

INDEPENDENT AUDIT NO 6 (OPERATIONS) - REPORT

PROJECT ENERGY CONNECT WEST | SSI 10040

MAY 2026

Authorisation

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Project No.: 1526

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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	2
1.1	Project overview	2
1.2	Approval requirements for Independent Audit	3
1.3	Audit Team	3
1.4	Audit Objectives	3
1.5	Audit Scope	4
2.	Audit methodology	5
2.1	Audit Process Overview	5
2.2	Audit Process Detail	5
2.2.1	Audit initiation	5
2.2.2	Preparing audit activities	5
2.2.3	Consultation	5
2.2.4	Meetings	5
2.2.5	Interviews	6
2.2.6	Site inspection	6
2.2.7	Document review	7
2.2.8	Generating audit findings	7
2.2.9	Compliance evaluation	7
2.2.10	Evaluation of post approval documentation	7
2.2.11	Completing the audit	8
3.	Audit findings	9
3.1	Approvals and documents audited, and evidence sighted	9
3.2	Summary of Compliance	9
3.3	Adequacy of Environmental Management Plans, sub-plans and post approval documents	13
3.4	Summary of notices from agencies	13
3.5	Other matters considered relevant by the Auditor or Department	13
3.6	Complaints	13
3.7	Incidents	13
3.8	Actual versus predicted impacts	13
3.9	Key strength and environmental performance	20
	Limitations	21



Appendix A – Audit Checklists22

Appendix B – Approval of auditors57

Appendix C – Agency Consultation Records And Auditor Responses58

Appendix D – Attendance register65

Appendix E – Site Photos66

Appendix F – Auditor declaration75

APPENDIX G – Biodiversity Specialist Statement76

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Transgrid (the Applicant) is responsible for delivering Project EnergyConnect (NSW-Western Section) (the Project) connecting the NSW and SA transmission networks between the Buronga substation and the NSW / SA and NSW / Victoria borders to the west and south of Buronga respectively.

Approval of the Project was granted under section 5.19 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) SSI Number 10040 by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces on 28 September 2021, subject to conditions. There have been no modifications to the Project.

Elecnor has been appointed by Transgrid to construct the Project. The Project has been operational since September 2025 with only defect rectification works being undertaken by Elecnor currently.

This audit was undertaken in accordance with Condition E11 of the project Approval, and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's 2020 *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (IAPAR). The audit sought to verify compliance with those conditions relevant to operation of the Project and assess the effectiveness of environmental management on the Project during operations, particularly as outlined in the Operational Environmental Management Plan.

This Report presents the outcomes of the first independent environmental audit for the operation of the Project covering the period from September 2025 to March 2026 (the 'audit period'). This is the sixth independent environmental audit on the Project.

The overall outcome of the independent audit was very positive with two observations (plus a positive observation) and an opportunity for improvement identified. No non-compliances were identified.

Summary of Findings

In Summary:

- There were 98 SSI Conditions assessed.
- No non-compliances were identified during this Audit.
- Two observations, plus a positive observation, were identified.
- 1 opportunity for improvement was identified.
- 40 Conditions were considered by the Auditor to be compliant.
- 58 Conditions were considered by the Auditor to be not triggered.

Detailed findings are presented in Section 3 and Appendix A.

The Auditor would like to thank the auditees for their high level of organisation, cooperation, and assistance during the Audit.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project overview

Transgrid (the Applicant) is responsible for delivering Project EnergyConnect (NSW-Western Section) (the Project) connecting the NSW and SA transmission networks between the Buronga substation and the NSW / SA and NSW / Victoria borders to the west and south of Buronga respectively as shown in Figure 1.

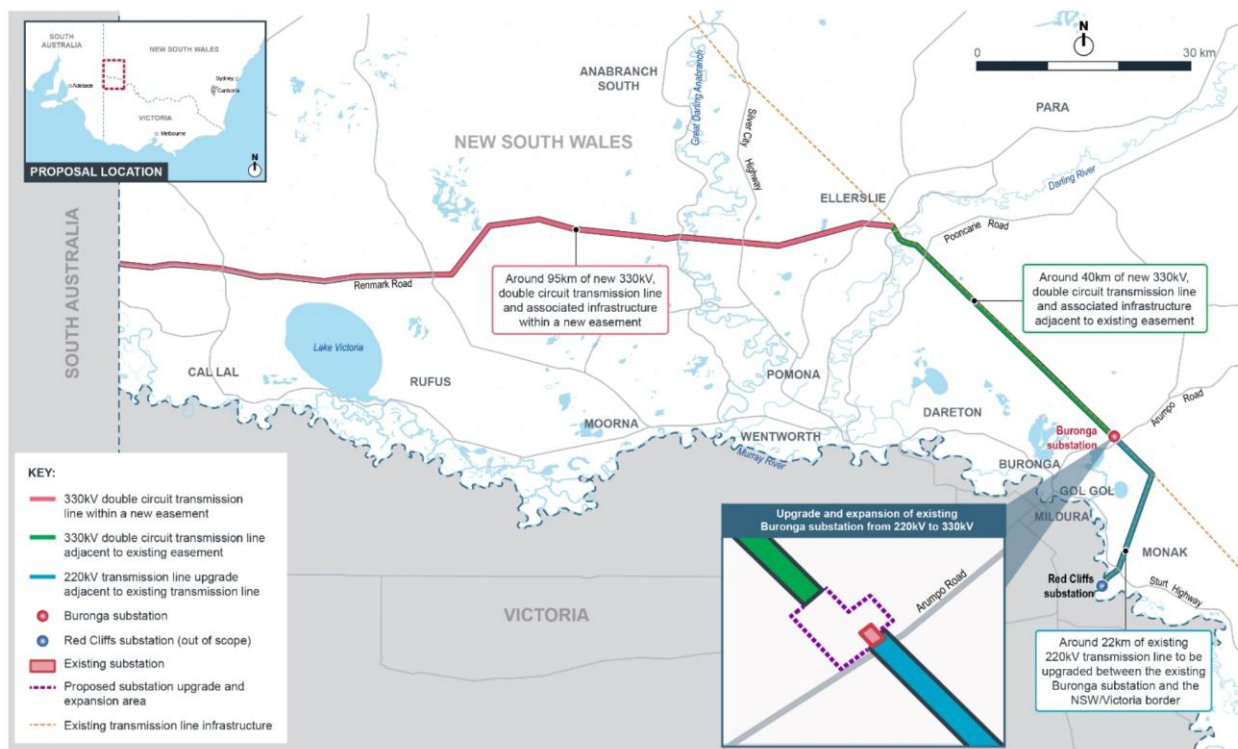


Figure 1: Overview of Project (Source: EIS, WSP 2020)

The Project involved the construction of around 135km of new 330kV transmission line infrastructure between the NSW/SA border and Buronga substation and upgrading of approximately 22km of existing 220kV transmission between the substation and the Red Cliffs substation in Victoria.

Upgrade and expansion of the Buronga substation was undertaken to accommodate the new 330Kv and 220kv circuits. This also involved installation of specialised substation equipment such as Phase Shift Transformers and Synchronous Condensers.

Construction started in 2022 and was completed in 2025. The Project has been operational since September 2025. Elecnor is the principal construction contractor.

Approval of the Project was granted under section 5.19 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) SSI Number

10040 by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces on 28 September 2021, subject to Conditions of Consent (conditions). There have been no modifications to the Project.

1.2 Approval requirements for Independent Audit

Condition E11 sets out the requirements for undertaking Independent Audits. The Conditions give effect to the Department's 2020 version of the document entitled *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (IAPAR).

1.3 Audit Team

In accordance with Section 3.1 of the IAPAR, Independent Auditors must be suitably qualified, experienced and independent of the Project, and appointed by the Planning Secretary. The Lead Auditor who performed the auditing work is shown on Table 1.

Table 1: Audit Team

Name	Company	Participation	Certification
Steve Fermio	WolfPeak Group P/L	Lead Auditor	C-362518
Derek Low	WolfPeak Group P/L	Project Manager / Lead Auditor	C-367713
Will Steggall	WolfPeak Group P/L	Technical Expert - Biodiversity	BAM Accredited Assessor No.17107

Approval of the Audit Team was provided by the Department on 17 December 2025. The letter of approval is presented in Appendix B and auditor's independence declaration is attached in Appendix F.

1.4 Audit Objectives

The objective of this Audit was to undertake the first operational Audit in accordance with the requirements of the IAPAR and the Condition E11 which states:

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.

This Audit seeks to fulfill the requirements of Condition E11, verify compliance with the relevant Conditions and assess the effectiveness of environmental management on the Project during the operational phase. Aspects of the Operational Environmental Management Plan were also evaluated during the audit.

1.5 Audit Scope

This Audit report presents the findings of the first operational Audit on the Project covering the period from September 2025 to March 2026 (audit period).

This Audit adopts the scope defined within the IAPAR 2020, being:

- An assessment of compliance with:
 - all conditions of consent applicable to the phase of the development that is being audited; and
 - all post approval and compliance documents prepared to satisfy the conditions of consent, including an assessment of the implementation of Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans.
- A review of the environmental performance of the development, including but not necessarily limited to, an assessment of:
 - actual impacts compared to predicted impacts documented in the environmental impact assessment
 - the physical extent of the development in comparison with the approved boundary
 - incidents, non-compliances and complaints that occurred or were made during the audit period
 - the performance of the development having regard to agency policy and any particular environmental issues identified through consultation carried out when developing the scope of the audit, and
 - feedback received from the Department, and other agencies and stakeholders, on the environmental performance of the project during the audit period.
- A review of the status of implementation of previous Independent Audit findings recommendations and actions (if any)
- A high-level assessment of whether Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans are adequate
- Any other matters considered relevant by the auditor or the Department, considering relevant regulatory requirements and legislation, knowledge of the development's past performance, and
- In its approval of the audit team on 17 December 2025, the Department required the audit report include specific sections (and/or an appended report) prepared by the approved technical biodiversity expert (Will Steggall) which addresses his assessment of compliance (and recommendations for improvements) in respect of the conditions, BDAR, EIS, management plans and any other matters considered relevant for his area of expertise. This requirement is addressed in Appendix G.

2. AUDIT METHODOLOGY

2.1 Audit Process Overview

The Audit was conducted in a manner consistent with *AS/NZS ISO 19011.2019 – Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems* and the methodology set out in the Department's IAPAR.

2.2 Audit Process Detail

2.2.1 Audit initiation

Prior to the commencement of the Audit the following tasks were completed:

- Establish initial contact with the auditee
- Confirm the audit team
- Confirm the audit purpose, scope and criteria.

2.2.2 Preparing audit activities

The Auditor performed a document review, prepared an audit plan, and prepared work documents (audit checklists) and distributed to the Project team in preparation for the Audit.

2.2.3 Consultation

On 20 January 2026 WolfPeak consulted with the Department to obtain their input into the scope of the Audit and confirm whether other stakeholders should be consulted, as per Section 3.2 of the IAPAR. The Department responded on 6 March 2026.

A summary of issues raised for inclusion in the audit scope and records of correspondence from the Department and agencies is provided in Appendix C along with our responses to the issues raised.

Issues raised by agencies related to the construction phase were not relevant scope of this audit.

2.2.4 Meetings

The opening meeting was held on 24 March 2026 at Elecnor's Mildura office with project personnel and WolfPeak audit team. During the opening meeting, the objectives and scope of the Audit, the resources required, overview of the project and status of the works and methodology to be applied were discussed.

A closing meeting was carried out on 25 March 2026 at Elecnor's Mildura office. The preliminary audit findings were presented, recommendations (as appropriate) were made, and any post-audit actions were confirmed.

2.2.5 Interviews

The Auditor conducted interviews on 24 and 25 March 2026 with key Project personnel both during and following the site inspection. During the inspection key personnel involved in on-site Project delivery, including those with responsibilities for environmental management, who could assist on verifying the compliance status of the development were interviewed.

All other communication was conducted remotely, which included requests for information and auditee responses to the requests. The names of personnel interviewed during the audit are provided in Table 2 and the attendance register for the opening and closing meetings is provided in Appendix D.

Table 2: Audit meeting personnel interviewed

Name	Role	Organisation
David Donehue	Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager	Transgrid
Andrew Scott	Senior Environmental Business Partner	Transgrid
Jared Lipton	Environment and Sustainability Manager	Transgrid
Scott Morrissey	Environmental Advisor	Transgrid
Will Steggall	Principal Ecologist	WolfPeak
Steve Fermio	Lead Auditor	WolfPeak

2.2.6 Site inspection

The on-site audit activities included an inspection of:

- Section of the 330kV Transmission Line along Renmark Road to NSW/SA border
- Buronga substation
- Big Bend Biodiversity Stewardship Site
- Former Camp 6 and 7 site compounds

All these sites were in operation at the time of the inspection with only defect liability and rehabilitation work occurring at the Buronga substation. Camps 6 and 7 had been handed back to the relevant landowners and were fully stabilised and no longer in use by the Project.

The site inspection was conducted on 24 March 2026, and detailed observations are discussed in Section 3 and Appendix A. Photos taken during the inspection are presented in Appendix E.

2.2.7 Document review

The Audit included investigation and review of Project files, records and documentation that acts as evidence of compliance (or otherwise) with a compliance requirement. The primary documents reviewed are presented in Section 3.1. Evidence gathered during the Audit is referenced in the compliance tables presented in Appendix A.

2.2.8 Generating audit findings

Audit findings were based on verifiable evidence. The evidence included:

- relevant records, documents and reports
- interviews of relevant site personnel
- photographs
- figures and plans
- site inspections of relevant locations, activities and processes.

Section 3 and Appendix A present the audit findings and recommendations.

