reported to the Head of Environment and Sustainability who will advise the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), or any other authorities in consultation with the HSE Business Partner and Environmental Business Partners.

As soon as possible after any incident, Transgrid will conduct an appropriate investigation and provide copies of the completed Incident Report and Investigation Report to the DPHI.

8.3.2. Incident reporting per Infrastructure Approval (IA)

Any incident as defined in SSI 9172452 is required to be reported per Appendix 4 of the IA (refer to Appendix F of this Environmental Strategy)

Note: Any reportable incident or non-compliance will be reported as required under the relevant State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) approval (as per Section Incident reporting per Infrastructure Approval (IA)). A reportable incident under the IA is defined as:

- An occurrence or set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm and which may or may not be or cause a non-compliance

- Is harm that: (a) involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to the environment that is not trivial, or (b) results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding $10,000, (such loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment). This definition excludes “harm” that is authorised under either this approval or any other statutory approval.

Any update to the Environmental Strategy that may be required as a consequence of the incident will be done per Section 10.1 of this Environmental Strategy.

8.3.3. Incident reporting per the EPBC approval

The approval holder must provide to the department in writing, within 2 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non- compliance, the details of that incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non- compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan. The approval holder must specify:

a. Any condition or commitment made in a plan which has been or may have been breached.
b. A short description of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance.
c. The location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance.

8.3.4. Corrective Actions

Environmental hazards and incidents will be managed as per Transgrid HSE procedures using the Riskonnect system. Non-conformances will be reported and rectified as soon as practical. Any environmental hazards, incidents or non-conformances will be investigated by an Environmental Business Partner.

A non-conformance is the failure to meet the procedural requirements and processes developed for Transgrid’s Environmental Management System. The process detailing non-conformances includes:

- Non-conformances associated with environmental management controls, (including those identified by Transgrid representatives) environmental incidents and emergencies.
- Where non-conformances are raised, the relevant Environmental Business Partner will determine whether the non-conformance meets the definition of non-compliance per Condition E7 of the IA and discuss appropriate actions with the Head of Environment and Sustainability.
- Responsibilities for investigating non-conformances; and
- Follow-up corrective actions (including maximum timeframes for completion).
-

Table 8-1: Corrective Actions Management of Environmental Non-conformances, Hazards and Incidents

Hold Issue*	• Potential Impact / Consequence*	• Immediate Actions (where safe to do so)	• Follow up Actions
• Negligible Non-Conformance	• Negligible or none	• Rectify / manage immediate impacts.	Highlight at Pre-Start or Toolbox to inform staff and prevent recurrence.

• Minimal – Limited immediate Impact	• Limited environmental damage, that can immediately be rectified.	• Rectify / manage immediate impacts.	Notify Environmental Business Partner Submit into Riskonnect
Minor – Impact is limited and short to medium term	Minimal, localised environmental impact which can be rectified in the short-term.	• Rectify / manage immediate impacts.	Notify Environmental Business Partner Submit into Riskonnect
• Moderate – Impact is serious but short to medium term	• Limited, moderate extent of environmental damage, which can be rectified over the medium-term.	• Rectify / manage immediate impacts.	Notify Environmental Business Partner And Head of Environment and Sustainability. Submit into Riskonnect
• Major – Impact is significant and medium to long term	• Serious, long term, widespread environmental damage.	• Rectify / manage immediate impacts.	Notify Environmental Business Partner And Head of Environment and Sustainability. Submit into Riskonnect
• Catastrophic – Impact affects the ongoing viability of Transgrid	Permanent, irreversible environmental Impact. and/or Significant damage across multiple sites.	• Rectify / manage immediate impacts.	Follow the Emergency Management Standard

*Note: For any incident that meets the criteria for 'material harm' as defined under section 8.2.1 of this plan, or is deemed a non-compliance with any condition of the IA, The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure will also need to be notified per Condition D6 and D7 (Refer to Appendix F– Incident notification and reporting requirements).

8.4. Contingency Plan

In the event that unexpected impacts are identified, the action or cause will be categorised and as required will be managed as:

- an environmental incident or hazard in accordance with Section 8; and/or
- a non-compliance or non-conformance in accordance with Section 8.

Reporting of the unpredicted impacts would be in line with the processes as described in Section 6.3.

Through the identification of corrective and/or preventative actions through the processes as described in Section 8, the following steps will be considered as relevant:

a) determine the relevant impact assessment criterion/criteria, below which the impact should be reduced, consistent with the requirements of this Stage 3 Strategy;
b) identify options to reduce the unexpected impacts to below the relevant criterion/criteria and appropriate timeframe for implementation;

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c) implement the selected measure(s) to reduce the unexpected impacts; and
d) identify and implement an appropriate monitoring program to determine the effectiveness of the selected measure(s) to reduce the unexpected impact.

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9. Documentation and Record Keeping

Documentation and record keeping requirements will be as per Transgrid's Document and Record Management Procedure and include:

- Regulatory permits.
- Staff and subcontractor qualifications.
- Induction and training records.
- Inspection and monitoring reports.
- Environmental incident reports.
- Complaints.
- Minutes of environmental meetings.
- Daily toolbox sessions.
- Records to meet Transgrid's reporting requirements under the National Greenhouse Emissions Reporting Scheme.
- Waste Register.
- Chemical and Hazardous materials register.
- Spatial data; and
- Landowner conditions of access, agreed operational access tracks, discussions relating to approval/endorsement of vegetation management on and off easement.

All Project documentation will be uploaded into TeamBinder, which will be used to manage the Project documentation:

- Categorisation,
- Visibility.
- Availability.
- Processes for recording changes; and
- Update / removal of superseded documents.

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10. Environmental Strategy Review

This Environmental Strategy shall be reviewed following any changes in scope to activities to ensure that no additional risks or actions that have a potential impact on the environmental management at the site.

If any review is required during the operational phase of this project, 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 environmental impacts of the change/variation and whether the change is consistent with the existing environmental approval.
- The proposed mitigation and control measures (reference may be given to existing control measures within the CEMP, or to new or altered control measures); and
- an appropriate level of review, endorsement and approval from the process owner.

For procedural details on the process of amending an Environmental Strategy, please refer to the Preparation and Approval of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) procedure.

10.1. Terms of the approval

Transgrid will comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of:

a. any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this approval;
b. any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this approval; and
c. the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.

10.2. Staging

The staging for the project was set out in the EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) Staging Report, which was approved by the Planning Secretary on 20 January 2023.

With the approval of the Planning Secretary, Transgrid may:

a. prepare and submit any strategy, plan, program or report required by this approval on a staged basis (if a clear description is provided as to the specific stage and scope of the development to which the strategy, plan, program or report applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan, program or report);
b. combine any strategy, plan, program or report required by this approval (if a clear relationship is demonstrated between the strategies, plans, programs or reports that are proposed to be combined); and
c. update any strategy, plan, program or report required by this approval (to ensure the strategies, plans, programs or reports required under this approval are updated on a regular basis and

incorporate additional measures or amendments to improve the environmental performance of the development).

If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan, program or report may be staged or updated without consultation being undertaken with all parties required to be consulted in the relevant condition of this approval.

If approved by the Planning Secretary, updated strategies, plans, programs or reports supersede the previous versions of them and must be implemented in accordance with the condition that requires the strategy, plan, program or report.

If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan, program or report may be staged without addressing particular requirements of the relevant condition of this approval if those requirements are not applicable to the particular stage.

Transgrid will pay all reasonable costs incurred by the Department to engage a suitably qualified, experienced and independent expert(s) to review the adequacy of any strategy, plan, program or report required.

10.3. Periodic Review

The Environmental Strategy will be reviewed every five (5) years and, if necessary, updated to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within 3 months of the:

- submission of an incident report under condition D6;
- submission of an audit report under condition D11; or
- any modification to the conditions of the approval.

