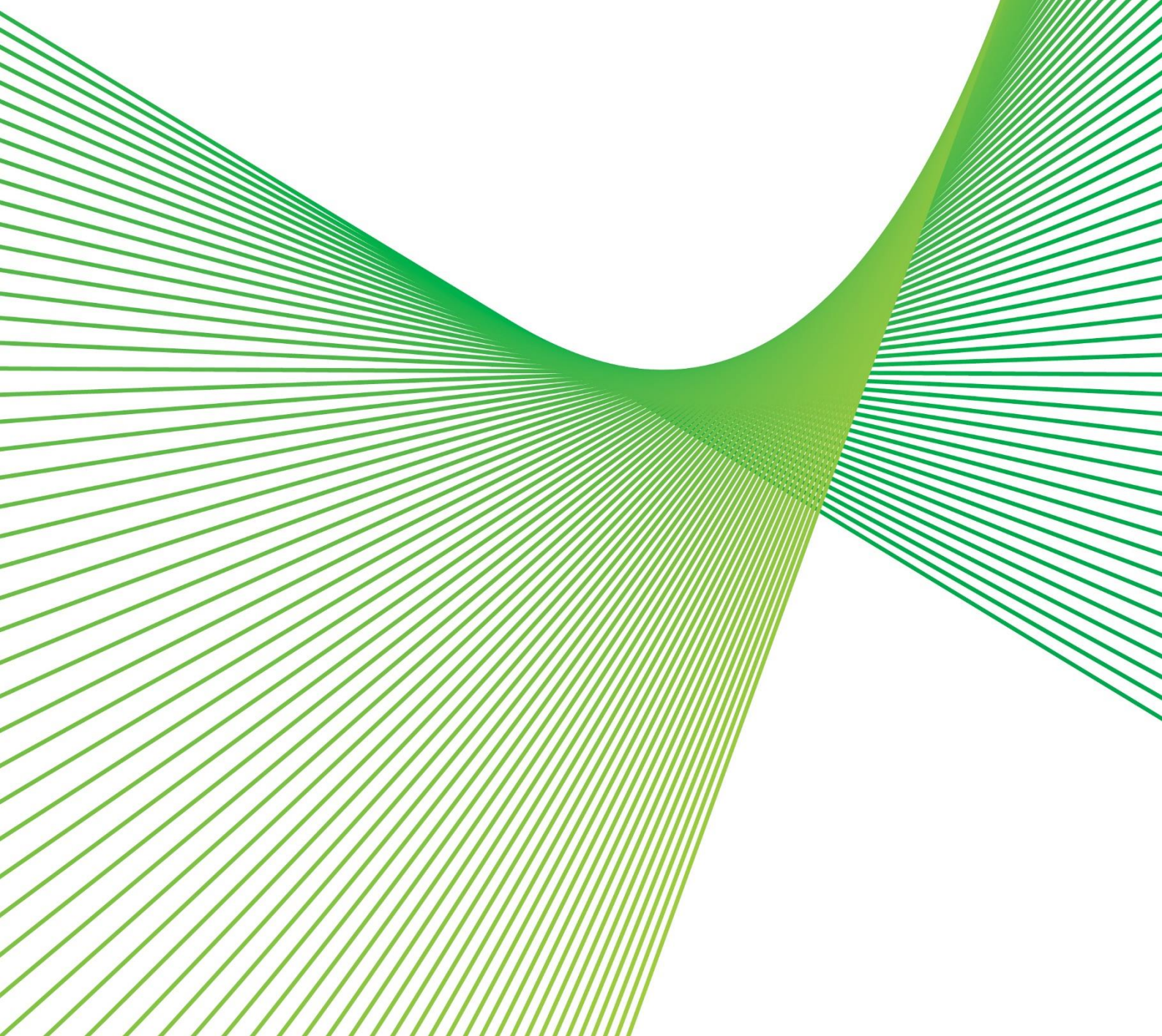


Compliance Report

EnergyConnect NSW, Western Section (PEC West)