2.2.9 Compliance evaluation

The Auditor determined the compliance status of each compliance requirement in the Audit Table in Appendix A, using the descriptors below:

Table 3: Compliance status descriptors

Status	Description
Compliant	The Auditor has collected sufficient verifiable evidence to demonstrate that all elements of the requirement have been complied with within the scope of the audit.
Compliant	WolfPeak considers that it is the role of the Certifier or other authority / expert to verify compliance with this condition and has marked this requirement as compliant on the basis of their assessment or advice.
Non-compliant	The Auditor has determined that one or more specific elements of the conditions or requirements have not been complied with within the scope of the audit.
Not Triggered	A requirement has an activation or timing trigger that has not been met at the time when the audit is undertaken, therefore an assessment of compliance is not relevant.

Observations and notes may also be made to provide context, identify opportunities for improvement or highlight positive initiatives.

2.2.10 Evaluation of post approval documentation

The Auditor assessed whether post approval documents:

- have been developed in accordance with the Conditions and their content is adequate
- have been implemented in accordance with the Conditions.

The adequacy of post approval documents was determined on the basis of whether:

- there are any non-compliances resulting from the implementation of the document
- whether there are any opportunities for improvement.

2.2.11 Completing the audit

The Audit Report was distributed to the Proponent to check factual matters and for input into actions in response to findings (where relevant). The Auditor retained the right to make findings or recommendations based on the facts presented.

The Auditor's findings have been determined independent of the auditees, the Department and any other parties, based on the evidence assessed during the audit.

3. AUDIT FINDINGS

3.1 Approvals and documents audited, and evidence sighted

The documents audited comprised those prepared under the conditions from Schedule 2 of SSI 10040 applicable to the operation of the Project at the time of the Audit. The primary documents reviewed during the audit are as follows:

- *Infrastructure Approval SSI 10040, dated 28 September 2021*
- *EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Environmental Impact Statement, Volumes 1 & 2, October 2020 (WSP)*
- *Operational Environmental Management Plan Project Energy Connect (NSW Western section), Rev. 8, 20 February 2025 (Transgrid)*
- *Biodiversity Technical Specialist Audit Report, April 2025 (Umwelt).*
- *Assessment of final vegetation clearing against clearing limits for Project EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) April 2026 (WSP)*
- *EnergyConnect PEC West Project SSI 10040 March 2025 Construction Phase Independent Environmental Audit (Barnett and May)*
- *Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement ID number: BS0065 Property Name: Big Bend*
- *Electric and Magnetic Fields Study Project EnergyConnect - Buronga Substation 31-Aug-2023 Project EnergyConnect (AECOM)*
- *220kV L4 Electric and Magnetic Fields Study Project EnergyConnect 01-Mar-2024 Project EnergyConnect (AECOM)*
- *Buronga 330kV Substation Emergency Response Manual: MNA-SUBERM-302, July 2024 (Transgrid)*
- *Transmission Lines Emergency Response Procedure: MMS-TLC-ERM-092, December 2023 (Transgrid)*
- *Impact of Project Energy Connect on Birds, Project Scope, December 2023 (CSU)*
- *PROJECT ENERGY CONNECT Project Energy Connect (NSW) Western section - Operational Noise Monitoring Report 8 October 2025 (Renzo Tonin)*

Separate audit checklists were developed for the Project Approval conditions and key elements of the OEMP. These checklists are provided in Appendix A.

3.2 Summary of Compliance

This section, including Table 4, presents the summary of compliance and recommended actions in response to each of the findings from this Audit. Detailed findings against each requirement are presented in Appendix A.

In summary:

- There were 98 SSI Conditions assessed.
- No non-compliances were identified during this Audit.
- Two observations, plus a positive observation, were identified.
- 1 opportunity for improvement was identified.
- 40 Conditions were considered by the Auditor to be compliant.
- 58 Conditions were considered by the Auditor to be not triggered.

There were no findings or recommendations made in the previous (5th) Independent Construction Audit by Barnett and May (March 2025) which was undertaken at the end of the construction phase of the Project. All previous audit findings had been closed out by the time of that audit.

Table 4: Findings and recommendations from the Audit

ID No.	Ref. No.	Category	Details of the Condition / Requirement	Audit Finding	Recommended or completed actions	Status
IA6-01	CoA D16	Positive Observation	<i>The Proponent must:</i> (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 <i>Managing Urban Stormwater - Soils and Construction Volume 1 (Landcom, 2004)</i> and <i>Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume 2C Unsealed Roads (DECC, 2008)</i>;	Observation: Across the majority of former construction sites inspected (transmission, former ancillary and substation), very good progress has been made in their revegetation, and they were typically well stabilised and not subject to erosion.	Recommendation: NA	CLOSED
IA6-02	CoA D25	Observation	<i>Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must:</i> a) ensure that no more than: • 19.6 hectares (ha) of BC Act listed Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW Southwestern Slopes bioregions; • 0.04 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species <i>Acacia acanthoclada</i> (Harrow Wattle); • 0.32 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed flora species <i>Atriplex infrequens</i> (A saltbush); • 1.51 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species <i>Austrostipa nullanulla</i> (A spear-grass); • 14 individuals of BC Act listed <i>Santalum murrayanum</i> (Bitter Quandong); and • 6.91 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed fauna species <i>Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides</i> (Regent Parrot) (eastern subspecies); is cleared for the development; and b) minimise: • the impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees; • the impacts of the development on threatened bird and bat populations; and • the clearing of native vegetation and key habitat.	Observation: We note that annual nest box monitoring is being undertaken as per the EnergyConnect Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy (NSW – Western Section) 1 and the EnergyConnect, Connectivity Strategy (NSW – Western Section). For the sake of completeness, we recommend that this requirement also be included in the OEMP as part of the post Audit review of the OEMP	Recommendation: That a reference to annual nest box monitoring be included in the OEMP as part of post audit review of OEMP	OPEN
IA6-03	CoA D26	Opportunity for Improvement	<i>Prior to carrying out any development that would impact on biodiversity values, the Proponent must prepare a Biodiversity Offset Package (Package) that is consistent with the EIS, in consultation with BCS and to the satisfaction of the Secretary in writing. The Package must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</i> (a) details of the specific biodiversity offset measures to be implemented and delivered in accordance with the EIS; (b) the cost for each specific biodiversity offset measure, which would be required to be paid into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund if the relevant measure is not implemented and delivered (as calculated in accordance with Division 6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) and the offsets payment calculator that was established as at 29 July 2021); (c) the timing and responsibilities for the implementation and delivery of the measures required in the Package; and (d) confirmation that the biodiversity offset measures will have been implemented and delivered no later than 31 December 2023. <i>Following approval, the Proponent must implement and deliver the Biodiversity Offset Package.</i>	Observation: We understand that work is planned soon on fencing the Big Bend Stewardship Site that is owned by Transgrid. An opportunity exists at this point in time to consider the potential uplift in biodiversity outcomes and credit generation that could be achieved if the fencing was upgraded to a predator (cat, fox etc) proof standard, similar to that on nearby Australian Wildlife Conservancy properties. This would also compliment the feral removal program underway.	Recommendation: That Transgrid consider the opportunity to instal a predator (fox, cat etc) proof fence around the perimeter of the Big Bend Stewardship Site and the benefits associated with such a fence (significantly improved conservation outcomes and potential additional biodiversity credit generation, enhanced public perception and social licence outcomes for Transgrid at a corporate / media level, opportunity to work in partnership with AWC on this site and potentially other projects in NSW etc), compared to the currently planned option of a stock proof fence only.	OPEN

IA6-04	CoA D54	Observation	<i>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, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives in Table 3.</i>	Observation: Observation: A swale drain located outside the security fence of the substation and formerly part of the earthworks material site (Arumpo Road side) was showing signs of rill erosion.	Recommendation: That coir logs be installed in this drain prior to its finalisation and installation of rock check dams along its length. <i>NB: Evidence provided prior to the finalisation of this report demonstrates that coir logs have been installed and this item can be considered closed.</i>	CLOSED
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3.3 Adequacy of Environmental Management Plans, sub-plans and post approval documents

The adequacy of post approval documents must be determined on the basis of whether:

- there are any non-compliances resulting from the implementation of the document
- there are any opportunities for improvement.

A detailed review of the implementation of the OEMP was undertaken as part of this audit, with evidence provided in the OEMP checklist in Appendix A. On the whole, the OEMP is being implemented and is satisfactory for the operational phase of the Project.

An observation has been made in this audit regarding potential improvements to the OEMP that should be considered in the next review of that document.

3.4 Summary of notices from agencies

To the Auditor's knowledge no formal notices, orders or penalty notices were issued by the Department or other agencies during the audit period.

3.5 Other matters considered relevant by the Auditor or Department

There were no other matters considered relevant by the Auditor. The matters raised by the Department (and other agencies consulted prior to the audit) on the audit scope are addressed in Appendix C.

3.6 Complaints

The Project has maintained a Complaints Register available on the project website which is current up to March 2026.

No complaints were recorded during the audit period.

3.7 Incidents

During this audit period, no incidents, as defined by Project Approval Condition No E6, were recorded or reported.

3.8 Actual versus predicted impacts

The Audit considered the actual impacts based on the site inspection and review of records, on whether they are consistent with the relevant impacts predicted in the development consent's environmental assessment documentation.

The EIS and Response to Submissions report (RtS) included a range of studies and predictions that relied on observation, measurement and modelling of the existing environments and potential outcomes arising from the Project. Full assessment of the accuracy of these predictions would also

require a significant number of studies involving measurement and modelling using actual data points as inputs.

Other than the operational requirements specified in the conditions and mitigation measures, to the Auditor's knowledge there are no requirements to undertake such studies and doing so does not form part of this Audit. Any such comparison is qualitative only.

There were no recorded or reported environmental incidents during the audit period.

There were no construction works being undertaken at the time of the audit as the project is in an operational phase now. Defect rectification works were being undertaken at the Buronga substation site at the time of the inspection.

Constructed items such as transmission line towers are now located on private or publicly owned lands within an easement located within the approved boundary as best as could be confirmed by visual inspection and review of spatial data images and mapping. In most cases these sites are now contiguous with the surrounding land use.

Based on the site inspection, document review and high degree of compliance, works appear to be consistent with the approved layout plans and the environmental impacts are mostly qualitatively well within that predicted by the EIS and RtS.

Overall, the operation of the project and associated impacts appear to be consistent with those identified in the EIS and Submissions Report (April 2021). A summary of the predicted operational impacts from the Submissions Report and our assessment of the consistency of these is presented in Table 5.

Table 4: Summary of Predicted Versus Actual Impacts for key assessment issues

Aspect	Summary of Impacts (Submissions Report)	Actual impacts observed during the audit period	Consistent (Y/N)
Noise and Vibration	During operation, no sensitive receivers are expected to experience audible noise above the adopted criteria of 35 dBA from operation of the transmission lines in fair weather. However, three residential receivers would be within the 'worst-case' audible noise risk zone during wet weather conditions and are at risk of experiencing noise levels that would exceed the adopted criteria by 6 to 9 dB(A) (distance-dependent). The operational noise levels associated with the Buronga substation upgrade and expansion and road traffic noise are not expected to result in noise impacts.	Operational noise monitoring by Renzo Tonin has confirmed acceptable impacts to residential receivers	Y
Traffic and access	Traffic and access impacts during operation are expected to be negligible.	No complaints regarding traffic and access have been received during the operational phase of the project	Y
Biodiversity	Based on the conservative indicative disturbance area, the proposal would have the potential to directly impact: 20 native vegetation Plant Community Types (PCTs) - one endangered ecological community (EEC) listed under the (NSW) Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 due to the impacts on 607 hectares of native vegetation (of which 293 hectares would not be completely cleared) 14 hectares of the Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions EEC (mostly comprised of native vegetation that is not high quality undisturbed native vegetation or habitat) The clearing of native vegetation would also result in direct impacts to 59 threatened species or their habitats. Other minor impacts associated with biodiversity are expected (such as impacts to connectivity, water quality and bird strike). Indirect impacts are considered unlikely given the retention of vegetation (up to two metres in height) within the easement providing a buffer to areas subject to direct and permanent loss of native vegetation.	The project has minimised native vegetation clearing through the use of design modifications that allowed native vegetation to be retained in areas where dominant canopy species did not breach operational standards. This allowed for better habitat connectivity between remnant patches of vegetation and a general reduction in native vegetation clearing. The overall clearing for the project was reduced to approximately 50% of the total predicted clearing presented in the approved BDAR. Additionally, the approved BDAR presented an overestimation of loss of VI compared to real-world loss underpinned by vegetation surveys completed following final clearing for construction. One threatened ecological community, Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW Southwestern Slopes Bioregion, was identified in the approved BDAR with a clearing limit of 19.6 ha identified in the approval. Total final	Y

Aspect	Summary of Impacts (Submissions Report)	Actual impacts observed during the audit period	Consistent (Y/N)
		clearing estimates of this TEC are approximately 55% of the total clearing limit with an estimated 10.69 ha subject to clearing. Four threatened flora species and one threatened fauna species were identified in the approved BDAR. Of the species identified, two were avoided in their entirety with the maximum clearing for the remaining entities being approximately 70%. The project overestimated credit liability by 50% for ecosystem credits and 23% for species credit species.	
Contamination and Remediation	There would be a minor risk of contamination during operation from accidental spillage of petroleum, chemicals or other hazardous materials as a result of leakage or vehicle accidents, which could result in pollution of the surrounding environment. Given the minor volume and low risk of occurrence, these risks would be easily managed through standard controls, including the TransGrid's operational practices, procedures and processes. As discussed in Section 5.2.3 of the EIS, all key substation equipment (such as the transmission gantries and transformers) within the expanded substation would be fixed to a reinforced concrete footing. The new transformers within the expanded substation site would be banded and incorporate a flame trap and drainage point in the event of an emergency. The hardstand areas of the expanded substation site would be designed to drain to a reinforced concrete spill oil containment tank. This would reduce the risk of contamination. Incident response procedures would be also developed by the operator to manage any spills. The operation of the transmission line structures and electrical transmission wires would not pose a contamination risk.	No offsite impacts or pollution of waters or soil was observed during the audit site inspection. There was no obvious signs of residual contamination at any of the sites inspected during the audit. Transgrid's emergency management and spill control procedures were sighted during the audit and these appear to be adequate for the operational phase.	Y
Aboriginal Heritage	The proposal has the potential to directly and/or indirectly impact Aboriginal sites and Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) including: three Aboriginal sites (PEC-W-74 and PEC-W-75), which are isolated finds with low scientific significance at the	Impacts managed during construction phase and no issues identified during the construction phase audits.	Y