10.4. Amendment Approvals

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

10.5. Document Control and Records Management

This Environmental Strategy and any subplans will be managed through Transgrid's Business rules for managing Corporate Documents and Corporate Records as specified in the procedure Documents and Records Management.

Transgrid utilises Content Manager to store and record the management of all documented-controlled record.

11. References

11.1. Transgrid EMS

Document Name	Date	Rev.	Document Type
Environmental Policy	May 2025	11	Policy
Environmental Management System Framework	15/05/26	16	Framework
Environmental Assessment Framework (NSW)	13/02/26	8	Procedure
Preparation and Approval of Environmental Checklists	13/11/23	5	Procedure
Environmental Handbook	21/08/21	1	Handbook
Health, Safety and Environmental Objectives	01/09/2025	2	Procedure
HSE Monitoring, Measurement, Analysis and Performance Evaluation	31/10/23	1	Procedure
HSE Incident Management	30/03/25	4	Procedure
HSE Inspection	11/06/24	2	Procedure
HSE Audit and Assurance	22/04/24	8	Procedure
Authorisation to Work	30/03/23	12	Procedure
Environmental Spatial Data Due Diligence	18/07/23	0	Procedure
Ecological Due Diligence Assessment	07/06/23	4	Procedure
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment	11/12/25	4	Procedure
Site Management Plans	13/02/23	7	Procedure
Biosecurity Procedure	21/09/22	2	Procedure
Use of Pesticides Procedure	14/06/23	7	Procedure
Waste Management Procedure	03/02/26	8	Procedure
Oil Management Procedure	13/11/23	8	Procedure
Contaminated Land Management Procedure	28/02/25	7	Procedure
Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods Procedure	26/08/24	11	Procedure
Preparation and Approval of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs)	15/11/22	7	Procedure
Environmental Guidance Note - Biosecurity	26/09/22	2	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Access and Work Mandatory Environmental Controls	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Acid Sulphate Soils	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Bird Nest Removal	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Construction Noise	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Easement Environmental Aspects	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Excavation and Machine Work	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Flora Fauna Ecological Communities and Sensitive Habitats	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Habitat Trees	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Heritage	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note

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Document Name	Date	Rev.	Document Type
Environmental Guidance Note - Hot Work and Fire Risk Work	01/11/24	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - LiDAR Processes	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Minor Civil Works Dewatering	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Minor Civil Works Erosion and Sediment Control	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Mulching and Slashing	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Naturally Occurring Asbestos	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Out of Hours Construction Noise	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Pesticide Application and Storage	11/01/24	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Protected Land	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Regulated Land	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Transport of Harmful Material and Spill Response	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Wombat Holes	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Environmental Guidance Note - Working Near Watercourses	08/03/22	0	Guidance Note
Hot Work and Fire Risk Work Procedure	03/09/25	17	Procedure
Health Safety Environment and Network Safety Communication and Reporting Procedure	12/05/23	10	Procedure
Contractor Health Safety and Environmental Management Procedure	11/02/26	12	Procedure
Pollution Incident Response Management Plan – Transportation of Waste	01/03/23	7	Procedure
Out of Hours Work Request Form	29/03/22	1	Form
Hot Work Permit	08/01/24	7	Form
Fire Risk Assessment and Control Measures (FRACM)	08/01/24	10	Form
Environmental Checklist – General	28/04/2026	5	Checklist
Environmental Checklist – Vegetation Maintenance	28/04/2026	6	Checklist
Environmental Checklist – Water Crossing	28/04/2026	2	Checklist
Oil/PCB Transport	28/04/2026	5	Checklist
Operational Biodiversity Management Plan	TBC	0	Plan
EnergyConnect NSW Eastern Section Staging Report	TBC	E	Report

11.2. Other Management Systems (Assets, Electrical Safety, Safety)

Document Name	Date	Rev.	Document Type
Generic Maintenance Plan	November 2021	-	Plan
Maintenance Plan – Transmission Line Assets	02/12/25	12	Plan
Maintenance Plan – Substation Assets	28/11/25	14	Plan
Maintenance Plan – Easements and Access Tracks	28/11/25	20	Plan
Maintenance Plan – Network Property	08/12/25	11	Plan
Maintenance Plan – Telecommunications Systems	25/11/25	12	Plan

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Bushfire Risk Management Plan	17/10/24	6	Plan
Complaints and Enquiries Policy	26/03/25	1	Policy
Complaints and Enquiries Procedure	24/03/25	1	Procedure
Document and Records Management Procedure	10/11/25	0	Procedure
Safe Driving Procedure	17/03/2025	12	Procedure
Fatigue Management Procedure	15/07/21	12	Procedure
Traffic Management Procedure	11/06/24	5	Procedure
Chain of Responsibility Procedure	05/02/26	3	Procedure
Inspection Test Licensing and Competency Procedure	03/03/26	7	Procedure
Wagga Wagga Substation Emergency Response Manual	21/07/26	16	Manual
Dinawan Substation Emergency Response Manual	24/04/24	1	Manual
Critical Risk Protocols	March 2024	-	Protocol
Electric and Magnetic Fields Fact Sheet	October 2025	-	Fact Sheet
Easement Guidelines	June 2024	-	Guideline
Fencing Guidelines	-	-	Guideline
Subdivision and Development Guidelines	-	-	Guideline
Land Access Code of Conduct	-	-	Guideline

12. Appendices

Appendix A –Noise and vibration management plan assessment

Appendix B – Heritage management plan assessment

Appendix C – Traffic and transport management plan assessment

Appendix D – Transport routes

Appendix E – Soil and water management plan assessment

Appendix F – Emergency Plan

Appendix G – Incident Notification

Appendix H – Baseline information

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Appendix A – Noise and vibration management plan assessment

Review of Condition C10 – Noise and vibration management plan against Transgrid's EMS during operations.

NVMP requirements	Addressed in Transgrid EMS
a) ensure the requirements in conditions C1 to C9 are complied with	As below
C1 - Road upgrades, construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities may only be undertaken between: a) 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday; b) 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays; and c) at no time on Sundays and NSW public holiday; unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.	While this CoA is not specially called out for operations, any inspection or maintenance work will be carried out in accordance with Transgrid's Environmental Guidance Note – Construction Noise Table 1 identifies standard construction hours as follows in accordance with the EPA Interim Construction Noise Guidelines which addresses this Condition of Approval • Monday to Friday 7 am to 6 pm • Saturday 8 am to 1 pm • No work on Sundays or public holidays •
C2 - The following activities may be carried out outside the hours specified in condition C1 above: a) the delivery or dispatch of materials as requested by the NSW Police Force or other public authorities for safety reasons; b) emergency work to avoid the loss of life, property or to prevent material harm to the environment; c) works carried out in accordance with the hours and noise limits specified in any negotiated agreements with sensitive receivers (owners and occupiers), provided the negotiated agreements are in writing and finalised before the commencement of works; d) activities that are inaudible at non-associated residences; e) road upgrades required by the relevant roads authority to be undertaken outside the standard construction hours; or f) works carried out in accordance with an Out-of-Hours Work Protocol approved in accordance with condition C10.	While this CoA is not specially called out for operations, any inspection or maintenance work will be carried out in accordance with Transgrid's Environmental Guidance Note – Out of Hours Construction Noise sets out the requirements for out of hours work. Noise generating work outside standard hours does not require written approval, so long as the works are for: • Works or delivery of materials outside standard hours requested by police or other authorities for safety reasons, • Emergency work to avoid the loss of lives and/or property, and • Works timed to correlate with system planning outages For all other out of hours work, an Out of Hours Work Request noise assessment must be completed.
C3 -The Proponent must take all reasonable and feasible steps to minimise the road upgrades, construction, upgrading or decommissioning noise of the development in the locations where the noise is audible to sensitive receivers, including any associated traffic noise.	Not applicable to Stage 3 – operations as no road upgrades will be occurring as part of inspection and maintenance works
C4 - The Proponent must implement mitigation measures:	While this CoA is not specially called out for operations, any inspection or maintenance