EPBC 2020/8673

13 May 2025 to 13 May 2026



Document preparation history

Revision	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
0	5/8/26	SM	LL	MM

Declaration of accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed: 

Full name: Monika Moutos

Position: General Manager, Environmental Strategy and Planning

Organisation: NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Limited (trading as Transgrid) ACN: 609 169 959

Date: 5th August 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

On 29 August 2019 the then NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces declared EnergyConnect a critical State significant infrastructure (CSSI) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Within NSW, EnergyConnect is therefore subject to assessment under Part 5, Division 5.2 of the EP&A Act. Transgrid holds two separate environmental planning approvals for the sections within NSW: EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) and EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section). For the purposes of this report, EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) is referred to as PEC West.

A referral under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) was submitted on 27 May 2020 and the project was determined to be a controlled action, assessed via the bilateral assessment process. Approval for PEC West under the EP&A Act was granted by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (Infrastructure Approval SSI-10040) on 28 September 2021. Approval under the EPBC Act (EPBC 2020/8673) was granted by the Australian Minister for the Environment on 10 November 2021.

Construction of PEC West was completed in late 2025, with the project formally entering operational phase on 8 September 2025. The completion of construction was notified to the Department in the PEC West Commonwealth Completion Report (October 2025, document 45860-HSE-REP-D-0051), prepared to satisfy Condition 14 of the Commonwealth Approval. During the reporting period, operational activities primarily comprised inspection and monitoring programs, while construction defect liability and rehabilitation works continued to be undertaken by the principal contractor, Elecnor Australia (trading as SecureEnergy).

1.2. Purpose

This Compliance Report has been prepared on behalf of NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Limited, trading as Transgrid, to address the requirements of Condition 8 of the PEC West (EPBC 2020/8673) approval (the Commonwealth Approval), issued under the EPBC Act.

Condition 8 of the Commonwealth Approval requires the following for annual compliance reporting:

The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12 month period following the date of commencement of the action, or as otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must:

- (a) publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12 month period;*
- (b) notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website and provide the weblink for the compliance report within 5 business days of the date of publication;*
- (c) keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until completion;*
- (d) exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website;*
- (e) 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.*

Compliance Report is defined within Part C of the Commonwealth Approval as a written report that: provides accurate and complete details of compliance, incidents, and non-compliance with the conditions and the

plans; is consistent with the Department's Annual Compliance Guidelines (2014); includes a shapefile of any clearance of protected matters or their habitat undertaken within the relevant 12-month period; and annexes a schedule of all plans prepared and in existence in relation to the conditions during the relevant 12-month period.

This is the fourth annual compliance report prepared for PEC West, and the first to cover a period in which the project transitioned from construction to operation. This report addresses Transgrid's compliance with the conditions of the Commonwealth Approval as they apply to the operational phase of the project, being the period from the commencement of operations, 8 September 2025, to the end of this reporting period, 13 May 2026. Compliance during the construction-phase portion of the 12-month reporting period (13 May 2025 to 7 September 2025) is addressed by, and should be read together with, the PEC West Commonwealth Completion Report (October 2025), which was submitted to the Department as notification of completion of construction under Condition 14 and which fulfils the compliance reporting obligation for that portion of the period.

1.3. Reporting period

Condition 8 of the Commonwealth Approval requires a compliance report for each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the action (13 May 2022). The 12-month period to which this report relates is 13 May 2025 to 13 May 2026.

However, this report only covers the operational phase of that 12-month period, being 8 September 2025 (commencement of operations) to 13 May 2026. The construction-phase portion of the period, 13 May 2025 to 7 September 2025, is addressed by the PEC West Commonwealth Completion Report (October 2025) submitted to the Department and fulfils the compliance reporting obligation for that portion of the period.

1.4. Project name

EnergyConnect NSW, Western Section (PEC West).

1.5. EPBC number

EPBC 2020/8673

1.6. Approval holder and ABN

The approval holder is NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Limited. ABN: 70 250 955 390.