Aspect	Summary of Impacts (Submissions Report)	Actual impacts observed during the audit period	Consistent (Y/N)
	Anabran South main construction compound and accommodation camp site. - one PAD (PEC-PAD-27) at the Buronga substation upgrade and expansion site - up to 26 PADs, 77 Aboriginal sites (of low and moderate scientific significance) and 17 potential scarred trees within the indicative disturbance area along the transmission line corridor.	No impacts reported or likely to occur during operations and Transgrid EMS procedures are sufficient to protect Aboriginal sites and PADs on an ongoing basis.	
Non-Aboriginal Heritage	The transmission line corridor passes through the curtilage of three locally listed heritage items, being the Nulla Woolshed, the Nulla Homestead and Sturts Billabong. These partial impacts would not impact the significance of these heritage items and would not directly impact the built form of the Nulla Woolshed or the Nulla Homestead. An unlisted heritage item, being a survey tree, was found during survey work but would not be directly impacted by the indicative disturbance area.	No additional impacts known to have occurred to non-Aboriginal heritage and no impacts likely to occur during operations.	Y
Land Use and Property	Operation of the proposal would result in permanent land use changes due to the new or modified transmission line easements, access tracks and expanded and upgraded Buronga substation. The easements may restrict certain agricultural activities and/or require different methodologies to be adopted. However, the overall impact on existing agricultural activities is expected to be minor, particularly as grazing activities would be able to continue within the easements. There are also biosecurity risks that animal diseases, plant diseases, feral pests and (especially) weeds could be introduced or spread during the construction and operation of the proposal through vehicle, machinery or personnel movements	Site inspection of agricultural land traversed by the 330kV Transmission Line between Buronga Substation and the NSW/SA border noted no weed incursion and grazing under lines and adjacent to towers was not impacted during operation of the line.	Y
Landscape character and visual amenity	Impacts to views during construction and operation would predominantly range from negligible to low, with moderate impacts to views within the vicinity of Lake Victoria due to the construction of new transmission lines and the visual sensitivity of these areas, and along Arumpo Road due to the upgrade and expansion of the Buronga substation and the scale of change. Distances to closest private properties from the transmission line corridor would range from around five kilometres to 350 metres.	Site inspection of agricultural land traversed by the 330kV Transmission Line between Buronga Substation and the NSW/SA border noted no weed incursion and grazing under lines and adjacent to towers was not impacted during operation of the line. Former construction laydown areas at transmission tower sites were well vegetated.	Y

Aspect	Summary of Impacts (Submissions Report)	Actual impacts observed during the audit period	Consistent (Y/N)
	Impacts would depend on the distance to the transmission line corridor, as well as presence of vegetation or intervening terrain		
Social and economic	During operation, the proposal would facilitate enhanced security and reliability of the energy supply with associated social and economic benefits to consumers at the State level across NSW, SA and Victoria, and would stimulate further investment in local economies, and in particular in the energy sector. Any interest in land which is acquired for the project would be carried out in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.	The auditors are not suitably qualified to assess the socio-economic impacts of the project during the operational phase.	NA
Hydrology, flooding and water quality	During operation, the proposal is not expected to result in notable changes to flood levels, depths or velocities. An increase in impervious surfaces at the Buronga substation may increase pollutant loads, however potential water quality impacts would be minimised by an appropriately designed drainage system.	The auditors did not observe any offsite impacts on water quality arising from the operation of the project.	Y
Air quality	Air quality impacts during operation would be negligible	No emissions of dust offsite were noted during the site inspection.	Y
Hazards and risk	Hazards and risks during construction and operation of the proposal include: • use and storage of hazardous materials and chemicals • construction or maintenance activities close to active electrical infrastructure • the risk of bushfire to or caused by the proposal • electric and magnetic fields surrounding electrical infrastructure.	Appropriate emergency management measures and controls appear to be in place or included in the design (e.g. APZs etc.).	Y
Soils, contamination and groundwater	The proposal may result in soil erosion or compaction from construction or maintenance activities as well as localised contamination from leaks and spills.	The auditors did not observe any offsite impacts on water quality arising from the operation of the project. Appropriate spill containment facilities were observed at the Buronga Substation defect rectification works.	Y
Waste management and resource use	Minimal operational waste or resource impacts are anticipated during the operation of the proposal	The auditors can confirm this is the case.	Y
Cumulative impacts	There is the potential for cumulative impacts (such as noise and vibration and traffic) associated with EnergyConnect where there	Noise and vibration and traffic impacts are negligible during the operation of the project.	Y

Aspect	Summary of Impacts (Submissions Report)	Actual impacts observed during the audit period	Consistent (Y/N)
	would be direct interfaces between each section of EnergyConnect, and broader regional impacts with respect to biodiversity. Cumulative impacts with other major projects in the vicinity of the proposal would include cumulative traffic, and noise and vibration impacts. However, any impacts would be minor and manageable.	The broader regional impacts with respect to biodiversity are not within the scope of this audit.	

3.9 Key strength and environmental performance

Overall, this Audit indicated that compliance was being proactively tracked and managed by Transgrid with the following strengths and positives identified:

- Compliance records were well organised and available at the time of the audit and continue to be well managed into the operational phase.
- Environmental monitoring and reporting continues to be conducted for the operational phase.
- No incidents or complaints have been reported during the audit period.
- There were no non-compliances identified during the audit with only several observations (*including a positive observation*) and opportunity for improvement identified as outlined in Table 4.

LIMITATIONS

This Document has been provided by WolfPeak Group Pty Ltd (WolfPeak) to the Client and is subject to the following limitations:

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With respect to conditions relating to compliance with the design, Building Codes of Australia (BCA) or satisfaction of the Independent Verifier / Certifier / Certifying Authority, the Independent Audits relied on confirmation from the Independent Verifier / Certifier / Certifying Authority that this is the case. The Independent Audits do not extend to an assessment of the works against the design or BCA requirements themselves, nor did they examine the steps the Independent Verifier / Certifier / Certifying Authority has taken to verify that the design is compliant.

The assessment of actual impacts and those predicted in the Environmental Impact Assessment(s) was a high-level assessment qualitative assessment only. The Environmental Impact Assessment(s) include a voluminous number of studies and predictions that relied on observation, measurement and modelling of the existing environments and potential outcomes arising from the Project (including mitigation measures). Full assessment of the accuracy of these predictions would also require a significant number of studies involving measurement and modelling using actual data points as inputs. Other than the requirements specified in the report, to the Auditor's knowledge there are no requirements to undertake such studies and doing so does not form part of this Independent Audit.

Audits of all post approval documents prepared to satisfy the conditions, including an assessment of the implementation of Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans, adopts a Judgement Based Sampling approach. Judgement Based Sampling is the process of selecting a sample of commitments and evidence from within the total available data set (population) to obtain and evaluate evidence about some characteristic of that population, in order to form a conclusion concerning the population.

This Document has been prepared for the exclusive benefit of the Client and no other party. WolfPeak bears no responsibility for the use of this Document, in whole or in part, in other contexts or for any other purpose. WolfPeak bears no responsibility and will not be liable to any other person or organisation for or in relation to any matter dealt with in this Document, or for any loss or damage suffered by any other person or organisation arising from matters dealt with or conclusions expressed in this Document (including without limitation matters arising from any negligent act or omission of WolfPeak or for any loss or damage suffered by any other party relying upon the matters dealt with or conclusions expressed in this Document). Other parties should not rely upon this Document or the accuracy or completeness of any conclusions and should make their own inquiries and obtain independent advice in relation to such matters.

To the best of WolfPeak's knowledge, the facts and matters described in this Document reasonably represent the Client's intentions at the time of which WolfPeak issued the Document to the Client. However, the passage of time, the manifestation of latent conditions or the impact of future events (including a change in applicable law) may have resulted in a variation of the Document and its possible impact. WolfPeak will not be liable to update or revise the Document to take into account any events or emergent circumstances or facts occurring or becoming apparent after the date of issue of the Document.

APPENDIX A – AUDIT CHECKLISTS

CSSI CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL CHECKLIST

Unique ID	Compliance requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
PART A - ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS				
Obligation to Minimise Harm to the Environment				
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 IEA	On the basis of the audit site inspection and interviews and outcomes of this audit (no non-compliances, incidents or complaints during the audit period, it is considered that this requirement has been complied with	C
Terms of Approval				
A2	The development may only 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 Development Layout in Appendix 1.	Final construction IEA (April 2025) and this IEA	On the basis of the final construction IEA and this IEA (no non-compliances) it is considered that this requirement has been complied with	C
A3	The Proponent must comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of: any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this approval; any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this approval; and the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.		No such requests made by the Planning Secretary during the audit period	NT
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.		For noting	C
A5	Any document that must be submitted within a timeframe 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 E6.		For noting	C
Lapse of Approval				
A6	This approval will lapse if the Proponent does not physically commence the development within 5 years of the date on which it is granted.		The Project is now operational	C
Prescribed Conditions				
A6	The Applicant must comply with all relevant prescribed conditions of development consent under Part 6, Division 8A of the EP&A Regulation.		This clause no longer exists in the EP&A Regulations current at the time of this audit	NT
Evidence of Consultation				
A7	Where conditions of this consent require consultation with an identified party, the Proponent must:	Appendix C	During the audit period private landowners were consulted as required under CoA D54 in relation to the hand back of property used for Camp 6 and Camp 7. The documentation provided to	C

	(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.		DPHI provides evidence of consultation in accordance with this requirement (see evidence in D54). Consultation with those agencies nominated by DPHI on the scope of this audit in the lead up to the audit was also undertaken in accordance with the requirements of CoA E11.	
Protection of Public Infrastructure				
A8	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.		No works on public infrastructure have been carried out since operations commenced in September 2025	NT
Demolition				
A9	The Proponent must ensure that all demolition work on site is carried out in accordance with AS 2601-2001: The Demolition of Structures (Standards Australia, 2001).		No demolition work has been carried out since operations commenced	NT
Structural Adequacy				
A10	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. • Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the development.		The project is in operational phase. Only defect liability work in being undertaken now.	NT
Compliance				
A11	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.	Online training slides sighted include relevant references to project approval and legislative requirements for the development Training records and certifications for various Elecnor staff from September 2025 sighted	Records indicate this requirement is satisfied	C
Operation of Plant and Equipment				
A12	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.	Various Elecnor Plant mobilisation records for earthmoving, load shifting and general plant; Vehicle Plant and Equipment Hygiene inspection checklist; Vehicle Mobilisation – Light Medium Heavy sighted	Records indicate this requirement is satisfied	C

Applicability of Guidelines				
A13	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	C
A14	However, 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.		No directions have been issued since operations commenced.	NT
Community Communication Strategy				
A15	Prior to the commencement of construction, the Proponent must prepare a Community Communication Strategy to provide mechanisms to facilitate communication between the Proponent and the community (including adjoining affected landowners) during construction. The Community Communication Strategy must: a) identify landowners for potentially impacted receivers; b) ensure that the landowners identified in (a) are consulted during construction; c) set out procedures and mechanisms for the regular distribution of information to the wider community; d) establish a public liaison officer(s) to engage with the local community; and e) set out procedures and mechanisms: • through which the community can discuss or provide feedback to the Proponent; • through which the Proponent will respond to enquiries or feedback from the community; and • to resolve any issues and mediate any disputes that may arise in relation to construction of the development. The Proponent must implement the Community Communication Strategy for the duration of construction.	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
Environmental Representative				
A16	Prior to commencing the development, an Environmental Representative (ER) must be approved by the Planning Secretary and engaged by the Proponent.	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
A17	The Planning Secretary's approval of an ER must be sought no later than one (1) week before commencing the development.	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
A18	The proposed ER must be a suitably qualified and experienced person who was not involved in the preparation of the documents listed in condition A2 and is independent from the design and construction of the development. The ER must meet only the requirements set out in section 2.2, 2.3.2.4 and 3 in the Environmental Representative Protocol (Department of Planning and Environment, October 2018).	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
A19	From commencing the development, until commencing operation, or as agreed with the Planning Secretary, the approved ER must: a) review the documents identified in conditions A15, B1, B2, D3, D10, D11, D29, D37 D47, D52 and D53, and any other documents that are identified by the Planning Secretary, to ensure they are consistent with requirements in or under this approval and if so: (I) make a written statement to this effect before submission of such documents to the Planning Secretary (if those documents are required to be approved by the Planning Secretary); or	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT