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NVMP requirements	Addressed in Transgrid EMS
a) to ensure that the noise generated by any construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities is managed in accordance with the requirements for construction 'noise affected' management levels established in accordance with Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009); and b) with the aim of achieving the road traffic noise assessment criteria for residential land uses from NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011).	work will be carried out in accordance with Transgrid's Environmental Guidance Note – Construction Noise Table 1 identifies standard construction hours in accordance with the EPA Interim Construction Noise Guidelines which addresses this Condition of Approval.
C5 - The Proponent must comply with the following vibration limits: a) vibration criteria established using the Assessing vibration: a technical guideline (DEC, 2006) (for human exposure); b) BS 7385 Part 2-1993 "Evaluation and measurement for vibration in buildings Part 2" as they are "applicable to Australian conditions"; and c) vibration limits set out in the German Standard DIN 4150-3: Structural Vibration- effects of vibration on structures (for structural damage).	Not applicable to Stage 3 - operations
C6 - Blasting may only be carried out on the site between 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday and between 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday. No blasting is allowed on Sundays or public holidays, unless approved in accordance with condition C1.	Not applicable to Stage 3 – operations as no blasting will be carried out during inspection and maintenance works.
C7 - The Proponent must ensure that any blasting carried out on the site does not exceed the criteria in Table 2. ***Table 2:*** *Blasting criteria*	Not applicable to Stage 3 – operations as no blasting will be carried out during inspection and maintenance works.
C8 - Except for corona discharge noise, the Proponent must ensure that the noise generated by the operation of the development does not exceed 35 dB(A) LAeq,15min, at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, in accordance with the NPfI, at any non-associated residence.	• Noise monitoring (as required by RMM NV10)will occur once the project enters operations for each residence where potential operational noise levels are predicted to exceed project trigger levels, noise monitoring to confirm actual operational noise levels would be carried out: • within six months of the commencement of operation (where meteorological conditions permit); and • at the request of the landowner of the residence at any time within two (2) years after the commencement of operation. • Copies of this noise monitoring will be provided to DPHI for their information.
C9 - The Proponent must: a) take all reasonable and feasible steps to minimise corona discharge noise during operation of the project;	a) Corona is a Transgrid wide issue and is addressed in the Asset Management System. Key documents include: • Maintenance Plan – Transmission Line Assets

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NVMP requirements	Addressed in Transgrid EMS
	• Maintenance Plan – Substation Assets
b) identify residences predicted to experience corona discharge noise levels above 35 dB(A) LAeq,15min at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, determined in accordance with the NPfI, and how often corona noise is expected to be above this this level per year;	b) Noise monitoring in operations is discussed in Section 5.2.3 of this Strategy •
c) implement all reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures, determined in accordance with the NPfI, at receivers predicted to experience corona discharge noise levels that exceed the noise level identified in condition C8; and	c) Noise monitoring in operations is discussed in Section 5.2.3 of this Strategy •
d) prepare and implement a Research Program and allocate $150,000 to this program, prepared in consultation with EPA, and be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval prior to commencement of operation, which must provide further scientific and engineering understanding of corona discharge noise and best practice noise mitigation measures.	• d) The research program is discussed in Section 5.2.5 of this Strategy
b) include a description of the reasonable and feasible measures that would be implemented to minimise noise and vibration impacts of the development;	• Mitigation measures are addressed in5.2.2 Noise Mitigation Measures
c) include a detailed description of the noise and vibration management system for the development;	• Section 5.2.1 addresses the noise and vibration management system for the operational phase of the development.
d) include a protocol for the identification, notification and management of works that exceed the noise management levels;	• Section 5.2.1 addresses the identification, notification and management of works that exceed noise management levels.
e) include a monitoring program that evaluates and reports on the effectiveness of the noise and vibration management system; and	• Monitoring of the development will be in accordance with Section 6.2.6 Summary of monitoring requirements
f) include an Out-of-Hours Work Protocol to identify a process for the consideration, management and approval of works that are outside the hours defined in conditions C1 and C6, which must: (i) be prepared in consultation with the relevant Council; (ii) identify low risk activities that can be undertaken without the approval of the Planning Secretary and with the approval of the ER; (iii) identify high risk activities that must be approved by the Planning Secretary; and (iv) identify Department, Council and community notification arrangements for approved out of hours work.	Not applicable to Stage 3 - operations

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Appendix B - Heritage Management Plan assessment

Review of condition C30 – heritage EMP sub-plan against Transgrid's EMS during operations.

HMP requirements	Addressed in Transgrid EMS
a) include a description of the measures that would be implemented for: (i) protecting Aboriginal heritage items and PADs in accordance with conditions C28(a) and C28(b);	During operations, aboriginal heritage items will be protected by: • Environmental Assessment Framework • TSS (Transgrid's GIS)
(ii) minimising and managing the impacts of the development on heritage items within the development area, including: − salvaging and relocating the Aboriginal heritage items identified in accordance with condition C28(c); − archival recording and/or salvage of the heritage items and sites identified in condition C29, where impacts cannot be avoided, including consultation with NPWS for the Yanga Pastoral Station Complex sheep yards and Heritage Council for PEC-E-H3 (Bundure railway station dwelling artefact scatter);	This was completed during construction. If new items are identified during operations, the Unexpected Finds Protocol will be enacted. Archival recording and salvage occurred during construction. Artefacts were repatriated prior to entering operations.
− a strategy for the long-term management of any heritage items or material collected during the test excavation or salvage works;	Materials collected were repatriated during the construction phase. Items will be recorded in TSS (Transgrid's GIS system)
(iii) a contingency plan and reporting procedure if: − heritage items outside the approved disturbance area are damaged; − previously unidentified heritage items are found; or − skeletal material is discovered;	If new items are identified during operations, the Unexpected Finds Protocol will be enacted.
(iv) ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site, and that records are kept of these inductions; and	Inductions are carried out in line with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Framework and Preparation and Approval of Environmental Checklists procedure.
(v) ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders during the implementation of the plan;	Consultation for operations is managed through the following: • Environmental Assessment Framework for maintenance works • Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence procedure
b) include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and any heritage impacts of the development.	Monitoring of the development will be in accordance with Section 6.2.6 Summary of monitoring requirements

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Appendix C - Traffic and transport management plan assessment

Review of condition C35 – traffic and transport EMP sub-plan against Transgrid's EMS during operations.

TTMP requirements	Operational requirements
a) details of the transport route to be used for all development-related traffic;	Traffic route for development related traffic will be stored in TSS (Transgrid's GIS)
b) details of the road upgrade works required by condition C33 of this approval, including:	Not applicable for operations Road updated work was completed during construction.
(i) final number, location and type of Minor Access Points intersections to be implemented; and	Details of minor access point intersections will be recorded in TSS (Transgrid GIS).
(ii) verification that the proposed types of intersection treatments have sufficient capacity for the proposed vehicle numbers;	Not applicable for operations

c) details of the measures that would be implemented to: (i) minimise traffic safety impacts of the development and disruptions to local road users during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, including: - a description of the proposed dilapidation surveys required by condition C34 of this approval; - a description of the proposed measures for managing traffic flow around the work sites, construction compounds and accommodation camps; - temporary traffic controls, including detours and signage; - procedures for stringing cables and transmission lines across roads; - notifying the local community about development-related traffic impacts; - procedures for receiving and addressing complaints from the community about development- related traffic; - minimising potential cumulative traffic impacts with other projects in the area; - minimising potential conflict between development-related traffic and rail services, stock movements and school buses, in consultation with local schools, including preventing queuing on the public road network; - implementing measures to minimise development-related traffic on the public road network outside of standard construction hours; - minimising dirt tracked onto the public road network from development-related traffic; - details of the employee shuttle bus service (if proposed), including pick-up and drop-off points and associated parking arrangements for construction workers, and measures to encourage employee use of this service; - encouraging car-pooling or ride sharing by employees; - scheduling of haulage vehicle movements to minimise convoy length or platoons; - responding to local climate conditions that may affect road safety such as fog, dust, wet weather and flooding; - ensuring loaded vehicles entering or leaving the site have their loads covered or contained; - responding to any emergency repair or maintenance requirements; - provisions for maintaining emergency vehicle access at all times; - a traffic management system for managing over-dimensional vehicles; - fatigue management; and	