2. Description of activities during the reporting period

2.1. Overview of EnergyConnect

Transgrid and ElectraNet have obtained approval for the construction and operation of a new electrical interconnector and network support option between NSW and SA, with an additional connection to Red Cliffs in north-west Victoria, collectively known as EnergyConnect. PEC West traverses from the SA/NSW border (near Chowilla, SA) to Buronga, and from Buronga to the NSW/Victoria border at Monak, a distance of approximately 160 kilometres within the Wentworth Local Government Area.

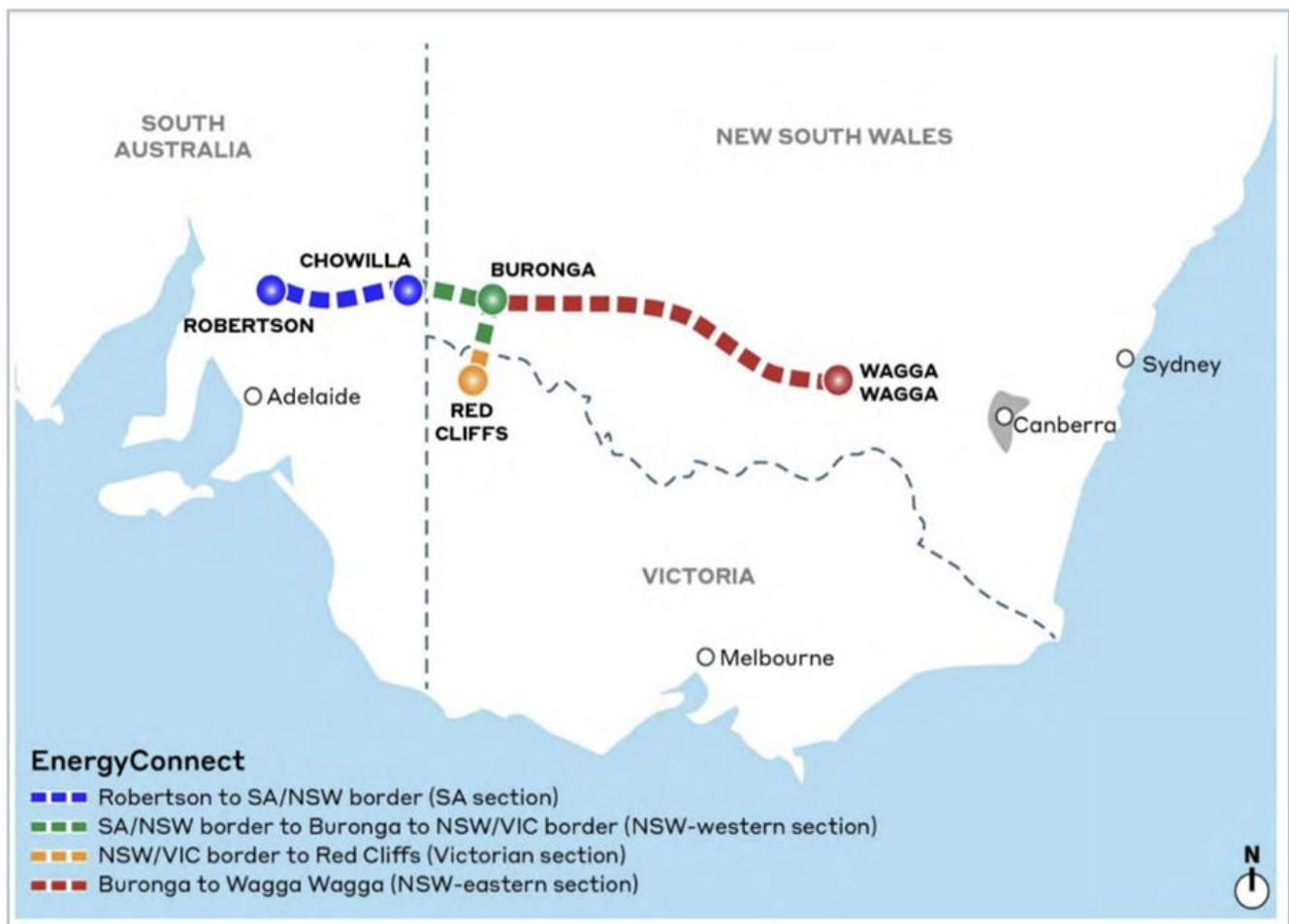


Figure 2.1 — Overview of EnergyConnect (WSP)