	(ii) make a written statement to this effect before the implementation of such documents (if those documents are required to be submitted to the Department for information or are not required to be submitted to the Department); b) as may be requested by the Planning Secretary, assist the Department in the resolution of community complaints; and c) consider any minor amendments to be made to the plans / strategies in conditions A15, D11, D52, D53, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7 that involve updating or are of an administrative nature and do not increase impacts to nearby sensitive receivers, and ensure they are consistent with the terms of this approval and, if satisfied such amendment is necessary, approve the amendment. This does not include any modifications to the terms of this approval.																					
A20	The Proponent must provide the ER with all documentation requested by the ER in order for the ER to perform their functions specified in condition A19, as well as the complaints register for any complaints received (on the day they are received).	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT																		
PART B - CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN																						
Construction Environmental Management Plan																						
B1	Prior to commencing construction, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) must be prepared to detail how the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures specified in the EIS will be implemented and achieved during construction to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT																		
B2	The following CEMP Sub-plans must be prepared in consultation with the relevant government agencies identified for each CEMP Sub-plan in Table 1. Table 1: CEMP Sub-plans <table><tr><th></th><th>Required CEMP Sub-plan</th><th>Relevant government agencies and stakeholders to be consulted for each CEMP Sub-plan</th></tr><tr><td>(a)</td><td>Noise and Vibration</td><td>Council</td></tr><tr><td>(b)</td><td>Soil and Water</td><td>DPIE Water Council</td></tr><tr><td>(c)</td><td>Biodiversity</td><td>BCS Council</td></tr><tr><td>(d)</td><td>Heritage</td><td>Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholders</td></tr><tr><td>(e)</td><td>Traffic and Transport</td><td>TfNSW Council</td></tr></table>		Required CEMP Sub-plan	Relevant government agencies and stakeholders to be consulted for each CEMP Sub-plan	(a)	Noise and Vibration	Council	(b)	Soil and Water	DPIE Water Council	(c)	Biodiversity	BCS Council	(d)	Heritage	Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholders	(e)	Traffic and Transport	TfNSW Council	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
	Required CEMP Sub-plan	Relevant government agencies and stakeholders to be consulted for each CEMP Sub-plan																				
(a)	Noise and Vibration	Council																				
(b)	Soil and Water	DPIE Water Council																				
(c)	Biodiversity	BCS Council																				
(d)	Heritage	Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholders																				
(e)	Traffic and Transport	TfNSW Council																				
B3	Details of all information requested by an agency to be included in a CEMP Sub-plan as a result of consultation must be provided with the relevant CEMP Sub-Plan.	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT																		
B4	Any of the CEMP Sub-plans may be submitted along with, or subsequent to, the submission of the CEMP but in any event prior to commencing construction.	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT																		
B5	Construction must not commence until the CEMP, and all CEMP Sub-plans have been approved by the Planning Secretary. The CEMP and CEMP Sub-plans, as approved by the Planning Secretary, must be implemented for the duration of construction. Where construction of the development is staged, construction of a stage must not commence until the CEMP and sub-plans for that stage have been approved by the Planning Secretary.	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT																		
Management Plan Requirements																						
B6	The CEMP and CEMP Sub-plans required under this approval must be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons in accordance with relevant guidelines, and include where relevant: a) a summary of relevant background or baseline data; b) details of:	This audit is an operational and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT																		

	(i) the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval or licence conditions); (ii) any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; and (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; c) any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the EIS; d) a description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures and criteria; e) a program to monitor and report on the: (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 d); f) 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; g) a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time; h) a protocol for managing and reporting any: (i) incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion and performance criterion; (ii) complaint; or (iii) failure to comply with other statutory requirements; i) set out the procedures that would be implemented to: (i) keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the construction and environmental performance of the development; (ii) receive, handle, respond to, and record complaints; (iii) resolve any disputes that may arise; (iv) respond to any non-compliance; (v) respond to emergencies; and j) a description of the roles and environmental responsibilities, authority and accountability for all relevant employees, as well as training and awareness; and k) a protocol for periodic review of the CEMP and associated Sub-plans and programs. The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.			
PART C OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT				
Operational Environmental Management Plan				
C1	An Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) must be prepared to detail how the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures made and identified in the EIS will be implemented and achieved during operation. This condition (condition C1) does not apply if condition C2 of this approval applies.	Operational Environmental Management Plan, Project Energy Connect (NSW Western Section), Revision 8 approved by DPHI on 26/02/2025	An OEMP was prepared and is being implemented on the project during the operational phase	C
C2	An OEMP is not required for the development if the Proponent has an Environmental Management System (EMS) or equivalent as agreed with the Planning Secretary, and demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary, that through the EMS:		It should be noted that the OEMP cross references aspects of Transgrid's EMS	NT

	the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures, made and identified in the EIS, and specified relevant terms of this approval can be achieved; issues identified through ongoing risk analysis can be managed; there is a clear plan depicting all the monitoring to be carried out in relation to the development, including a table summarising all the monitoring and reporting obligations under the conditions of this approval; there is a strategic framework for environmental management of the development; the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development is clear; and procedures are in place for: • keeping the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the development; • receiving, handling, responding to, and recording complaints; • resolving any disputes that may arise; • responding to any non-compliance; and • responding to emergencies.			
C3	Prior to commencing operation, the OEMP or EMS or equivalent as agreed with the Planning Secretary must be prepared to the satisfaction of Planning Secretary.	OEMP approved by Secretary on 26/02/2025, letter available on Major Project Portal	Evidence indicates this condition satisfied	C
PART D - KEY ISSUE CONDITIONS				
Noise and Vibration				
Construction Hours				
D1	Road upgrades, construction, upgrading and decommissioning activities may only be undertaken between: 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday; 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays; and at no time on Sundays and NSW public holidays; unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
D2	The following construction, upgrading and decommissioning activities may be carried out outside the hours specified in condition D1 above: the delivery or dispatch of materials as requested by the NSW Police Force or other public authorities for safety reasons; emergency work to avoid the loss of life, property or to prevent material harm to the environment; or 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.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
D3	An Out-of-Hours Work Protocol must be prepared to identify a process for the consideration, management and approval of works which are outside the hours defined in conditions D1, D2, and D7 The Protocol must be approved by the Planning Secretary before commencing works. The Protocol must: be prepared in consultation with Council;		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT

	provide a process for the consideration of out-of-hours works against the relevant noise and vibration criteria, including the determination of low and high-risk activities; provide a process for the identification of mitigation measures for potential impacts, including respite periods in consultation with any affected receivers; provide a process for the identification of out-of-hours works undertaken by third parties in the vicinity of the site, and coordination of out-of-hours works with these third parties to achieve respite periods in locations where receivers may be affected by concurrent activities; identify an approval process that considers the risk of activities, proposed mitigation, management, and coordination, including where: low risk activities can be undertaken without the approval of the Planning Secretary and with the approval of the ER; and high risk activities that are approved by the Planning Secretary; and identify Department, Council and community notification arrangements for approved out of hours work														
Construction and Decommissioning															
D4	The Proponent must take all reasonable and feasible steps to minimise the construction, upgrading or decommissioning noise of the development in the locations where the noise is audible to sensitive receivers, including any associated traffic noise.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT											
D5	The Proponent must implement mitigation measures: 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).		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT											
D6	The Proponent must comply with the following vibration limits: vibration criteria established using the Assessing vibration: a technical guideline (DEC 2006) (for human exposure); BS 7385 Part 2-1993 “Evaluation and measurement for vibration in buildings Part 2” as they are “applicable to Australian conditions”; and vibration limits set out in the German Standard DIN 4150-3: Structural Vibration - effects of vibration on structures (for structural damage).		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT											
D7	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.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT											
D8	The Proponent must ensure that any blasting carried out on the site does not exceed the criteria in Table 2. Table 2: Blasting criteria <table><tr><th>Location</th><th>Airblast overpressure (dB(Lin Peak))</th><th>Ground vibration (mm/s)</th><th>Allowable exceedance</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Any non-associated residence</td><td>120</td><td>10</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>115</td><td>5</td><td>5% of the total number of blast events over a rolling period of 12 months</td></tr></table>	Location	Airblast overpressure (dB(Lin Peak))	Ground vibration (mm/s)	Allowable exceedance	Any non-associated residence	120	10	0%	115	5	5% of the total number of blast events over a rolling period of 12 months		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
Location	Airblast overpressure (dB(Lin Peak))	Ground vibration (mm/s)	Allowable exceedance												
Any non-associated residence	120	10	0%												
	115	5	5% of the total number of blast events over a rolling period of 12 months												

Operation				
D9	The Proponent must implement all reasonable and feasible measures with the aim of ensuring that the noise generated by the operation of the development does not exceed 40 dB(A) LAeq,15min, at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017) at any non-associated residence.	OIA_3 EM_230228_R Portal Lodgement Receipt SSI-10400-PA-94 ONR OIA_3 TN803-01F02 PEC West Operational Noise Monitoring Report OIA_3 PEC West - Operational Noise Monitoring Letter DPHI OIA_3 TN803-01F02 PEC West Operational Noise Monitoring (r2)	The outcomes from the transmission line corona noise survey undertaken by Renzo Tonin in Aug/Sep 2025 within 6 months of commencement of operations found that corona noise remained below the requirements of this condition throughout the noise survey at each of the three residences under assessment during each of the periods conducive to generating corona noise.	C
D10	Within 12 months of the date of this approval, the Proponent must prepare an Operational Noise Review to confirm noise predictions and control measures that would be implemented for the operation of the development. The Review must: be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person whose appointment has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary; be prepared in consultation with the landowner of impacted residences; identify residences predicted to experience noise levels that exceed 40 dB(A) LAeq,15min at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, determined in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017); detail the noise mitigation measures to achieve the noise criteria identified, including the timing of implementation; provide evidence of consultation with affected landowners; include a consultation strategy to seek feedback from directly affected landowners on the noise mitigation measures; and identify procedures for the management of operational noise complaints. The Proponent must implement any identified mitigation measures prior to the commencement of operation.	OIA_2 Buronga Substation Noise & Vibration Design Report OIA_2 PEC West Operational Noise Review Rev 6	The Operational Noise Review undertaken during the construction phase of the project, identified only one location near a transmission line, a large shed (with small living area used occasionally) on Low Darling Road Wentworth, could potentially exceed the 40dB(A) trigger level. No at source mitigation measures were considered reasonable or feasible prior to operations as this receiver comprises a large shed which is used for storage of farm plant and equipment and contains a small living area at the back which is utilised on infrequent occasions by the family (there are no permanent residents occupying the shed). No complaints or queries in relation to noise are known to have been raised to date during the operation of the project.	C
Operational Noise Monitoring				
D11	Within 6 months of the commencement of operations (or the commencement of operation of a stage, if the development is to be staged), the Proponent must: undertake noise monitoring to determine whether the development is complying with the relevant conditions of this approval; and submit a copy of the monitoring results to the Department.	OIA_3 EM_230228_R Portal Lodgement Receipt SSI-10400-PA-94 ONR OIA_3 TN803-01F02 PEC West Operational Noise Monitoring Report OIA_3 PEC West - Operational Noise Monitoring Letter DPHI OIA_3 TN803-01F02 PEC West Operational Noise Monitoring (r2)	The outcomes from the transmission line corona noise survey undertaken by Renzo Tonin in Aug/Sep 2025 within 6 months of commencement of operations found that corona noise remained below the requirements of this condition throughout the noise survey at each of the three residences under assessment during each of the periods conducive to generating corona noise.	C
D12	The Proponent must undertake further noise monitoring of the development if required by the Planning Secretary.		Not requested by Secretary	NT
Noise and Vibration CEMP Sub-Plan				
D13	The Noise and Vibration CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must: ensure the requirements in conditions D1 to D12 are complied with; include a description of the reasonable and feasible measures that would be implemented to minimise noise and vibration impacts of the development; include a detailed description of the noise and vibration management system for the development;		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT

	include a protocol for the identification, notification and management of works that exceed the noise management levels; and e) include a monitoring program that evaluates and reports on the effectiveness of the noise and vibration management system.			
Air Quality				
D14	In addition to the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures specified in the EIS, the Proponent must take all reasonable steps to: minimise the off-site dust, fume, blast emissions and other air pollutants of the development; and minimise the surface disturbance of the site.	Site inspection	At the time of the audit site inspection dust was being managed appropriately at Buronga substation during defect rectification and site stabilisation and rehabilitation works. No offsite dust emissions noted. Transmission line sites were well revegetated and not generating dust at the time of the audit site inspection	C
SOIL AND WATER				
Water Supply				
D15	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. 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.	Interview	Buronga substation is on mains supply and water for dust suppression during stabilisation work is sourced from dams on the site.	C
Erosion and Sedimentation				
D16	The Proponent must: minimise erosion and control sediment generation; and 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);	A Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) was engaged by the Contractor to inspect and assess Camp 6 & 7 and OHTL 0X1 to verify the CoA in relation to D54 had been met. Reports sighted Both Camp 6 and Camp 7 were handed back to the Property Owners and Schedule 37 documents signed by owners, and these have been sighted during audit. OIA_12 28052025 Reinstatement Final Camp 7 OIA_12 24072025 Planning for Reinstatement Camp 6 FINAL OIA_12 0X1 CPESC Close Out 45860-G-70071-REP-G-00001.00.IFR Appendix E photos	Positive Observation: Across the majority of former construction sites inspected (transmission related, former ancillary and substation), very good progress has been made in their revegetation and all (with one minor exception noted below), were well stabilised and not subject to erosion.	C
Pollution of Waters				
D17	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.		No evidence of water pollution observed during audit site inspection	C
D18	The Proponent must: ensure that appropriate components of the concrete batching plants and substation are suitably bunded; and minimise any spills of hazardous materials or hydrocarbons and clean up any spills as soon as possible after they occur.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
D19	The Proponent must ensure that any groundwater dewatering activities do not discharge to watercourses.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT