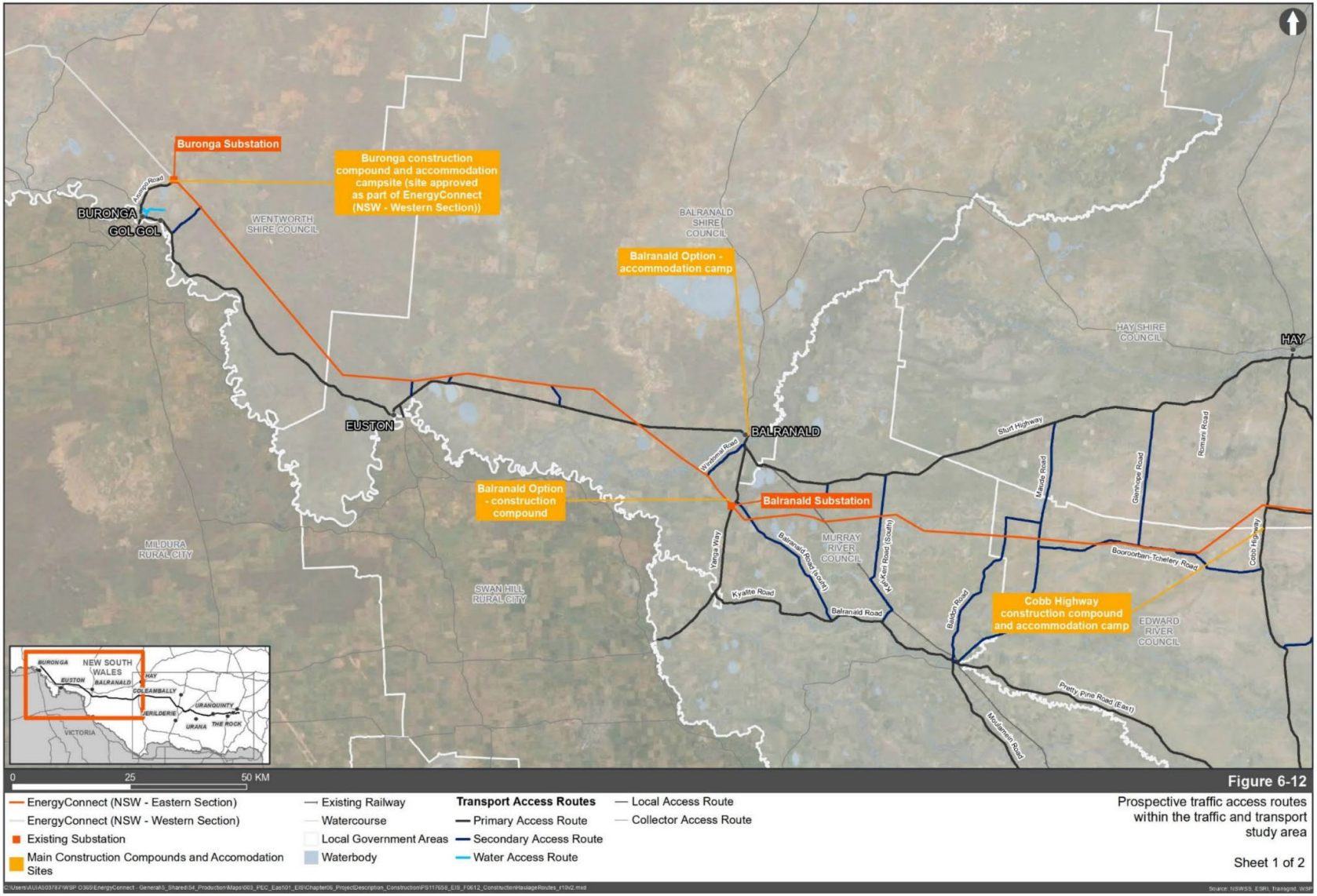
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(ii) comply with the traffic conditions in this approval;	

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TTMP requirements	Operational requirements
d) include a drivers code of conduct that addresses: (i) travelling speeds;	Critical Risk Protocols sets out the requirement to always obey all road rules and drive to the conditions. The Safe Driving procedure sets out the speed limits for all Transgrid assets, including travelling on transmission lines and in substations.
(ii) procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development adhere to the designated over-dimensional and heavy vehicle routes;	Heavy vehicle routes will be adhered to by: • Traffic route for development related traffic will be stored in TSS (Transgrid's GIS) and Appendix D • Traffic and transport impacts are assessed as part of the Environmental Assessment Framework, with specific traffic mitigation measures implemented. • Traffic management procedure sets out the process for development, review, approval and implementation of Traffic Management Plans and Vehicle Movement Plans • Safe Driving procedure sets out methods to improve the understanding of safe driving and operation of Transgrid vehicles to reduce work health and safety risks associated with driver and vehicle safety.
(iii) procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development implement safe driving practices; and	Driving is one of Transgrid's critical risks for safety. The Safe Driving procedure sets out methods to o improve the understanding of safe driving and operation of Transgrid vehicles to reduce work health and safety risks associated with driver and vehicle safety. The Critical Risk Protocols are the essential actions and practices we undertake to manage our ten greatest risks, including safe driving.
(iv) include a detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and the code of conduct; and	Monitoring of the development will be in accordance with Section 6.2.6 Summary of monitoring requirements •
e) a flood response plan detailing procedures and options for safe access to and from the site in the event of flooding.	Flooding addressed Section 5.2.16 of this strategy.