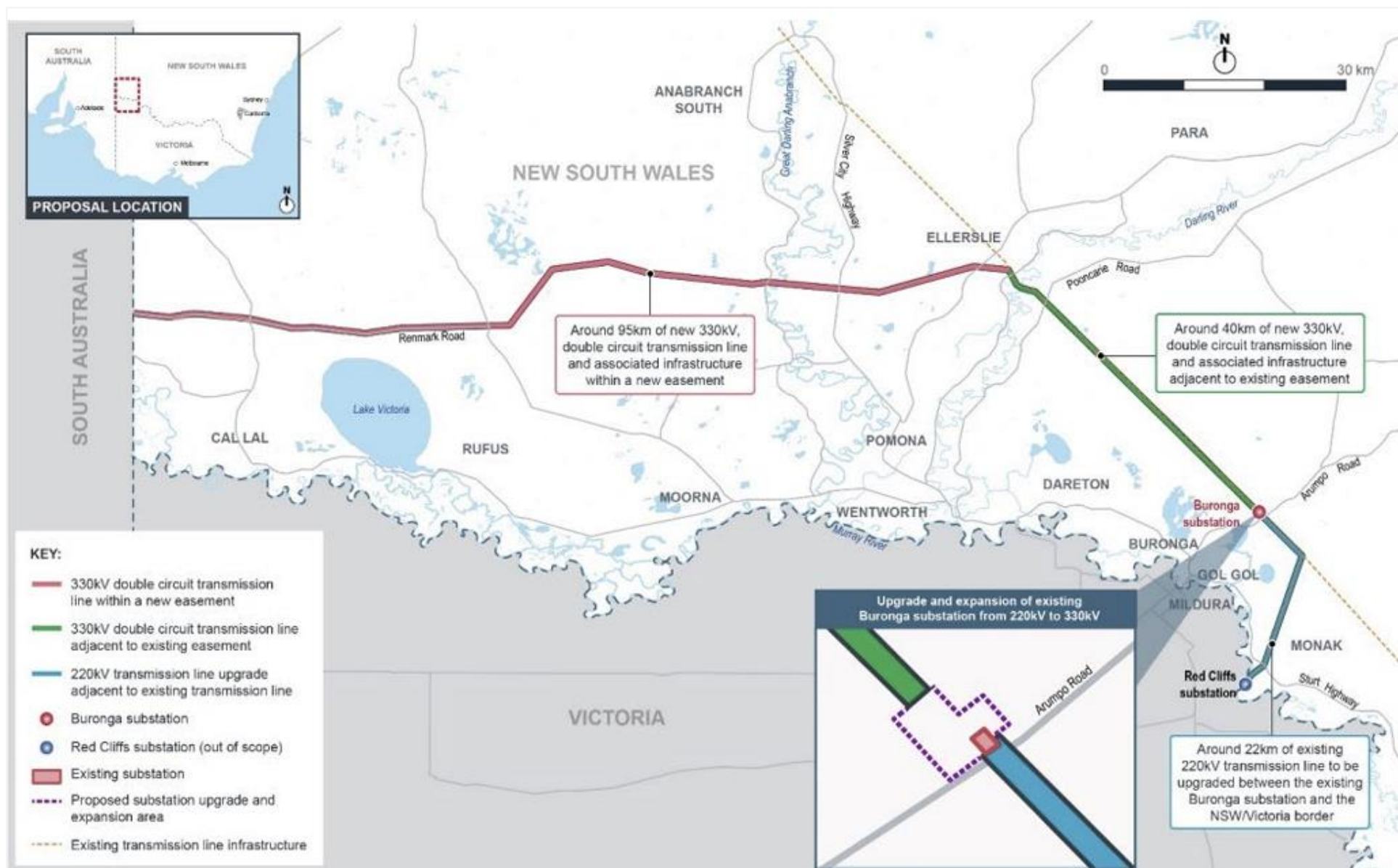


Figure 2.2 — Key features of EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) as shown in the EIS