Riparian Areas				
D20	The Proponent must ensure: 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 the geomorphic condition of the major rivers and distributary channels crossed by the development is not impacted		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
Flooding				
D21	The Proponent must ensure that the development: does not materially alter the flood storage capacity, flows or characteristics in the development area or off-site; and is designed, constructed and maintained to reduce impacts on surface water, localised flooding and groundwater at the site unless otherwise agreed by Council.		Maintenance of the sites inspected appeared to be effective in ensuring no localised flooding or groundwater impacts.	C
Acid Sulfate Soils				
D22	The Proponent must ensure that any construction activities in identified areas of acid sulfate soil risk are undertaken in accordance with the Acid Sulfate Soil Manual (Acid Sulfate Soil Management Advisory Committee, 1998).		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
Salinity				
D23	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).		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
Soil and Water CEMP Sub-Plan				
D24	The Soil and Water CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include provisions for: ensuring the requirements in conditions D15 to D23 are complied with; managing flood risk during construction; investigating, assessing and managing contaminated land, soils and groundwater in the development area; investigating, assessing and managing the potential for asbestos and other hazardous materials in the development area; and managing any unexpected and / or suspected contaminated land, asbestos and unexploded ordnance excavated, disturbed or otherwise discovered during construction.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
BIODIVERSITY				
Restrictions on Clearing and Habitat				
D25	Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must: a) ensure that no more than: • 19.6 hectares (ha) of BC Act listed Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW Southwestern Slopes bioregions; • 0.04 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species <i>Acacia acanthoclada</i> (Harrow Wattle);	The Vegetation Clearance Register for the Project was sighted. The last construction phase audit by Ken Holmes in April 2025 confirmed that the clearing limits in this condition had been complied with. Biodiversity Technical Specialist Audit Report April 2025 (Umwelt)	We understand that there has been no additional clearing undertaken on the project since the last construction phase audit in April 2025 which confirmed that the clearing limits had been complied with. WSP has independently confirmed that Transgrid's contractor (Elecnor) has used acceptable and accurate methods to calculate clearing. The EIS/BDAR field verified vegetation was used as the base layer and to assess/quantify the clearing impacts in conjunction with the following methods:	C

	• 0.32 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed flora species <i>Atriplex infrequens</i> (A saltbush); • 1.51 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species <i>Austrostipa nullanulla</i> (A spear-grass); • 14 individuals of BC Act listed <i>Santalum murrayanum</i> (Bitter Quandong); and • 6.91 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed fauna species <i>Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides</i> (Regent Parrot) (eastern subspecies); is cleared for the development; and b) minimise: • the impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees; • the impacts of the development on threatened bird and bat populations; and • the clearing of native vegetation and key habitat.	Site inspection Appendix E photos Nest Box Monitoring Report May 2025 (NGH) Assessment of final vegetation clearing against clearing limits for Project EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) April 2026 (WSP)	• in field data (sub-metre accurate spatial survey = ATS supplied machinery tracking data), and • Review of hi resolution imagery to create 'as built' spatial overlays showing the extent of clearing. The verification of vegetation integrity (VI) post clearing has been undertaken by WSP (BAM Plots/VI assessment), following the accepted methods for field based assessment, consistent with RMM B15. The actual clearing impacts are substantially less than what was predicted in the EIS and approved in the SSI Project approval conditions. We note that annual nest box monitoring is being undertaken as per the EnergyConnect Supplementary Hollow and Nest Strategy (NSW – Western Section) 1 and the EnergyConnect, Connectivity Strategy (NSW – Western Section). For the sake of completeness, we recommend that this requirement also be included in the OEMP as part of the post Audit review of the OEMP. Observation: Include reference to annual nest box monitoring in OEMP as part of post audit review of OEMP	
Biodiversity Offset Package				
D26	Prior to carrying out any development that would impact on biodiversity values, the Proponent must prepare a Biodiversity Offset Package (Package) that is consistent with the EIS, in consultation with BCS and to the satisfaction of the Secretary in writing. The Package must include, but not necessarily be limited to: details of the specific biodiversity offset measures to be implemented and delivered in accordance with the EIS; the cost for each specific biodiversity offset measure, which would be required to be paid into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund if the relevant measure is not implemented and delivered (as calculated in accordance with Division 6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) and the offsets payment calculator that was established as at 29 July 2021); the timing and responsibilities for the implementation and delivery of the measures required in the Package; and confirmation that the biodiversity offset measures will have been implemented and delivered no later than 31 December 2023. Following approval, the Proponent must implement and deliver the Biodiversity Offset Package.	Current Biodiversity Offset Package RFI Evidence of implementation of the Package Private stewardship sites are located at Nulla Nulla Station and Park View. Inspected Transgrid's Big Bend Stewardship site. Installation of boundary fencing to exclude goats etc is being planned for April 2026. Foxes and cats being trapped, survey plots for weeds to assess encroachment of weeds into native vegetation.	Evidence provided and sighted during the audit site inspection indicated that this requirement is satisfied. We understand that work is planned soon on fencing the Big Bend Stewardship Site that is owned by Transgrid. An opportunity exists at this point in time to consider the potential uplift in biodiversity outcomes and credit generation that could be achieved if the fencing was upgraded to a predator (cat, fox etc) proof standard, similar to that on nearby Australian Wildlife Conservancy properties. This would also compliment the feral removal program underway. Observation: That Transgrid consider the opportunity to install a predator (fox, cat etc) proof fence around the perimeter of the Big Bend Stewardship Site and the benefits associated with such a fence (significantly improved conservation outcomes and potential additional biodiversity credit generation, enhanced public perception and social licence outcomes for Transgrid at a corporate / media level, opportunity to work in partnership with AWC on this site and potentially other projects in NSW etc), compared to the currently planned option of a stock proof fence only.	C
D27	Prior to carrying out any development that could impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Proponent must establish an escrow account and pay into that account \$48 million, in accordance with the Deed of Agreement with the Planning Secretary executed on 13 September 2021. The Proponent must comply with the terms of the Deed. Note: this condition provides security to the Minister for the performance of the Proponent's obligations under this approval in relation to biodiversity offsets and release funds for payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Trust in the event that the biodiversity offsets (either in whole or part) are not delivered in accordance with the Package by the Proponent.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
Biodiversity CEMP Sub-Plan				

D28	The Biodiversity CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include: a) a description of the measures that would be implemented for: • minimising the amount of native vegetation clearing within the approved development footprint; • minimising the loss of key fauna habitat, including tree hollows; • minimising the impacts on fauna on site, including undertaking pre-clearance surveys; • minimising the potential indirect impacts on threatened flora and fauna species, migratory species and 'at risk' species; • rehabilitating and revegetating disturbance areas; • protecting native vegetation and key fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance area; • 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 revegetation of the site; • collecting and propagating seed (where relevant); • controlling weeds; • controlling erosion; and • bushfire management; b) details of the Proponent's commitment to make a one off \$150,000 funding contribution targeted at further scientific study into the impacts of electric and magnetic fields on birds in Australia; c) preparation and implementation of a two-year bird impact monitoring program at the commencement of operations; and d) a detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
Heritage				
D29	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy, prepared in consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders and Heritage NSW, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The Strategy must: identify any additional risk zones outside the potential archaeological deposits (PADs) where construction must not commence until subsurface testing in b) and surveys in c) are complete; describe additional subsurface testing that will be undertaken to confirm the significance of the PADs that would be impacted by the final transmission infrastructure design and ancillary facilities in line with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010); describe additional Aboriginal heritage surveys that will be undertaken where ground disturbance activities are required outside of the heritage survey area; include details of ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders, including any written responses and records of any meetings; and include an updated Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, which: • is based on the findings of the subsurface testing in b) and surveys in c); • describes any potential additional impacts to heritage items; • identifies further mitigation measures, including avoidance or salvage; • includes detailed justification where the final transmission line alignment is not able to avoid impacts to heritage items; and		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT

	provides an updated and consolidated list of sites that would be protected and remain in-situ throughout construction and sites that would be salvaged and relocated to suitable alternative locations.			
Avoidance and Salvage				
D30	The Proponent must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to avoid and minimise harm to heritage items and potential archaeological deposits (PADs) identified in the EIS and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy required by condition D29, prior to carrying out any development that could harm the items or deposits.	Transgrid EMS process being followed, example sighted being Moderate Risk Checklist for Replacement of Earth Wire Buronga Substation – STR 58 dated March 2026 which includes identification and location of heritage areas to be avoided	Evidence sighted indicates there is a process and procedures under the EMS in place to minimise harm to known heritage items and PADs during operational maintenance works	C
D31	The Proponent must ensure the development does not cause any harm to heritage items identified for avoidance in the approved Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy or any Aboriginal heritage items located outside the approved development footprint.	Transgrid EMS process being followed, example sighted being Moderate Risk Checklist for Replacement of Earth Wire Buronga Substation – STR 58 dated March 2026 which includes identification and location of heritage areas to be avoided	Evidence sighted indicates there is a process and procedures under the EMS in place to minimise harm to known heritage items and PADs during operational maintenance works	C
D32	Prior to carrying out any activity that could harm heritage items, the Proponent must salvage and relocate all heritage items identified for salvage and relocation in the updated and approved Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy to a suitable alternative location, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010).		No such works have been carried out during operations. All heritage areas are being avoided as per process described above	NT
D33	The Proponent must ensure the development does not cause any harm to heritage items PEC-W-H-1 and PEC-W-SE-H1.		No such works have been carried out during operations. All heritage areas are being avoided as per process described above	NT
Heritage CEMP Sub-Plan				
D34	The Heritage CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must: a) be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person whose appointment has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary; b) include a description of the measures that would be implemented for: - addressing the outcomes of the additional assessment, testing and surveys identified in condition D29; - protecting the heritage items identified in conditions D31 and D33, including fencing off the heritage items (where required) prior to carrying out any development that could harm the heritage items, and protecting any items located outside the approved development corridor; - salvaging and relocating the heritage items identified in condition D32; - minimising and managing the impacts of the development on heritage items within the development corridor, including: – a strategy for the long-term management of any heritage items or material collected during the test excavation or salvage works; - a contingency plan and reporting procedure if: - heritage items outside the approved disturbance area are damaged; - previously unidentified heritage items are found; or - Aboriginal skeletal material is discovered; - 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 - ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders during the implementation of the plan; and c) include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and any heritage impacts of the development.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT				
Designated Heavy and Over-Dimensional Vehicle Routes				
D35	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 2, 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.		No such works have been carried out during operations.	NT
D36	All heavy and light vehicles associated with the development: a) must travel to and from the site via the Primary Access Route described in the EIS, as identified in the figure in Appendix 2; and b) may travel to and from the site via the Secondary Access Routes and Water Supply Routes, subject to the requirements in conditions D37 and D38, to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.		Publicly available access roads to the site are the approved roads and the use of non-approved roads during operations is highly unlikely to occur.	C
Traffic Strategy				
D37	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must prepare a Traffic Strategy, in consultation with the relevant roads authority, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary, which: a) for all access routes: - identifies the location and type of any necessary road upgrades (including roads, intersections, crossing points and access points), including consideration of relevant amenity impacts; - ensures that any road upgrades comply with the Austroads Guide to Road Design (as amended by TfNSW supplements), unless the relevant roads authority agrees otherwise; - includes a detailed assessment of potential impacts of any necessary road upgrades (such as heritage and biodiversity impacts), including consideration of appropriate mitigation measures; - identifies whether intersections, crossing points and access points would be permanent or temporary; and - includes measures for notifying, seeking feedback from and addressing the concerns of impacted residents along the routes; b) for Secondary Access Routes and Water Supply Routes: provides detailed usage of the routes, including maximum daily numbers of heavy and light vehicles and approximate durations of use; - includes an assessment of dust impacts to any residences along the routes and identifies mitigation measures to minimise any impacts; and - identifies any residences along the routes that would experience road traffic noise above the relevant assessment criteria from Table 3 in NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011) due to project-related traffic and identifies mitigation measures to minimise impacts.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
D38	Prior to commencing construction, the proponent must implement the road upgrades and the mitigation measures identified in the Traffic Strategy in condition D37, to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority and the Planning Secretary, respectively.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
Road Maintenance				
D39	The Proponent must: a) undertake an independent dilapidation survey to assess the:		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT

	- existing condition of all local roads on the transport route (including local road crossings) prior to construction, upgrading or decommissioning works; and - condition of all local roads on the transport route (including local road crossings): - within 1 month of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, or within a timeframe agreed to by the relevant roads authority; - on an annual basis during construction, or within a timeframe agreed to by the relevant roads authority; b) repair (or pay the full costs associated with repairing) any damage to local roads on the transport route (including local road crossings), if dilapidation surveys identify that the road has been damaged by the development during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works; in consultation with the relevant roads authority, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.			
Traffic and Transport CEMP Sub-Plan				
D40	The Traffic and Transport CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include: details of the transport route to be used for all development-related traffic; details of the road upgrade works required by condition D38 of this approval; details of the measures that would be implemented to: 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 D39 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;		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT

	a traffic management system for managing over-dimensional vehicles; and fatigue management. comply with the traffic conditions in this approval; include a driver's code of conduct that addresses: travelling speeds; procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development adhere to the designated over dimensional and heavy vehicle routes; procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development implement safe driving practices; and include a detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and the code of conduct; and a flood response plan detailing procedures and options for safe access to and from the site in the event of flooding			
VISUAL AMENITY				
Visual Impact Mitigation				
D41	Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, for a period of 2 years from the commencement of operations, the owners of R1489, R2022 and R2023 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. 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.		No request received to date. Not triggered	NT
Visual Appearance				
D42	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.	Confirmed during site inspection	No changes to the infrastructure have occurred since operations commenced. Revegetation is gradually minimising the visual impact with regard to construction disturbance.	C
Lighting				
D43	The Proponent must: take all reasonable steps to minimise the off-site lighting impacts of the development; and ensure that any external lighting associated with the development: is installed as low intensity lighting (except where required for safety or emergency purposes);	Confirmed during site inspection	No changes at the substation since operations commenced Camps and laydowns have all been decommissioned as per landowner requirements and all lighting removed	C

	does not shine above the horizontal; and complies with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4282:2019 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting.			
HAZARD AND RISK				
Dangerous Goods				
D44	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.	Appendix E photos Sighted internal Transgrid procedure for handling and storage of Dangerous Goods	Appropriate bunding observed of IBCs and other containers at Buronga Sub Station during site inspection	C
Electric and Magnetic Fields				
D45	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 Commission on Nonionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric and magnetic fields (1Hz – 100kHz) (ICNIRP, 2010).	The EMF Assessments/Studies for PECw included both OHTLs 6C/6F, X1/X9, Buronga Substation and the Synchronous Condenser Unit at Buronga.	All of the EMF studies for the substation and transmission lines indicated that the power frequency electric and magnetic field levels near ground level are confirmed to be acceptable to humans, livestock and plants	C
BUSHFIRE SAFETY				
Operating Conditions				
D46	The Proponent must: minimise the fire risks of the development, including managing vegetation fuel loads on-site; ensure that the development: complies with the relevant asset protection requirements in the RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent) and Standards for Asset Protection Zones; 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; incorporates the recommendations of a fire risk assessment as per TransGrid's design standards; 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; develop procedures to manage potential fires on site, in consultation with the RFS and FRNSW; assist the RFS, FRNSW and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site; and notify the relevant local emergency management committee following completion of construction the development, and prior to commencing operations.	APZ in place around substation boundary fence IAO_RFI10 BRG-200600.03.ABD (As Built Drawing showing 35m APZ) IAO_RFI10 Project EnergyConnect (West) - Completion of Construction, Entering Ops Notification [Official] February 2025	Evidence provided indicates that an APZ is included in the design for the substation compound. Relevant emergency management committee members were notified of the commencement of operations. All construction and accommodation camps have effectively been demobilised. A small portion of Camp 6 adjacent to the Buronga Substation is being occupied temporarily for defect rectification work.	C
Emergency Plan				
D47	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Plan and detailed emergency procedures for the development, in consultation with the local Fire Control Centre, 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 at all times. The plan must: a) be consistent with: • RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent);	IAO_RFI11 Buronga 330 kV Substation Emergency Response Manual MNA-SUB-ERM-302 IOA_RFI11 Transmission Lines Emergency Response Procedure: MMS-TLC-ERM-092 IAO_RFI10 BRG-200600.03.ABD (As Built Drawing showing 35m APZ)	Evidence available indicates this requirement is satisfied with respect to operations	C

	• RFS's Development Planning - A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan; • the Fire and Rescue NSW Act 1989; • 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; 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 firefighting activities and procedures to manage identified hazards during firefighting activities; j) include details of the location, management and maintenance of any Asset Protection Zone 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: • there is a fire on-site or in the vicinity of the site; • there are any activities on site that would have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; or • 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.			
Waste				
D48	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, b) waste generation must be reduced; 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.	Site inspection and interview	Evidence available indicates this requirement is satisfied with respect to operations	C
D49	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.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
D50	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.	Records indicate wastes being exported from site are being directed to either Wentworth Council WWTP (septic liquid wastes) or Buronga landfill for	Evidence available indicates this requirement is satisfied with respect to operations	C

		General Solid Wastes. Cleanaway receipts sighted for disposal to Buronga Landfill. SecureEnergy JV Buronga Stockpile Material Assessment, 31 May 2024 (Ramboll Australia) letter provided as evidence that approximately 25,000m³ of soil and aggregate stockpiled material (derived from the Buronga Sub Station pad) proposed to be retained for reuse on the site will not result in an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. It is understood that this material was reused as part of the rehabilitation and reinstatement program within the Buronga site and has not been exported offsite. Specifically, the material was utilised/re-used to sheet retained access tracks within site, while the 'topsoil' was reinstated as topsoil in disturbed areas (Transgrid email dated 13/5/26).		
D51	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.	Waste Register sighted which indicates ongoing appropriate recording of waste removed from site since operations commenced in September 2025. Waste source (site location), description, classification and type, receiving facility, quantity, transporter, receipt number and whether or not recycled details are recorded in the Register.	Evidence available indicates this requirement is satisfied with respect to operations	C
Accommodation Camp				
D52	Prior to establishing the accommodation camps, the Proponent must prepare an Accommodation Camp Management Plan to the satisfaction of Council, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. The plan must: a) ensure utilities at the accommodation camps, including water, wastewater, waste and electricity, are designed and located in accordance with Council specifications and relevant standards, in consultation with Council; b) ensure the accommodation camp complies with conditions D21 and D46; c) ensure any treated wastewater from the accommodation camps used for dust suppression during construction: • complies with the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) & Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ) (2000) guidelines for irrigation water quality; • meets the requirements of the Public Health Act 2010; d) include measure for dust suppression within the accommodation camps; e) provide the site layout including building locations, vehicle access and movement, site servicing and utilities infrastructure; and f) include measures to support local suppliers in servicing the camp where possible. Following approval, the Proponent must implement the Accommodation Camp Management Plan.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
Local Business and Employment Strategy				
D53	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must prepare a Local Business and Employment Strategy for the development in consultation with Council. This strategy must investigate options for prioritising the employment of local and Aboriginal workforce and suppliers for the construction of the development, where feasible.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT

	The Proponent must implement the Accommodation and Employment Strategy.											
Rehabilitation												
D54	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, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives in Table 3. Table 3: Rehabilitation Objectives <table><tr><th>Feature</th><th>Objective</th></tr><tr><td>Ancillary facilities, accommodation camps, earthwork material sites, the existing 220 kV transmission line between Buronga substation and the NSW / Victoria border (Line 0X1), and the temporary bypass transmission line between Tower 1 and Tower 19 of existing transmission line 0X1.</td><td> - Safe, stable and non-polluting - Progressively rehabilitate the site as soon as possible following disturbance - To be decommissioned and removed, unless Planning Secretary agrees otherwise </td></tr><tr><td>Land use</td><td> - Restore land capability to pre-existing use </td></tr><tr><td>Community</td><td> - Ensure public safety at all times </td></tr></table>	Feature	Objective	Ancillary facilities, accommodation camps, earthwork material sites, the existing 220 kV transmission line between Buronga substation and the NSW / Victoria border (Line 0X1), and the temporary bypass transmission line between Tower 1 and Tower 19 of existing transmission line 0X1.	- Safe, stable and non-polluting - Progressively rehabilitate the site as soon as possible following disturbance - To be decommissioned and removed, unless Planning Secretary agrees otherwise	Land use	Restore land capability to pre-existing use	Community	Ensure public safety at all times	A Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) was engaged by the Contractor to inspect and assess Camp 6 & 7 and OHTL 0X1 to verify the CoA in relation to D54 had been met. Reports sighted Both Camp 6 and Camp 7 were handed back to the Property Owners and Schedule 37 documents signed by owners, and these have been sighted during audit. OIA_12 28052025 Reinstatement Final Camp 7 OIA_12 24072025 Planning for Reinstatement Camp 6 FINAL OIA_12 0X1 CPESC Close Out 45860-G-70071-REP-G-00001.00.IFR Appendix E photos	Evidence provided and observed during the site inspection indicates that this requirement has been complied with in respect of Camp 6 and 7. Observation: A swale drain located outside the security fence of the substation and formerly part of the earthworks material site (Arumpo Road side) was showing signs of rill erosion. It is recommended that coir logs be installed in this drain prior to its finalisation and installation of rock check dams along its length.	C
Feature	Objective											
Ancillary facilities, accommodation camps, earthwork material sites, the existing 220 kV transmission line between Buronga substation and the NSW / Victoria border (Line 0X1), and the temporary bypass transmission line between Tower 1 and Tower 19 of existing transmission line 0X1.	- Safe, stable and non-polluting - Progressively rehabilitate the site as soon as possible following disturbance - To be decommissioned and removed, unless Planning Secretary agrees otherwise											
Land use	Restore land capability to pre-existing use											
Community	Ensure public safety at all times											
PART E - ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, REPORTING AND AUDITING												
Revision Of Strategies, Plans and Programs												
E1	The Proponent must review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans or programs required under this approval to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within 3 months of the: • submission of an incident report under condition E6; • submission of an audit report under condition E11; or • any modification to the conditions of this approval.		Note that on submission of this IEA report this condition will be triggered	NT								
Staging, Combining and Updating Strategies, Plans or Programs												
E2	With the approval of the Planning Secretary, the Proponent may: a) prepare and submit any strategy, plan or program 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 or program applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan or program); b) combine any strategy, plan or program required by this approval (if a clear relationship is demonstrated between the strategies, plans or programs that are proposed to be combined); and c) update any strategy, plan or program required by this approval (to ensure the strategies, plans and programs 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 or program may be staged or updated without consultation being undertaken with all parties required to be consulted in the relevant condition in this approval. If approved by the Planning Secretary, updated strategies, plans or programs supersede the previous versions of them and must be implemented in accordance with the condition that requires the strategy, plan or program. If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan or program may be staged without addressing particular requirements of the relevant condition of this approval if those requirements are not applicable		Not triggered to date	NT								

	to the particular stage.			
Notifications				
Notification of Department				
E3	Prior to commencing 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.	Letter to Secretary from Transgrid dated 8 September 2025 notifying DPHI that project has commenced full operation of the transmission line. Major project portal receipt for submission also sighted	Evidence available indicates this requirement is satisfied with respect to operations	C
Final Layout Plans				
E4	Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must submit detailed plans of the final layout of the development to the Department via the Major Projects website, including: a) details on siting of transmission towers, ancillary infrastructure and / or ancillary facilities; and b) showing comparison to the approved layout. The Proponent must ensure that the development is constructed in accordance with the Final Layout Plans.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
Work as Executed Plans				
E5	Prior to commencing operations, the Proponent must submit plans that confirm the constructed layout of the development and showing comparison to the final layout plans to the Planning Secretary, via the Major Projects website.	Work as executed drawings sighted for Lines 1 and 4 and Major Project portal receipt showing submission of drawings to Secretary via the Portal	Evidence available indicates this requirement is satisfied with respect to operations	C
Incident Notification				
E6	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 if it has one) 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 3.		Not triggered since operations commenced	NT
Non-Compliance Notification				
E7	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.		Not triggered since operations commenced	NT
E8	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.		Not triggered since operations commenced	NT
E9	A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a noncompliance.		Not triggered since operations commenced	NT
Notification of Landowners				
E10	Prior to the commencement of construction, the Proponent must notify the owners of the owners of R1489, R2022 and R2023 of their rights under condition D41.		This audit is an operational audit, and this requirement relates to pre-construction or construction.	NT
INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT				

E11	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.	This audit report	This audit report provides evidence to satisfy this requirement	C
ACCESS TO INFORMATION				
E15	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 or programs 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.	Project website below contains all of the required information which is up to date or links to it: https://www.transgrid.com.au/projects-innovation/energyconnect#Planning-and-approvals	Evidence available indicates this requirement is satisfied with respect to operations	C

OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN CHECKLIST

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
OIA_1	General	Section 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. - Maintenance works based on defects raised in inspections.	Partially Triggered – the TL is currently under Defect Liability Period. Nil Transgrid operational activities requiring a Checklist under Transgrid EAF on 6C/6F to date. Defect Rectification on X1/X9, Contractor (Elecnor) has undertaken OHEW re-stringing on X1/X9. A Risk Checklist in accordance with TransGrid's Environmental Assessment Framework (EAF) was compiled and handed over to the Contractor. EMRC and associated documentation (Ref OIA_1). Photos, Appendix E	Records and site evidence indicate maintenance of the project is being undertaken as per the OEMP. Good evidence of easement vegetation maintenance and landscaping was observed during the site inspection	C
OIA_2	Noise	Section 5.2.1. Operational noise review TransGrid engaged a suitably qualified and experienced consultant to undertake an Operational Noise Review (ONR) of the project. The operational noise review collated all the relevant environmental noise assessments and design reports prepared for the Transmission Lines and the Buronga Substation operations.	Two Noise Assessment Reports were commissioned that determined Noise Levels would be below the prescribed limits with the exception of a rural shed that is not used for permanent accommodation: OIA_2 Buronga Substation Noise & Vibration Design Report OIA_2 PEC West Operational Noise Review Rev 6	The ONR identified only one location near a transmission line, a large shed (with small living area used occasionally) on Low Darling Road Wentworth, could potentially exceed the 40dB(A) trigger level. No at source mitigation measures were reasonable or feasible and as this receiver comprises a large shed which is used for storage of farm plant and equipment and contains a small living area at the back which is utilised on infrequent occasions by the family (there are no permanent residents occupying the shed) it was considered eligible for treatment where practical.	C
OIA_3	Noise	Section 5.2.2. Noise monitoring	OIA_3 EM_230228_R Portal Lodgement Receipt SSI-10400-PA-94 ONR	The outcomes from the transmission line corona noise survey undertaken by Renzo	C