Appendix D – Transport routes



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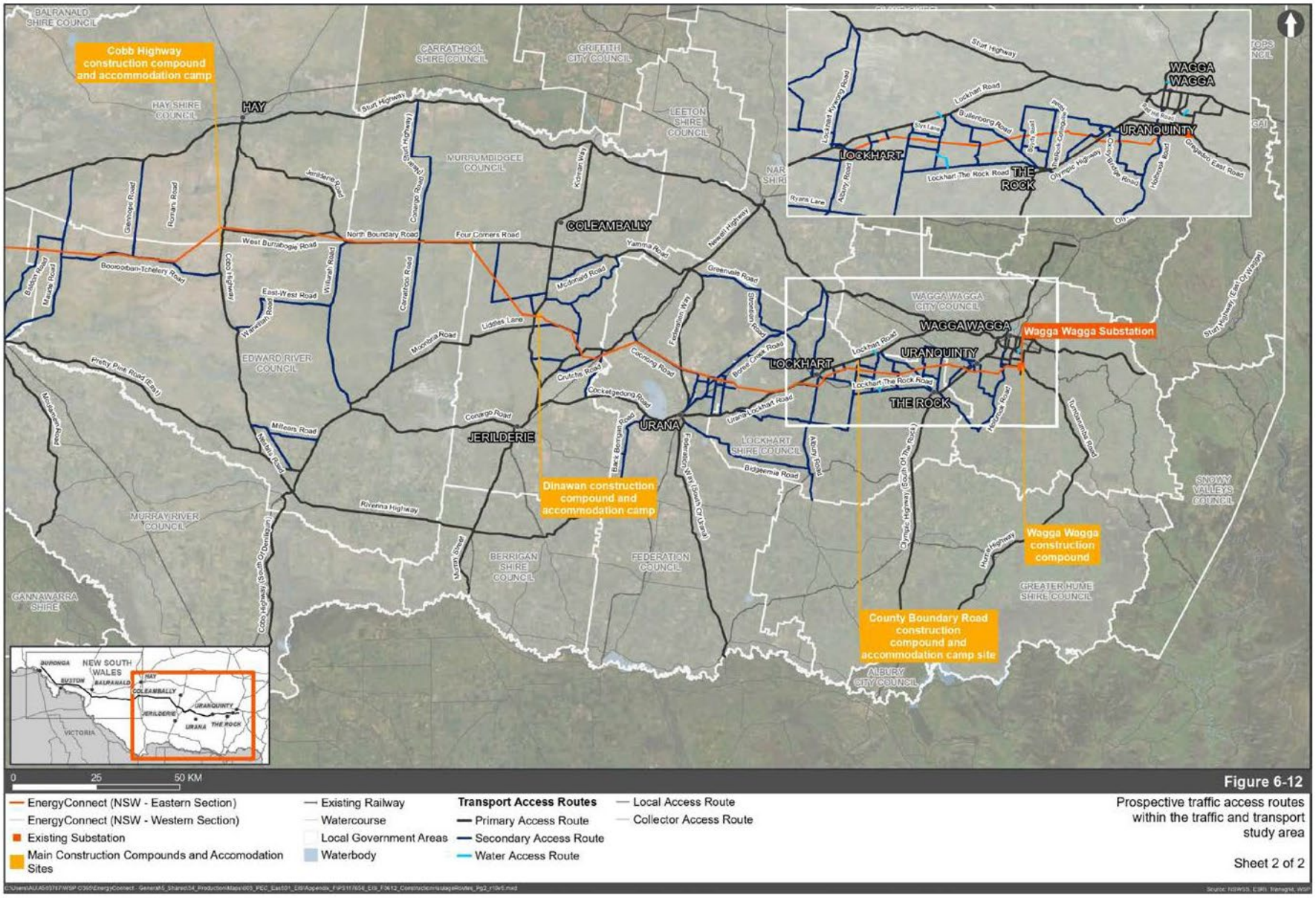


Figure 6-12

Prospective traffic access routes within the traffic and transport study area

Sheet 2 of 2

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Appendix E - Soil and water management plan assessment

Review of condition C22 – soil and water EMP sub-plan against Transgrid's EMS during operations.

SWMP requirements	Addressed in Transgrid EMS
The Soil and Water CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include provisions for: a) ensuring the requirements in conditions C12 – C21 are complied with; C12 - The Proponent must ensure that it has sufficient water for all stages of the development, and if necessary, adjust the scale of the development to match its available water supply.	During operations, water is only required for Dinawan and Wagga Wagga Substations
C13 - The Proponent must report on water take at the site during construction (whether direct or indirect and whether licensable or exempt) in the Independent Audit, including water taken under each water licence for the development. Note: Under the Water Act 1912 and/or the Water Management Act 2000, the Proponent is required to obtain the necessary water licences for the development.	Not applicable to operations
C14 - The Proponent must: a) minimise erosion and control sediment generation; and b) ensure all land disturbances have appropriate drainage and erosion and sediment controls designed, installed and maintained in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater - Soils and Construction Volume 1 (Landcom, 2004) and Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume 2C Unsealed Roads (DECC, 2008);	Works that generate sediment and erosion are assessed prior to works being undertaken through the Environmental Assessment Framework. Environmental mitigation measures are captured in the following EMS documents: • Environmental Handbook • Environmental Guidance Note – Minor Civil Works: Erosion and Sediment Control • Environmental Guidance Note – Minor Civil Works – Dewatering • Environmental Guidance Note – Working near Watercourses • These documents have been prepared in line with the requirements of Volume 1 (Landcom, 2004) and Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume 2C Unsealed Roads (DECC, 2008). This includes the requirement to prepare plans for disturbance over 250m2
C15 - Unless otherwise authorised by an EPL, the Proponent must ensure the development does not cause any water pollution, as defined under Section 120 of the POEO Act.	Works that generate sediment and erosion are assessed prior to works being undertaken through the Environmental Assessment Framework. Environmental mitigation measures are captured in the following EMS documents: • Environmental Handbook

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SWMP requirements	Addressed in Transgrid EMS
	• Environmental Guidance Note – Minor Civil Works: Erosion and Sediment Control • Environmental Guidance Note – Minor Civil Works – Dewatering • Environmental Guidance Note – Working near Watercourses
C16 - The Proponent must: a) ensure that appropriate components of the concrete batching plants and substation are suitably bunded; and b) minimise any spills of hazardous materials or hydrocarbons and clean up any spills as soon as possible after they occur.	a) Oil filled electrical equipment at Dinawan and Wagga Substation are appropriately bunded. Transgrid's Asset Management System procedure Maintenance Plan – Substation Assets sets out the maintenance requirements for oil filled electrical equipment. b) Environmental Strategy – Section 5.1
C17 - The Proponent must ensure that any groundwater dewatering activities do not discharge to watercourses.	Transgrid has developed an Environmental Guidance Note – Minor Civil Works – Dewatering which specifies the controls for dewatering activities.
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), unless DPIE Water agrees otherwise; and b) the geomorphic condition of the major rivers and distributary channels crossed by the development is not impacted.	Transgrid has developed an Environmental Guidance Note – Working near Watercourses, which specifies the controls for working near watercourses.
C19 - The Proponent must ensure that the development: a) does not materially alter the flood storage capacity, flows or characteristics in the development area or off-site; and b) is designed, constructed and maintained to reduce impacts on surface water, localised flooding and groundwater at the site, unless otherwise agreed by Council.	Flooding is addressed in Environmental Strategy – Section 5.2.12
C20 - The Proponent must ensure that any construction activities in identified areas of acid sulphate soil risk are undertaken in accordance with the *Acid Sulphate Soil Manual* (Acid Sulphate Soil Management Advisory Committee, 1998).	Not applicable to operations
C21- The Proponent must ensure that any construction activities in identified areas of moderate to high salinity are undertaken in accordance with the Salinity Training Manual (DPI, 2014) and Book 4 Dryland Salinity: Productive use of Saline Land and Water (NSW DECC, 2008).	Not applicable to operations
b) managing flood risk during construction;	Not applicable to operations

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SWMP requirements	Addressed in Transgrid EMS
c) investigating, assessing and managing contaminated land, soils and groundwater in the development area;	For any contaminated land, soil or groundwater identified in operations, the Contaminated Land Management procedure will be implemented.
d) investigating, assessing and managing the potential for asbestos and other hazardous materials in the development area; and	For any asbestos or hazardous materials identified during operations the Asbestos Management Plan and Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods procedures will be implemented.
e) managing any unexpected and / or suspected contaminated land, asbestos and unexploded ordinance excavated, disturbed or otherwise discovered during construction.	Not applicable to operations

Appendix F - Emergency Plan assessment

Emergency Plan requirements	Addressed in Transgrid EMS
Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Plan and detailed emergency procedures for the development, in consultation with RFS, and provide a copy of the plan to the local Fire Control Centre. The Proponent must keep two copies of the plan on-site in a prominent position adjacent to the site entry point(s) to the Buronga Substation, Dinawan Substation and Wagga Wagga Substation at all times.	Consultation with RFS occurs through the Bushfire Formal Safety Assessment (FSA).
(a) be consistent with: (i) RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent); (ii) RFS's Development Planning - A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan; (iii) the Fire and Rescue NSW Act 1989; (iv) the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2011;	AMS/SMS/EMS have been developed to address relevant legislation
(b) Identify the fire risks and hazards and detailed measures for the development to prevent or mitigate fires igniting, including risks associated with the revegetation within the inner maintenance zone;	Fire risks and hazards are identified in the following documents: • Emergency Response Manual – Dinawan 500kV Substation • Emergency Response Manual – Wagga Wagga 330kV Substation
(c) include procedures that would be implemented if there is a fire on-site or in the vicinity of the site;	Procedures for fire on site are addressed in the following documents: Transmission Line - Emergency Response Manual • Emergency Response Manual – Dinawan 500kV Substation • Emergency Response Manual – Wagga Wagga 330kV Substation
(d) list works that should not be carried out during a total fire ban;	Works that should not be carried out during a total fire ban are addressed in the Hot Work and Fire Risk Work procedure