2.2. Completion of construction (13 May 2025 to 8 September 2025)

Construction of PEC West — comprising approximately 135km of new 330kV double-circuit transmission line, the upgrade of an existing 24km 220kV single-circuit transmission line, and the upgrade and expansion of the Buronga substation to a combined 220kV/330kV operating voltage — was completed on 8 September 2025.

Compliance with the conditions of the Commonwealth Approval relevant to construction, including clearing limits for protected matters (condition 1) and the implementation of the Construction Environmental Management Plans and Biodiversity Management Plans (condition 2), is addressed in full in the PEC West Commonwealth Completion Report (October 2025). That report confirmed final verified clearing of 0.187 ha of habitat for *Atriplex infrequens* (against a 0.32 ha limit) and 1.81 ha of habitat for Regent Parrot (eastern subspecies) (against a 6.91 ha limit), and that no non-compliances with the conditions of the Commonwealth Approval had occurred during construction. As part of the Completion Report and in accordance with Annual Compliance Guidelines (2014), vegetation clearance spatial files were provided to the Commonwealth Department.

2.3. Commencement and conduct of operations (8 September 2025 to 13 May 2026)

Transgrid notified the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on 8 September 2025 that the project had commenced full operation. Since that date, the project has been managed in accordance with the PEC West Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP), Revision 8, approved by DPHI on 26 February 2025.

Key operational-phase activities undertaken during the reporting period, consistent with OEMP section 1.4.3, included:

- routine aerial, LiDAR and ground inspections of transmission assets and easements, including annual pre-bushfire inspections;
- targeted vegetation management to address LiDAR-identified vegetation encroachments and maintain electrical clearances, carried out by Elecnor;
- defect rectification works at Buronga Substation and along transmission line corridors, including earth wire replacement, minor access track maintenance, and rehabilitation within approved operational disturbance areas, carried out by Elecnor;
- decommissioning, rehabilitation and hand-back of former construction ancillary sites, including Camp 6 and Camp 7 (with a small portion of Camp 6 retained for defect-liability works);
- operational noise monitoring, biodiversity monitoring (including bird impact monitoring and nest box monitoring) and rehabilitation of former disturbance areas; and
- completion of the first Independent Environmental Audit of the operational phase, covering September 2025 to March 2026 under condition E11 of the NSW State Infrastructure Approval (SSI-10040).

3. Conditions

The Commonwealth Approval sets out the conditions which must be complied with to construct and operate PEC West. Table 3.1 addresses each condition as it applies to the operational phase of the project during this reporting period. Conditions relating solely to the now-completed construction phase (in particular the implementation of the Construction Environmental Management Plans) are addressed in full in the PEC West Commonwealth Completion Report (October 2025) and are referenced, not repeated, below.

Table 3.1 — Commonwealth conditions and evidence of compliance, operational phase