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
		Within 6 months of the commencement of operation TransGrid will undertake noise monitoring to determine whether the development is complying with the conditions of approval. Monitoring of operational noise shall be undertaken in accordance with conditions D9, D11 and D12, as deemed necessary, and the methodology is as follows: - Project documentation review - including ONR and NOIA acoustic assessment, Conditions of Approval, operational information and prevailing meteorological conditions historical data. - Operational noise monitoring - determine the monitoring conditions are suitable in the upcoming period, prepare and send the monitoring equipment. - Conduct site visits	OIA_3 TN803-01F02 PEC West Operational Noise Monitoring Report OIA_3 PEC West - Operational Noise Monitoring Letter DPHI OIA_3 TN803-01F02 PEC West Operational Noise Monitoring (r2)	Tonin in Aug/Sep 2025 within 6 months on commencement of operations found that corona noise remained below the noise limit requirements of CoC D9 throughout the noise survey at each of the three residences under assessment during each of the periods conducive to generating corona noise.	
OIA_4	Biodiversity	Section 5.2.3.1. Bird impact monitoring TransGrid to engage a consultant to prepare and implement a bird impact monitoring program (BIMP) in accordance with project condition D28, REMM mitigation measures B6 and B8, and the PECW BDAR. - This monitoring program (BIMP) will start from commencement of asset operation and include: - Transgrid facilitated engagement with the department (where required) - Development of a bird impact monitoring program and methodology - Quarterly monitoring (in each season) at a minimum three BDAR specified wetland/riverine locations for all nominated key species. BDAR nominated key species include <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> (White-bellied Sea Eagle), <i>Hamirostra melanosternon</i> (Black-breasted Buzzard) <i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i> (Little Eagle), <i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i> (Pink Cockatoo) and <i>Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides</i> (Regent Parrot (eastern subspecies)) - Monitoring will be undertaken for a period of two years - Annual reports of the results of the field surveys will be prepared at the end of Year 1 and Year 2 and provided to the Department and BCS for information. - The annual reports will provide insight into bird strike matters associated with the asset and nominated species, and report on the effectiveness of mitigation measures applied during construction. - The annual reports will also provide monitoring program recommendations, and detail opportunities for further proposed mitigation measures (should a need be identified) - TransGrid will further engage with the department should an additional need for mitigation measures be identified. Where such additional measures need to be applied, TransGrid will review proposed measures for feasibility, and if voidable seek internal asset management support for implementation. - The need for additional bird impact monitoring will be considered should additional mitigation measures be applied. Also refer to Table 5-1 for key impacts biodiversity flora and fauna	WSP was engaged on the 10/09/2024 to provide and implement the Bird Impact Monitoring Program in accordance with D28c). The 2025 Annual Report is due from WSP but was not made available in time for us to review. Recent wet weather prior to the site inspection prevented access to riparian areas where Bird Diverters have been installed on the spans identified as per the approval (1km buffer of nominated waterways / waterbodies). We were provided with photo evidence of these (Appendix E) RMM B6 required line marking to be implemented "most likely consisting of the 'flapper type'". As per the RMM, position and diverter model were finalised during detailed design, refer to IAO_RFI1 TL-860516.00.IFC (Bird Diverter DWG) (Appendix E) 'As Built Design' Line Schedule records Spans with bird diverters. Mapping provided showing 1km Buffer Areas and spans where diverters were installed.	Evidence available indicates this requirement is being met noting, however, that we were not able to review the 2025 Annual Report on bird impact monitoring at the time of the audit but understand this report is in preparation by WSP.	C
OIA_5	Biodiversity	Section 5.2.3.2. Study of impact of electric and magnetic fields on birds TransGrid has made a one-off funding contribution to Charles Sturt University (CSU) to sponsor a PhD research proposal, looking at the impacts of electric and magnetic fields on birds in Australia. This contribution meets the requirements of project condition D28(b) and REMM B9. CSU have advised their research scope as follows:	Payment made to CSU. Transgrid has been assisting the CSU PhD candidate by	Research project is currently underway; evidence indicates this	C

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
		- To determine if powerlines and transmission networks induce significant effects on scavenger/predator behaviour and increase carcass removal rates in comparison to non-powerline areas - To determine if current assessments of mortality provide accurate assessments of powerline-based mortality - To determine if transmission towers act as a suitable nesting site for birds of prey and could additional mitigation measures be used to bolster these populations along transmission lines; and - To determine if powerlines and associated transmission networks significantly affect agricultural production systems by increasing pest animal removal through predation The scope of the study is at the discretion of CSU academic endorsement and not subject to Transgrid or departmental review. CSU have advised the end date for study as no later than October 2027 at which point the final PHD thesis will be prepared.	allowing site access and other collaborative requests CSU Research Proposal September 2023 sighted Notification requests received by Transgrid indicate the PhD student has accessed site for the study	requirement is being met	
OIA_6	Network and asset data	Section 5.2.4. Visual amenity For a period of 2 years from the commencement of operations, the owners of properties R1489, R2022 and R2023 may request Transgrid to implement visual impact mitigation measures on their land to minimise the visual impacts of the development on their residence (unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise), in accordance with condition D41. If Transgrid receives such a written request from the owner of these residences, then will implement appropriate mitigation measures (such as landscaping and vegetation screening) in consultation with the owner.	No requests have been received to date	Visual Amenity under D41 requirement Not Triggered to date	NT
OIA_7	Heritage	Section 5.2.5. Heritage All known sites below as defined in the Heritage report as part of EIS (Technical paper 2 Non-Aboriginal & Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Navin Officer, Oct 2020) and any unexpected finds or changes to cultural heritage sites, including potential Archaeological Deposits, as a result of test excavation and salvage are to be mapped and recorded within GIS systems managed by Transgrid prior to any operational maintenance or works occurring in accordance with mitigation measures AH12. Where extant known Aboriginal sites are located close to maintenance activities or works during for the operational phase of the project, mitigation measures to protect the sites include: - Mapping of heritage sites on construction plans - access Transgrid GIS for information - Ensure that known sites are marked on work plans before commencing work - 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. This is managed through our Environmental Assessment Framework process and Contractor HSE Management procedure. - Any excavation or ground disturbing works in the vicinity of identified cultural heritage sites must be reviewed by a Transgrid Environment Business Partner (E5) If any unexpected finds are found during the operation phase of the project, they will be managed in accordance with Transgrid procedure - Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment (Appendix D - Unexpected Finds Protocol) and Environmental Guidance Note - Heritage	Updated post construction heritage spatial data and information has been provided to TransGrid's Environmental Team and Spatial Team for upload into TSS. Spatial Team have confirmed recent AHIMS data refresh (18/2/2026) is consistent with the project data and this was sighted during audit interview Environmental Moderate Risk Checklist for Re-Stringing of Earth wire X1/X9 March-April 2026	Moderate Risk Checklists used to assess and approve works involving moderate risks during operations. These checklists include all of the heritage related information required under this section of the OEMP. There have not been any unexpected heritage finds during operations to date	C
OIA_8	Land Use and Property	Section 5.2.6. Land Use and Property Fencing and access arrangements along the transmission line easement will be determined in consultation with the landholders (see Section 7.3), to meet the requirements of mitigation measure LP10. 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.	Schedule 37 documents provided by Contractor via TeamBinder have been sighted (e.g. Camp 6) and comply with the requirements of the OEMP All Landowner requirements are recorded into Salesforce and final Property Owner Load data has been supplied by the Project. Operational Access Tracks (showing access off public roads into and on private property) has been loaded into TSS. This information was	Evidence sighted indicates compliance with this requirement	C

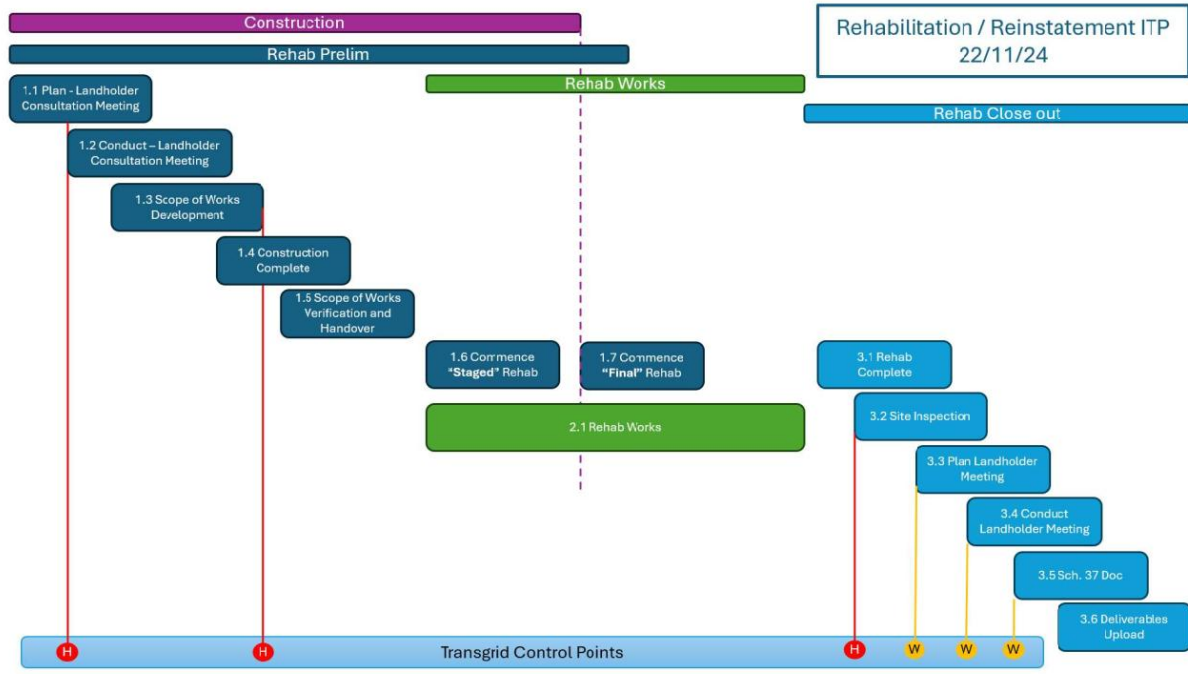
A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
			derived from approved construction access and Landowner Consultation for operational access.		
OIA_9	Weeds	Section 5.2.7.1. Weeds Two priority weeds for the Western region are identified within the Project area: • <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> (African boxthorn) • <i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> (Indian fig) Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land and should mitigate spread from their land. These plants should not be carried or released into the environment. In addition to priority weeds and, the following were also recorded as known in the region: • <i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i> (onion weed) • <i>Emex australis</i> (Spiny Emex) • <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> (Horehound) • <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> (Tree Tobacco) • <i>Onopordum acaulon</i> (Stemless Thistle) • <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> (Cathead) • <i>Xanthium occidentale</i> (Noogoora Burr). Known/recorded infestations of weeds will be recorded spatially in TransGrid's operational systems. All workers on site are to be made aware of weed species.	Weed occurrence spatial data was not provided in the EIS or by the Contractor during the Construction phase of the Project. No known/recorded infestations have been identified to date, and none were observed during the site inspection.	No known/recorded infestations have been identified to date. TransGrid's spatial data system has the capability to record this information if required	C
OIA_10	Biosecurity	Section 5.2.7.2. Biosecurity requirements adjoining lands Operational biosecurity requirements are to be confirmed in consultation with any affected landholders in accordance with mitigation measure LP11. All operational access and activity would be limited to properties that are transmission line easement or access easement affected. Any required biosecurity controls for weeds, disease and other pathogens will be implemented during operational maintenance and management measures implemented to minimise the risk of off-easement transport or spread of diseases, pests or weeds during maintenance activities.	Property specific Biosecurity requirements are held within Transgrid SalesForce CRM system, the Transgrid Land & Community (TLC) database for managing relationships with stakeholders and interactions within the community. TransGrid's Biosecurity Procedure and Environmental Guidance Note included in Environmental Moderate Risk Checklist for Re-Stringing of Earth wire X1/X9 March-April 2026 which also included details of authorised access points and tracks and requirement to check with the land manager if they have a biosecurity plan in place and what is needed to comply with the plan	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_11	Hazard and Risk	Section 5.2.8. Hazards and risks - Buronga substation The Buronga substation Emergency Response Manual has been updated to include the required revised emergency response procedures as per the requirements of mitigation measure HR15. Transgrid will undertake a review to confirm if the manual requires an update post construction. Refer to Transgrid Document: Buronga 330kV Switching Substation Emergency Response Manual: MNASUB-ERM-302 Rev 12.	The current revision of the Manual (Rev 13) and Drawings are located in the Buronga Substation Control Room (AS confirmed). 01A_11Buronga 330 kV Substation Emergency Response Manual MNA-SUB-ERM-302.	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
			Emergency Response Manual (currently Rev 13 – has been reviewed by TG in 2024). Upon completion of PEC SP2 the Manual will be updated.		
OIA_12	Rehabilitation	Section 5.2.9. 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 D54. A rehabilitation plan (Appendix B) will be prepared by Transgrid to ensure the rehabilitation complies with the objectives identified in Table 3 of the NSW Infrastructure approval. A rehabilitation plan is required following the installation of the infrastructure for the Victorina component of the works. The rehabilitation plan is the responsibility of the contractor delivering Project Energy Connect. The plans will be prepared to comply with the requirements of Condition 3 and 20 of the planning permits.	A Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) was engaged by the Contractor to inspect and assess Camp 6 & 7 and OHTL 0X1 to verify the CoA in relation to D54 had been met. Reports sighted Both Camp 6 and Camp 7 were handed back to the Property Owners and Schedule 37 documents signed by owners, and these have been sighted during audit. OIA_12 28052025 Reinstatement Final Camp 7 OIA_12 24072025 Planning for Reinstatement Camp 6 FINAL OIA_12 0X1 CPESC Close Out 45860-G-70071-REP-G-00001.00.IFR Appendix E photos	Positive Observation: Across nearly all former construction sites inspected (transmission, former ancillary and substation), very good progress has been made in their revegetation and were well stabilised and not subject to erosion.	C
OIA_13	Waste	Section 5.2.10. 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.	Negligible operational waste has been generated. Waste generated from the Defect Rectification activities on X1/X9, have been included in the Project Waste Register and available in Transgrid's Waste Dashboard.	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_14	Monitoring and Auditing	Section 6.2. Environmental Monitoring and Auditing Transgrid will undertake ongoing monitoring and auditing of operations as per the HSE Audit and Assurance Schedule. The Schedule is focused on Critical Risks. Figure 6-1: Transgrid HSE Audit and assurance schedule 2023-2025	No internal Transgrid audit has been triggered to date other than this Operational IEA which is required under the Project Approval Periodic Rehabilitation Inspections are being undertaken by Transgrid (e.g. Checklist dated 13 Jan 2026) which were sighted	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
			Corrective Actions from inspections are raised with Elecnor who send verification back on actions taken. Fortnightly meetings with PEC Project enviro team review actions. Observation Register sighted which includes status of items raised		
OIA_15	Inspection	Section 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.	As per OIA15 above	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_16	Consultation	Section 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 CEMS. All ministerial enquiries must be referred to the Government and Stakeholder Relations team.		Not triggered to date other than the agency consultation undertaken as part of defining the scope of this IEA	NT
OIA_17	Complaints	Section 7.4. Complaints handling Transgrid maintains a Complaints and Enquiries policy, which will be relevant for the operational phase of this project.	During Construction the Complaints Register was managed by the Contractor and submitted to Transgrid Monthly. During Operations, complaints are registered and managed in Salesforce.	No Complaints have been recorded since entering operations	NT
OIA_18	Incident	Section 8.2. 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 (CAMMS) 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	Riskconnect (CAMMs) checked and no incidents for PEC-W have been raised in the last 6 months.	No incidents have been recorded since entering operations	NT