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Emergency Plan requirements	Addressed in Transgrid EMS
(e) include availability of fire suppression equipment, access and water;	Fire suppression is addressed in the Hot Work and Fire Risk Work procedure
(f) include procedures for the storage and maintenance of any flammable materials;	Storage and maintenance of flammable materials is addressed in Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods
(g) detail access provisions for emergency vehicles and contact details for both a primary and alternative site contact who may be reached 24/7 in the event of an emergency;	Emergency access for emergency vehicles Contact details are though the 1800 number/Transgrid website
(h) include a figure showing site infrastructure, any Asset Protection Zones and the on-site water supply tank(s);	Asset protection zones are addressed in • Maintenance Plan – Network Property • Maintenance Plan – Non Network Property
(i) include location of hazards (physical, chemical and electrical) that may impact on fire fighting activities and procedures to manage identified hazards during fire fighting activities;	Hazards are listed in the following documents: • Emergency Response Manual – Dinawan 500kV Substation • Emergency Response Manual – Wagga Wagga 330kV Substation Any new hazards are listed on the hazard board and reported in Riskonnect.
(j) include details of the location, management and maintenance of any Asset Protection Zone (including maintaining the Asset Protection Zones at a height of 100 mm or less at the substations, construction compounds and accommodation camps) and who is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Asset Protection Zone;	Asset protection zones are addressed in • Maintenance Plan – Network Property • Maintenance Plan – Non Network Property

Emergency Plan requirements	Addressed in Transgrid EMS
(k) include bushfire emergency management planning;	Bushfire emergency management planning is addressed in • Bushfire Risk Management Plan • Bushfire Formal Safety Assessment
(l) include details of the how RFS would be notified, and procedures that would be implemented, in the event that: (i) there is a fire on-site or in the vicinity of the site; (ii) there are any activities on site that would have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; or (iii) there are any proposed activities to be carried out during a bushfire danger period that have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; and	Transmission Line - Emergency Response Manual The Hot Work and Fire Risk Work procedure addresses carrying out work during a bushfire danger period that has the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation.
(m) include details on how live transmission infrastructure can be safely isolated in an emergency.	Live transmission infrastructure is managed in under the Power System Safety Rules and associated procedures, handbooks.

Appendix G - Incident notification and reporting requirements - SSI 9172452

WRITTEN INCIDENT NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. A written incident notification addressing the requirements set out below must be submitted to the Planning Secretary via the Major Projects website within seven days after the Proponent becomes aware of an incident. Notification is required to be given under this condition even if the Proponent fails to give the notification required under condition E6 or, having given such notification, subsequently forms the view that an incident has not occurred.

2. Written notification of an incident must:

a. identify the development and application number;

b. provide details of the incident (date, time, location, a brief description of what occurred and why it is classified as an incident);

c. identify how the incident was detected;

d. identify when the Proponent became aware of the incident;

e. identify any actual or potential non-compliance with conditions of approval;

f. describe what immediate steps were taken in relation to the incident;

g. identify further action(s) that will be taken in relation to the incident; and

h. identify a development contact for further communication regarding the incident.

3. Within 30 days of the date on which the incident occurred or as otherwise agreed to by the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must provide the Planning Secretary and any relevant public authorities (as determined by the Planning Secretary) with a detailed report on the incident addressing all requirements below, and such further reports as may be requested.

4. The Incident Report must include:

a. a summary of the incident;

b. outcomes of an incident investigation, including identification of the cause of the incident;

c. details of the corrective and preventative actions that have been, or will be, implemented to address the incident and prevent recurrence; and

d. details of any communication with other stakeholders regarding the incident.

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Appendix H – Baseline information

H.1 Aboriginal heritage

As described in the EIS, archaeological material evidence has been identified across the regions associated with the project indicating a long history of Aboriginal occupation near or within the vicinity of the whole of the length of the project. The EIS summarised the ethnohistory of the Aboriginal people for each of the main regions identified along the length of the project. The below sections, including identified references, are directly from the EIS.

- Murray Darling Depression: The Murray Darling Depression landscape is defined by contrast. At the western end of the proposal, the landscape comprises a diverse setting compared to other areas along the alignment. The region contains a number of cemeteries, riverside burials and greater mortuary complexity (Bonhomme, 1990), noting these features would not be impacted by the proposal. Further east, the Murray River corridor is a rich and relatively stable environment with permanent water and a variety of concentrated resources available throughout the year. These rich river resources are bordered by semi-arid country that is unpredictable in resource availability; resources are widely distributed (Pardoe, 2003). The Murray Darling Depression is home to the Barkanjii language group (also Barkinji, Barinji, Danggali, Maraura, and Wilyakali) to the north of the Murray and the lower Darling River, and the Kulin language group (Mathi Mathi, Wathi Wathi, Nari Nari and Wemba Wemba) to the east.
- Riverine Plains: As the Murrumbidgee River moves further west, away from the western slopes of the Wagga Wagga region and through the wide plains of the Hay and Griffith areas, the landscape becomes increasingly arid with the western flow of the river shifting to an open plain dominated by grasslands and woodlands. The Aboriginal heritage of the region consists of numerous burials, mounds, campsites, artefact scatters, scarred trees, natural/mythological sites and post-contact sites such as missions, fringe camps and stations. Within the Riverine Plains region are three major language groups, the Kulin language group (Mathi Mathi, Wathi Wathi, Nari Nari and Wemba Wemba) which cover the western side of the region, the Wiradjuri language groups which covers the northern portion of the region, and the Murray River language group (Yita Yita, Yota Yota and Pangerang) covering the southern portion of the region (Pardoe and Martin, 2011).
- NSW South Western Slopes: In the eastern end of the study area the Murrumbidgee River basin would have been a focus of occupation in the region. An abundance of resource have been found along the river in addition to its waters; it supported wood and forest habitats that housed a wide range of plants and animals used by Aboriginal populations. The frequent floods of the Murrumbidgee River also provided Aboriginal peoples with an abundance of resources, as pools left by the receding floodwaters would be filled with freshwater mussels, fish, yabbies, and aquatic plants (Kabaila, 1998). The NSW South Western Slopes are home to the Wiradjuri people. The Wiradjuri people are the largest Aboriginal group in NSW, known as ‘the people of three rivers’, for the Wambool (the Macquarie River), the Kalari (the Lachlan River) and the Murrumbidjeri (the Murrumbidgee River) which border their country. Within the south of Wiradjuri country three local groups are known, the Murringbulla at Murrumburrah, the Kutamundra at Cootamundra, and the Narrungdera at Narrandera. (Howitt, 1884, Wood, 1992).

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H.2 Historic heritage

European explorers first travelled through the Wagga Wagga area in 1824-1825, with exploration of the NSW river systems in 1829. From the late 1830s to 1850s, large tracts of land along the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers began to be taken up by European settlers. Pastoral runs were established along river and creek frontages.

Steamboat navigation of the Murray River commenced in mid-1853, and the Murrumbidgee by mid-1858. Pastoral leases were granted along the length of the historic heritage study area with the management of them changing in 1884. The importance of river transport declined following the advent of the railways, which opened up new social and economic opportunities for rural communities.

The towns and villages, due to the marginal climatic conditions across much of the heritage study area, have swelled and shrunk over the years due to changes in economic production, drought and transport changes. Stores and services developed around the railway station, where local farmers would bring their wheat to be shipped to Sydney.