Cond. no.	Condition	2025/26 Compliance status	Evidence / comments
1	To minimise the impacts of the action on protected matters, the approval holder must not clear more than 0.32 ha of habitat for <i>Atriplex infrequens</i> and 6.91 ha of habitat for Regent Parrot (eastern subspecies).	Compliant	At the completion of construction (8 September 2025), verified clearing totals were 0.187 ha of <i>Atriplex infrequens</i> habitat and 1.81 ha of Regent Parrot (eastern subspecies) habitat. During the reporting period, operational vegetation management activities occurred within operational easements and approved disturbance areas; however, no additional clearing of <i>Atriplex infrequens</i> habitat or Regent Parrot (eastern subspecies) habitat was undertaken.
2	For the protection of protected matters the approval holder must: a) implement conditions B1, B2 and B5 of the State Infrastructure Approval, where relevant to protected matters; b) implement conditions D25, D28, E1 and E2 of the State Infrastructure Approval, where relevant to protected matters; c)/d) notify the Department of proposed or finalised changes to the relevant State Approval conditions.	Compliant	a) Conditions B1/B2/B5 relate to the Construction Environmental Management Plans and are construction-phase obligations, fully implemented and closed out at completion — refer to the Completion Report (October 2025). b) During operations, management of protected matters is carried out under the PEC West OEMP (section 5.2.3), including the Bird Impact Monitoring Program, nest box monitoring, and the Charles Sturt University EMF-on-birds study. The Big Bend Biodiversity Stewardship Site continues to be managed in accordance with Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement ID BS0065, including ongoing biodiversity monitoring, threatened species habitat monitoring, pest management and weed management activities. Independent Audit No. 6 (Operations) assessed the equivalent State conditions (D25, D26) as compliant along with the annual nest box monitoring. Condition D28 applies to the Bird Monitoring Impact Monitoring program which has already been in place for several years. There were no updates to any plans, programs or strategies and hence condition E2 was not triggered in the reporting period. c)/d) Not applicable — there have been no changes to the NSW State Infrastructure Approval during the reporting period.
3	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement of the action within 10 business days after the date of commencement of the action.	Not applicable	Commencement of the action was notified in prior reporting periods (13 May 2022 pre-construction; 11 July 2022 construction). This condition relates to commencement of the approved action and was not re-triggered by the transition to operations.
4	If the commencement of the action does not occur within 5 years from the date of approval, the approval	Not applicable	Commencement occurred within the required 5-year period (refer to condition 3).

Cond. no.	Condition	2025/26 Compliance status	Evidence / comments
	holder must not commence the action without the prior written agreement of the Minister.		
5	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records.	Compliant	Operational-phase compliance records are maintained via Transgrid's Environmental Management System. Independent Audit No. 6 (Operations) confirmed compliance records were well organised and available.
6	If the Department makes a written request, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records within the timeframe specified.	Not applicable	No request for compliance records has been received from the Department during the reporting period.
7	The approval holder must: (a) submit plans electronically to the Department; (b) publish each plan on the website within 20 business days of approval; (c) exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from published plans; (d) keep plans published until completion.	Compliant	The OEMP (Revision 8), which governs the operational phase, was approved by DPHI on 26 February 2025 and is published on the Transgrid project website (https://www.transgrid.com.au/projects-innovation/energyconnect). No sensitive ecological data is included in the published version. The plan remains published and current.
8	The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12-month period, and must (a) publish it within 60 business days; (b) notify the Department of publication within 5 business days; (c) keep it publicly available until completion; (d) redact sensitive ecological data; (e) submit the full report to the Department where data has been redacted.	Compliant	This report is the Compliance Report for operational activity during the 12-month period 13 May 2025 to 13 May 2026. It is intended to be published on the Transgrid project website within 60 business days of the end of the reporting period, with the Department to be notified within 5 business days of publication, consistent with the approach taken for the three prior compliance reports (covering 13 May 2022–2023, 2023–2024 and 2024–2025). Sensitive ecological data will be redacted from the published version and the full report submitted to the Department, per condition 8(e).
9	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any incident or non-compliance, as soon as practicable and no later than 2 business days after becoming aware, specifying the condition breached, a description, and location/date/time.	Compliant	No incidents or non-compliances requiring notification under this condition were identified during the reporting period. Accordingly, no notifications to the Department were required or submitted under this condition.
10	The approval holder must provide details of any incident or non-compliance within 10 business days, specifying corrective action, potential impacts and remedial timing.	Not applicable	No incidents or non-compliances have been identified during the reporting period (refer to condition 9).

