

Environmental Guidance Note – Flora/Fauna, Ecological Communities and Sensitive Habitats

HSE DOCUMENT

Threatened species are often present in Transgrid’s easements, properties and tracks used for access to Transgrid’s infrastructure. Under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 No 63* it is an offense to *harm* threatened species.

Threatened species are mapped on Transgrid’s TSS (sourced from NPWS *Wildlife Atlas*).

This Guidance Note outlines the minimum processes and controls required to mitigate *harm* where threatened species, ecological communities and sensitive habitats that are flagged or known in the vicinity of proposed *maintenance works*.

Where they are flagged in proximity to proposed works, identified in the field OR flagged by stakeholders, assessment of potential impacts must be reviewed by an E5 Transgrid Officer.

Control measures to mitigate IMPACTS

- Locations of known threatened species and sensitive habitats must be shown on Work Plans or associated maps and attached to the work package.
- Delineate, barricade or tag known threatened species, habitat and sensitive areas (including habitat requiring protection such as dead trees, hollow logs, swamps and rocky areas) prior to works and leave in place for the duration of works. Retain dead trees and hollow logs on site if they do not pose a risk to the integrity of the line or personal safety.
- All staff and contractors must be made aware of any flagged, known/verified threatened species and the control measures required mitigating any impacts prior to the commencement of work. Attach *Threatened Species Information Sheets* to the work package and apply the control measures or refer to Threatened species profiles on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website.
- Herbicide application must be undertaken in a way which avoids damage/harm.
- Where threatened species information sheets or OEH threatened species profiles indicate breeding/nesting/flowering season sensitivity for known or verified populations, undertake works outside this season.
- For known or verified populations or threatened ecological communities TEC, restricted and selective clearing may apply. Consult with Transgrid Environment Business Partner to assess the proposed works prior to undertaking on-ground work.
- Vegetation management should aim to clear less than the full width of easement (safety clearance only) and only remove tall growing species that



will encroach on safe electrical clearances or vegetation that creates a bushfire risk.

- Avoid mechanical disturbance to environmentally sensitive habitat such as rocky areas and swamps/waterlogged areas.
- Where *habitat trees* require management, vegetation must be inspected prior to works commencing to determine the presence of hollows, nests or fauna (identified fauna may need to be relocated). Prune hollow bearing trees to avoid damage to hollows and retain screening branches. Refer to and work in accordance with *Environmental Guidance Note - Habitat Trees*.