Wagga Wagga was gazetted as a village on 23 November 1849. Before that during the 1830s and 1840s many of the first settlers to the Wagga Wagga area were convicts. The extension of the NSW railway line to Wagga Wagga during the late 1870s and early 1880s increased wheat production. The extension of the railway line made it possible to export wheat, as wheat is bulky and heavy, out of the region for sale in Sydney. The wheat belt was established by 1901 as the main producer of the grain in NSW.

H.3 Noise and Vibration

The baseline noise and vibration environment for the operational phase of the EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) project is defined by its transit through a **540-kilometre corridor** across nine Local Government Areas in regional western NSW. The existing acoustic landscape is predominantly **rural**, with background noise levels primarily influenced by natural sounds, agricultural activities, and existing infrastructure.

Existing Acoustic Environment

Baseline monitoring was conducted at two representative locations to characterize the existing environment: NM1 (near the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation in Jerilderie) and NM2 (near the expanded Wagga Wagga substation).

- **Observed Noise Sources:** Attended monitoring identified that existing noise is dominated by birds, insects, motor vehicles, and agricultural equipment. At the eastern end near Wagga Wagga, the environment transitions to a suburban character with higher levels of local traffic and industrial noise from the existing substation.
- **Rating Background Levels (RBL):** Unattended monitoring established the following baseline RBLs:
    - NM1 (Jerilderie): Day 32 dBA, Evening 30 dBA, and Night 27 dBA.
    - NM2 (Wagga Wagga): Day 31 dBA, Evening 29 dBA, and Night 26 dBA.

- **Regulatory Adjustments:** In accordance with the Noise Policy for Industry (NPfI), where baseline levels were below minimum assumed RBLs, they were adjusted to 35 dBA (Day) and 30 dBA (Evening/Night) to establish the Project Noise Trigger Levels (PNTL) for operation.

Sensitive Receivers

The assessment identified approximately 6,000 sensitive receivers within five kilometres of the transmission line alignment. While the majority of the alignment between Buronga and Dinawan features low-density, isolated rural dwellings, population density increases significantly toward the east near Lockhart, Uranquinty, and Wagga Wagga. The closest residential receiver to the operational infrastructure is located approximately 50 metres from the transmission lines at Cullivel.

Operational Noise Sources and Criteria

The baseline for operational noise assessment considers three primary potential sources:

1. **Transmission Lines (Corona Discharge):** Conductor corona can produce a "crackling" wideband noise and a 100 Hz tone, primarily during wet weather conditions (rain, mist, or fog). Baseline meteorological data suggests these conditions occur for 20% to 40% of the year. In fair weather, noise levels are typically below 35 dBA at the easement edge.

2. **Substations:** The new **Dinawan 330kV substation** will introduce steady-state noise from transformers, reactors, and HVAC systems. Baseline assessments predict compliance with the PNTL of 35 dBA (Night) at all nearest receivers due to separation distances of over four kilometres. No new noise sources are proposed for the existing Wagga Wagga substation.

3. **Repeater sites:** Three optical repeater sites will operate air conditioning units, which are expected to generate negligible noise levels (less than 20 dBA) at the nearest receivers.

H.4 Geology and soils

The geology underlying the project area includes the Woorinen Formation, Shepparton Formation, Mount Flankey Granite and Wagga Group. Around 70% of the project corridor is situated on aeolian sediments of the Shepparton Formation. These comprise unconsolidated to poorly consolidated mottled variegated clay-silty clays, coarse to fine sand and gravel and are known to form extensive flat alluvial floodplains.

Published soil mapping along the project corridor indicates that the regional soil types are expected to be predominantly transported Quaternary-aged sediments deposited in alluvial flood plains, and dune and are typically comprised of sand and clay or a mixture of the two. While primarily vertosols soil is found along the main watercourses, sand and alluvial plains are in proximity to the Murrumbidgee, Darling, and Darling – Anabranch Rivers. The predominant soil types are typically sand and clay or a mixture of the two.

H.5 Acid sulfate soils

Acid sulfate soils (ASS) and potential acid sulfate soils (PASS) are naturally occurring soils containing iron sulfides. The EIS concluded there is an extremely low probability of acid sulfate soils occurring across the project corridor, with the potential exception of low lying areas surrounding lakes and river beds, which are mapped as high probability of containing ASS.

H.6 Soil salinity

Dryland salinity is the accumulation of salts in the soil surface and groundwater in non-irrigated areas. The majority of the project corridor is mapped as having low salinity potential, with no mapped areas of high salinity soils.

Technical Paper 14 (Phase 1 contamination assessment) indicates low salinity potential based on broad scale state mapping. However, soil conductivity testing undertaken indicated some variable salinity conditions across the project area with some soil results indicating moderately saline and very saline soil conditions. Furthermore, an assessment of soil aggressivity with reference to Piled Footings Design and Installation – AS2159-2009 (Standards Australia, 2009) indicated that the soils are highly alkaline, with high levels of sodicity.

H.7 Naturally occurring asbestos

Naturally occurring asbestos refers to the mineral component found as a natural component of soils or rocks. The EIS concluded there are no mapped areas indicating naturally occurring asbestos minerals to be present within the project area.

H.8 Rainfall

The region has a semi-arid climate with hot summers and cool winters. The average temperature range is around 16 to 33°C in summer and around 4 to 15°C in winter. The average annual rainfall across the project corridor varies, however generally the average rainfall values are higher at the eastern end compared to the western end.

The closest weather station to the western end of the project corridor is Irymple (station number: 076015), which records an average annual rainfall of 271mm (1908–2020). Rainfall is typically fairly evenly spread across the year, with higher rainfall values from November to April.

The Urana Post Office weather station (station number: 074110) located along the eastern half of the project corridor recorded an annual average rainfall of 442.2mm (1871–2020). The average monthly rainfall is slightly higher in May and June.

The Wagga Wagga Gurwood Street station (station number: 074127) located on the eastern end of the project corridor recorded an average annual rainfall of 528.1mm (2001 to 2020). While Wagga Wagga AMO station (station number: 072150) recorded an annual average rainfall of 568mm (1941 to 2020). Rainfall is fairly evenly spread across the year, with March typically recording higher values.

Due to the low average rainfall values and relatively low gradient of the topography, limited concentrated surface water run-off is expected to be generated from the catchment, particularly at the western end of the project corridor.

H.9 Waterbodies and watercourses

The project is located in the Murray-Darling Basin. There are a number of sub-catchments within the Murray-Darling Basin along the project corridor from west to east including the Lower Darling, the Murrumbidgee, Peacock Creek and the Mid-Murray catchments. The project also intersects numerous waterbodies and watercourses (refer to Appendix E2 for maps).

The Lower Darling catchment is around three per cent of the Murray-Darling Basin, and the major river systems, the Darling River and the Darling Anabranch, are located outside the project area. Box Creek, a non-perennial river within this catchment, intersects the project north of Balranald.

The majority of the study area is located in the Murrumbidgee catchment. This catchment is approximately 84,000 square kilometres, or around eight per cent of the Murray-Darling Basin. The Murrumbidgee River flows west through the project area and has its confluence with the Murray River near Balranald. The Yanco Creek system, located north of Urana, is an anabranch complex which links the Murrumbidgee River to the Edward River through interconnected watercourses including Yanco Creek, Colombo Creek, Billabong Creek and The Forest Creek. Before river regulation was introduced, Yanco Creek only connected with the Murrumbidgee River during floods, however water is now diverted from the Murrumbidgee into Yanco Creek at the Yanco Weir and these waterways are now permanently flowing streams.

The upper reaches of the Mid-Murray catchment are located in the project area, located generally between Kidman Way and County Boundary Road. This catchment is approximately three per cent of the Murray-Darling Basin, spanning the Victorian border, and includes the Murray and Edwards Rivers.