Cond. no.	Condition	2025/26 Compliance status	Evidence / comments
11	The approval holder must ensure independent audits of compliance are conducted as requested in writing by the Minister.	Not applicable	No independent audit of compliance with the Commonwealth Approval has been requested by the Minister. Note: a separate Independent Environmental Audit programme applies under the NSW State Infrastructure Approval (SSI-10040) — refer to Section 4 of this report.
12	For each independent audit requested under condition 11, the approval holder must provide auditor details, obtain approval of audit criteria, and submit the audit report within the approved timeframe.	Not applicable	No independent audit of compliance with the Commonwealth Approval has been requested by the Minister.
13	The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of the Department's approval, and keep it published until completion.	Not applicable	No independent audit of compliance with the Commonwealth Approval has been requested by the Minister.
14	Within 30 days after completion, the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data.	Compliant	The PEC West Commonwealth Completion Report (October 2025) was submitted to Department satisfying the requirement to notify of construction completion (8 September 2025). Completion data, including the shapefile of the final verified clearing footprint was also provided. No further action is required under this condition.

4. Independent Environmental Audit summary

Although Condition 11 of the Commonwealth Approval has not been triggered (no independent audit has been requested by the Minister under the EPBC Act), Transgrid's NSW State Infrastructure Approval (SSI-10040) separately requires periodic Independent Environmental Audits under condition E11. The first such audit of the operational phase — Independent Audit No. 6 (Operations), prepared by WolfPeak Group Pty Ltd, dated 15 May 2026 — is relevant context for this Compliance Report and is summarised below. This audit report responds to the NSW approval rather than the Commonwealth Approval and is referenced only; it is not attached to this report.

The audit was scoped to cover the first six months of the operational phase, being 8 September 2025 to 8 March 2026. Audit fieldwork, including the site inspection, was carried out on 24–25 March 2026, with the final audit report issued on 15 May 2026. The audit assessed 98 conditions of the State Infrastructure Approval and found no non-compliances.

The audit's assessment of actual versus predicted operational impacts (noise, biodiversity, contamination, land use, heritage, hazards and waste) found the project's operational impacts consistent with those predicted in the EIS and Submissions Report.

5. Environmental risks

No new environmental risks specific to matters protected under the Commonwealth Approval have been identified during the reporting period.

6. Plans in existence during the reporting period

Table 6.1 identifies plans, required under the conditions of the State Infrastructure Approval for which conditions 1, 2a and 2b of the Commonwealth Approval apply, in existence during the reporting period:

Table 6.1 — Commonwealth conditions and evidence of compliance, operational phase

Document	Reference	Approval date	Status
Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) Rev 8	SSI-10040-PA-141	26 February 2025 (DPHI)	In effect
Biodiversity Management Plan (Stage 2)	45860-HSE-PL-D-0029	27 September 2024	Superseded by OEMP for operations; construction-phase records

7. Other information

Photographs from the operational phase site inspection (24 March 2026) are provided below (Photos 1-4), illustrating rehabilitation and nest box installations. Source: Independent Audit Report No. 6 (Operations), May 2026.



Photo 1: Former Camp 7 area, stabilised, no evidence of erosion, runoff controls and drainage in place.



Photo 2: Guide Tower 252 showing groundcover regeneration.



Photo 3: Nest box installed north of Tower 252



Photo 4: Guide Tower 222 showing groundcover regeneration.

8. Reference document

- EnergyConnect NSW, Western Section (PEC West) Commonwealth Completion Report, EPBC 2020/8673, October 2025 (document 45860-HSE-REP-D-0051).
- Compliance Report, EnergyConnect NSW, Western Section, EPBC 2020/8673, 13 May 2024 to 13 May 2025 (document 45860-HSE-REP-D-0050).
- Operational Environmental Management Plan, Project Energy Connect (NSW Western Section), Revision 8, approved by DPHI 26 February 2025.
- Independent Audit Report No. 6 (Operations), Project Energy Connect West, SSI-10040, WolfPeak Group Pty Ltd, May 2026.
- EnergyConnect NSW, Western Section, EPBC 2020/8673, Approval decision and conditions, 10 November 2021.