Numerous natural watercourses and man-made waterways intersect the project area, including unnamed drainage lines, dry rivers, perennial rivers, canals and drains. The Coleambally Irrigation Area is an approximate 457,000 hectare area in the Murrumbidgee which includes 516 kilometres of supply channels and 717 drainage channels. These irrigation channels supply over 500 licenced agricultural producers generally from mid-August to mid-May.

Ten lakes are also located within the project area. Of particular significance is Lake Urana and Lake Albert. Lake Urana is a large shallow intermittent salt lake in a depression at the end of the drainage basin of Billabong, Coonong and Urangeline creeks. The lake fills every ten to 20 years and retains water for several years. Lake Albert is a 125-hectare artificial lake in the suburb of Lake Albert in Wagga Wagga. The lake is used for recreational purposes including water sports, boating and fishing. Table 4-1 of Technical Paper 8 (Hydrology and flooding assessment) details the Strahler stream order of the waterways crossed by the project or located near the project sites.

H.10 Water quality

The existing water quality for the Murray-Darling Basin has been monitored and assessed by a series of external management plans and other documents for a range of parameters. Available catchment water quality data identified water quality within these watercourses as varied. The State of the Catchment (OEH, 2010), and National Water Quality Assessment (Sinclair Knight Merz, 2011) identified that levels of phosphorus and turbidity often exceeded the trigger values provided in the *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality* (ANZECC, 2000) and the ANZG, an updated version of the previous guidelines (ANZG, 2018).

Generally, water quality on the major rivers of the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers is better than in associated tributaries. Section 16.3.5 of the EIS states that the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers commonly achieve the existing water quality targets provided in the Murray Darling Basin Plan 2012. Where exceedances have been identified, these have been in relation to nutrients, particularly phosphorus and turbidity in tributaries to the major rivers.

Additionally the National Water Quality Assessment 2011 reported generally good values for water quality indicators of turbidity, salinity and pH in the Murrumbidgee catchment but not for nutrients.

The 2018 State of the Environment Report scored an overall rating of the Murray River as 'good'. The same report recorded varied values in the Murrumbidgee catchment, however monitoring site values on the Murrumbidgee River were generally 'good' to 'fair' for nutrient values, whereas monitoring values on tributaries to the Murrumbidgee such as Yanco Creek were generally 'poor' to 'very poor'.

Given the high proportion of agricultural land within the project corridor, it is likely that some waterways near the project would not achieve the water quality criteria as laid out in the ANZG 2018 and Murray Darling Basin Plan 2012, particularly for nutrients. The sources of the high nutrient levels are likely to be diffuse and related to current and historical agricultural activities within the project area.

H.11 Flood prone land

A high level flood risk assessment is detailed in Section 4.4 of Technical paper 8 (Hydrology, flooding and water quality), which found flood affected features are generally near existing waterways. Based on the risk assessment, there are large floodplains around Box Creek, the Murrumbidgee River, Condoulpe Creek, Yellow Clay Creek, Coonong Creek, Bullenbong Creek and dispersed flooding at the very eastern end of the project around Sawpit Gully, Crooked Creek and Boiling Down Creek. Depths in the main river channels are estimated to be up to six metres and up to two metres across the floodplains across the project area (Beca 2020). The velocities within watercourses range from 0.5 metres per second to up to three metres per second. The estimated flood depth and extent for the 1% AEP event are provided in the maps included as Figure 4-8 of Technical paper 8.

The floodplains across the project area contain numerous flood affected receivers, including industrial and community facilities and residential dwellings. No floor levels for these structures are available to determine the actual flood affectation of these structures. Numerous flood affected roads are also located across the project alignment, including the Sturt Highway near the Box Creek and Murrumbidgee River crossing, Balranald Road near Condoulpe Creek, Booroorban-Tchelery Road near the Forest Creek, West Burrabogie Road near Curtains Creek, the Newell Highway near Yanco Creek, Federation Highway and a number of unnamed access roads, near Coonong Creek and Lake Urana, County-Boundary Road, Lockhart Road, Bullenbong-Rock Road, Lockhart-The Rock Road and Boyds Road near Bullenbong Creek and Burkes Creek.

The Murrumbidgee River near Wagga Wagga flooded most recently in 2012 reaching a peak of 10.56 metres. The Wagga Wagga Flood Plan (SES, 2006) described flooding in the Wagga Wagga area and notes that storage dams and flood harvesting infrastructure located in the upper Murrumbidgee valley can affect the severity of flooding on the Murrumbidgee River. These structures can reduce the peak flood discharge, that may result in lower peak flood heights but longer flood durations. This may be done by deliberately storing the flood peak for later release, or by pre-releasing water to create extra space in the dam ahead of an approaching flood.

More recently, flooding of the Murrumbidgee River near Wagga Wagga occurred in November 2022, following widespread heavy rain throughout central-western NSW. The Murrumbidgee River peaked at 9.72 metres at Wagga Wagga, cutting off areas including North Wagga and Gumly Gumly. The Murrumbidgee River borders the northern area of Wagga Wagga.

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The Lockhart Floodplain Risk Management Study (WMA Water, 2014) showed that much of the town of Lockhart would become inundated during a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event due to flooding along Brookong Creek. The plan notes that flooding may occur at any time of year, but is most likely during winter and spring. Some flash flooding may also occur in summer due to high-intensity thunderstorms.

The historical flood patterns of the whole project area are highly variable due to the presence of large floodplains, semi-arid climate, sporadic rainfall, drought events and the general flat topography. Climate change predictions forecast increases in mean annual rainfall, potentially resulting in more extreme flood events.

H.12 Traffic and transport

The baseline traffic and transport environment for the EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) project area covers approximately 537 kilometres through nine Local Government Areas (LGAs), primarily in regional western NSW. This regional network supports the movement of people and interstate freight between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, serving as the foundation upon which operational maintenance will occur.

Existing Road Network and Hierarchy

The study area is served by a hierarchy of national, state, regional, and local roads. Key state road corridors include the Sturt Highway (A20), a major east-west route; the Newell Highway (A39), a primary north-south inland freight corridor; and the Olympic Highway (A41), which provides links to Wagga Wagga. Essential regional connections are maintained via the Cobb Highway (B75) and Kidman Way (B87). In addition to these highways, the baseline includes 42 regional roads and 138 local roads, with 53 of the local roads within the study area remaining unsealed.

Traffic Volumes and Performance

Existing traffic conditions are characterized by low volumes typical of the predominantly rural setting. Peak hourly volumes on state roads generally range between 50 and 200 vehicles in one direction, although Hammond Avenue in Wagga Wagga carries up to 900 vehicles per hour. Most regional and local roads see fewer than 50 vehicles per hour, while unsealed roads often experience fewer than 20.

Freight and Heavy Vehicles

Heavy vehicles constitute a significant portion of the baseline traffic, accounting for 20% to 40% of volume on state and regional highways. While highways like the Sturt and Yanga Way permit road trains and oversized/overmass (OSOM) vehicles, most local roads are restricted to standard semi-trailers. Baseline crash data (2015–2019) reflects a generally safe rural network, though the denser Wagga Wagga LGA recorded the highest number of incidents (381), with 58% occurring at intersections.

Other Transport Modes

Public transport infrastructure is sparse, consisting of infrequent regional coach services (e.g., Regional Coaches Network) that often run only once daily. The alignment crosses five railway lines, but only the Main Southern Railway and parts of the Rock-Oaklands line remain operational. Active transport facilities, such as shared paths and dedicated cycleways, are generally restricted to town centres with no designated facilities on rural connecting roads.

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Operational Baseline Interface

The operational phase is anticipated to generate minimal traffic, typically requiring only 3 to 10 staff for maintenance activities and resulting in roughly 10 vehicle movements per day. Given the baseline's substantial spare road capacity, this minor additional traffic is projected to have a negligible impact on the existing capacity, safety, and efficiency of the road network. Operational access will be facilitated by existing public roads and a network of permanent access tracks retained post-construction

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