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
		- GM of Health, Safety and Environment – all major and catastrophic incidents must be reported to the GM of Health, Safety and Environment 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 HSE/PC&S 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 CAMMS, 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 Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager 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.			
B. Appendix B – Rehabilitation Management Plan					
OIA_19	RMP	Section 4.2. Implementing the objectives The Progressive Erosion and Sediment Control Plans (PESCPs) are prepared and implemented for locations where soil disturbance will occur. The PESCPs outline controls to be implemented to manage and minimise soil erosion, and movement of sediment and other pollutants to land and/or waters. The PESCPs are progressively updated throughout the project to reflect the current construction activities occurring on site and to allow the removal of any measures that are ineffective or no longer needed. As construction finalises, areas will become progressively available for stabilisation. Unless otherwise requested by the landowner, areas will be stabilised through the application of retained topsoil and natural regeneration. Application of cover crop (seed) may also occur; however, consideration will need to be made of the available water supply and effectiveness of such an approach. The PESCPs will provide detail in relation to the measures which will be applied specific to each site. As required, advice will also be sought from the soil conservationist in relation to these measures.	Across nearly all former construction sites inspected (transmission, former ancillary and substation), very good progress has been made in their revegetation and all (with one exception noted below), were well stabilised and not subject to erosion. Appendix E photos	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_20	RMP	Section 4.2. Implementing the objectives Areas such as the existing 220kV transmission line (OX1), Buronga accommodation camp and construction compound and the Wentworth accommodation camp and construction compound were used during construction of the project, with rehabilitation of these sites occurring following decommissioning and removal of the temporary infrastructure. Areas such as the earthworks Material site will be rehabilitated once use of the site is complete. As recommended by the NSW DPI guideline, harnessing natural processes or natural regeneration was considered as a first option for re-establishing native vegetation. Natural regeneration involves the germination of seedlings from seed fall or existing nearby vegetation and is an effective method of establishing a large number of plants, particularly where establishment is required at a large scale. Natural regeneration is also a form of rehabilitation.	Camp 6 and Camp 7 were requested by Property Owners to be retained. Approval has been sought from DPHI to retain. Records sighted indicate approval granted (updated request was sent to DPHI for retention of several laydown areas at Buronga Substation – DPHI has not responded to date). Rehabilitation of the Buronga Site commenced in November 2025 and the bulk of the rehabilitation earthworks (as per the Rehabilitation Plan Rev C were undertaken) as confirmed during the inspection of this site. Implementation of hydro-mulching and seeding was planned for Autumn. Due to a significant rainfall event (beyond design requirements), some damage and site preparation	Across nearly all former construction sites inspected (transmission, former ancillary and substation), very good progress has been made in their revegetation and in nearly all cases were well stabilised and not subject to erosion.	C

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
			works are required prior to hydro-mulching/seeding. • OIA_20 0X1 CPESC Close Out • OIA_20 28052025 Reinstatement Final Camp 7 • OIA_20 24072025 Planning for Reinstatement Camp 6 FINAL • OIA_20 SSI 10040 - PEC-West - Ancillary facilities retention Initial • OIA_20 Buronga Rehabilitation Plan 45860-HSE-PL-D-0151.C.IFR • OIA_20 DPHI Approval - D54 - Approval to keep Camp 6 and 7 Appendix E photos		
OIA_21	RMP	Section 4.2. Implementing the objectives Once construction has been completed and within 6 months of entering operations, temporary infrastructure will be decommissioned and removed, unless agreed by the Planning Secretary. In general, decommissioning activities will involve the following: • disconnecting redundant services including power; • removal of accommodation facilities; • removal of other temporary buildings; and • removal of temporary construction fencing.	Camps 6 and 7 have been substantially decommissioned (particularly Camp 7) and handed back to the relevant landowners in the agreed state. Parts of Camp 6 are still in use adjacent to the Buronga Substation while defects close out works continue there. Equipment on site is being used for defects liability work at Buronga some of which is associated with PEC East and some of which is operational laydown. Final rehabilitation activities for Buronga Substation scheduled for April 2026.	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_22	RMP	Section 4.2. Implementing the objectives The pre-existing use of the ancillary facilities, accommodation camps, and the earthworks material site is agricultural land. Consultation with the landholders continues to occur to ensure that the land is returned to its pre-existing use and to the satisfaction of the landowner.	As per above the ancillary facilities for Buronga Substation have not yet completed rehabilitation/reinstatement as SP2 and defect works are currently being undertaken. Rehabilitation will be undertaken as per the Buronga Substation CPESC recommendations and the Rehabilitation Plan Rev C.	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
OIA_23-37	RMP	5. Rehabilitation Methodology The following diagram sets out the methodology that will be undertaken for the rehabilitation works.  The diagram illustrates the Rehabilitation Methodology. It shows a timeline from Construction to Rehab Close out. Key milestones include: 1.1 Plan - Landholder Consultation Meeting, 1.2 Conduct - Landholder Consultation Meeting, 1.3 Scope of Works Development, 1.4 Construction Complete, 1.5 Scope of Works Verification and Handover, 1.6 Commence "Staged" Rehab, 1.7 Commence "Final" Rehab, 2.1 Rehab Works, 3.1 Rehab Complete, 3.2 Site Inspection, 3.3 Plan Landholder Meeting, 3.4 Conduct Landholder Meeting, 3.5 Sch. 37 Doc, and 3.6 Deliverables Upload. A box indicates 'Rehabilitation / Reinstatement ITP 22/11/24'. A 'Transgrid Control Points' bar at the bottom marks specific points in the timeline.	Post Construction Landowner Schedule 37 Letters have been submitted to Transgrid via TeamBinder and these were sighted during the audit. OHTL areas were subject to rehabilitation during Construction, not operations. The only areas subject to additional rehabilitation during Operations were on X1/X9 TWRS 53-58 (post OHEW re-stringing).	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
Appendix C - Environmental Spatial					
OIA_38	ES	Transgrid utilises Spatial data to undertake environmental constraints, risks and due diligence assessments within NSW and ACT.	Data is updated if new info (e.g. AHIMs etc) is updated or can be inserted if needed. Spatial data mapping is used in the preparation of Medium Risk Works Checklists which were sighted and which include environmental constraints and risk assessments	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_39	ES	Transgrid maintain a procedure: Environmental Spatial Data Due Diligence detailing Transgrid's governance of the environmental spatial data and the Spatial Environment reports generated from that spatial data.	As per above	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_40	ES	This procedure also provides assurance that the latest datasets are being utilised and that any risks associated with the spatial data have been considered and are documented.	Review of spatial data is carried out by the Spatial Team as per frequency indicated in the Spatial Data Due Diligence Procedure. OIA_40 Data Environmental Data Review 2026 OIA_40 FW_ Enviro Static Data Review_2026 This review was last undertaken in February 2026.	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
Appendix D - Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence					
OIA_41	AHDD	Section 4.2.2. Review of Proposed Activities If the proposed activity does not involve ground disturbance or disturbance to mature trees which might be Culturally Modified Trees, there is no requirement for further assessment in relation to Aboriginal heritage. Caution should still be exercised in carrying out the activity, and if Aboriginal objects are found, work must be stopped (refer to the Unexpected Finds Protocol at Appendix A), and an AHIP obtained if those objects are to be harmed. If the proposed activity involves disturbance of the ground or any mature trees which might be Culturally Modified Trees, proceed to 4.3.3. It should be kept in mind that disturbance of the ground might arise, for example, in the course of operating machinery or erecting a structure over land. Refer to the definition of Ground Disturbance in this ACH DDA for further guidance.	EMRC and associated documentation (Ref OIA_1). OIA_48 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Procedure Works during Operations (and Defect Liability period) are assessed as per the Due Diligence Procedure – EAF Risk Checklists were compiled and handed over to the Contractor. These were sighted during the audit.	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_42	AHDD	Section 4.2.3. Review of known Heritage Sites and/or Landscape Features on Disturbed and Undisturbed Land For identifying existing Aboriginal Heritage sites that have been recorded in the area, conduct a search within 100 metres of the work site by utilising TSS. If TSS is unavailable, a search using the AHIMS database must be undertaken, together with a check of any other known sources of relevant information (if any) such as relevant previous studies, reports, assessments or surveys. An AHIMS search result cannot be relied on if it is more than 12 months old. If there is reason to believe that the information on AHIMS is not up to date or is inaccurate, the AHIMS registrar should be contacted (ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au). If a known Aboriginal site is identified within 100 metres of the proposed activity, then the Site Cards, and any other relevant information must be obtained to verify the precise location, type and extent of the site. If the Site Card or other information cannot be verified or identifies that an Aboriginal site cannot be avoided, then a site inspection by an Authorised Officer will be required to determine if the proposed work could harm the site or whether all harm can be avoided. Possible solutions to avoid harm may include changing the area of the activity footprint, changing its orientation, re-routing infrastructure trenching or incorporating a no development area into the design. If it is determined that all harm cannot be avoided, then SAA will be required, and it may be necessary to obtain an AHIP before the activity can be carried out. Refer to step 4.3.4. If it is determined that all impacts to known Aboriginal sites can be avoided, consideration still needs to be given to whether there are any sensitive landscape features in the vicinity. Proceed to step 4.3.3.1. If a known site is not identified through a search undertaken using TSS (for Transgrid internal assessments) or AHIMS (for external assessments) and there are no other known sources of relevant information which indicate that the area is an Aboriginal site, then consideration needs to be given to whether there are any sensitive landscape features in the vicinity. Critical in this consideration is whether the proposed work is to be undertaken on disturbed or undisturbed land. Proceed to step 4.3.3.1 for a description of requirements.	As above.	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_43	AHDD	Section 4.2.4. Specialist Archaeological Advice (SAA) If SAA is required, then a heritage specialist must provide advice on further assessment requirements. Provision of SAA may include liaison with DPIE Heritage staff, where clarification of heritage related matters is required. Where external heritage specialists are engaged, the provision of SAA must be overseen by an E5 Authorised Officer, including a review of the scope of works and any requirements for site inspections, to ensure the assessment is appropriate and relevant only to the sites/features identified in the above Due Diligence Assessment. The outcome from the SAA process could be any one of the following: - The risk rating may be changed based on SAA from DPIE, - Impact to a site or landscape feature can be avoided or the likelihood of Aboriginal objects being present is low and works can proceed on the basis that the recommended controls and mitigations are implemented. - Impact to a site cannot be avoided and an AHIP will be required before works can proceed (refer to Appendix C for more detail).	Not Triggered.		NT

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
		- The Potential for Aboriginal artefacts is low within a given landscape feature and works can proceed with caution, in accordance with the Heritage Environmental Guidance Note. - The Potential for Aboriginal objects is high within a given landscape feature and an AHIP may be required before works can proceed (refer to Appendix C for more detail).			
OIA_44	AHDD	Section 4.2.5. Qualifications of Heritage Specialists Minimum qualifications required to comply with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of archaeology or equivalent experience (see definitions) or be employed by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage as a Heritage Officer. When engaging an external heritage specialist, their relevant qualifications must be provided and checked in accordance with the Code. Heritage specialists engaged by TransGrid to assess sites delineated through the Desktop Risk Assessment Process are deemed to be Authorised Officers for the purposes of this procedure. For assessments carried out by external contractors, a TransGrid Authorised Officer must review the assessment and provide confirmation that the findings are reasonable and justified.	Not triggered.		NT
OIA_45	AHDD	Section 4.2.6. Consultation Consultation with the Aboriginal Community is not a formal requirement of the Due Diligence Assessment process. However, this can be considered if it can assist in the assessment and decision making. Consultation can occur with support from a heritage specialist or can occur directly between TransGrid and the community for low risk or maintenance activities, or if there is a specific requirement outlined by a government authority. For larger scale projects, it may be prudent to contact DPIE directly to seek consultation advice. Note that formal consultation with the Aboriginal Community (through the Local Aboriginal Land Councils) may be a requirement of the approval from the relevant landowner/land manager (e.g. NPWS, Forestry Corporation of NSW). If this is the case, then this should be factored in prior to undertaking the ACH DDA for a project or maintenance activity. Note: If it has been determined that an AHIP is required, consultation shall be undertaken in accordance with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010	Not triggered.		NT
OIA_46	AHDD	Section 4.2.7. Documentation Where an ACH DDA process is undertaken, all documentation involved in the assessment must be retained. Documentation should be stored alongside the EMRC/ELRC or SER/REF. This will include any evidence gathered and reviewed (e.g. TSS reports, DPIE Site Cards, photos, and site assessments) that clearly demonstrate that the required due diligence has been undertaken. Site Card information must also be added to TSS within a month of receipt from OEH. The Desktop Risk Assessment shall be in accordance with the form template attached in Appendix E.	Works during the Defect Liability period. Technically under OPs were assessed as per the Due Diligence Procedure – EAF Risk Checklists were compiled and handed over to the Contractor. ACH DDA process followed using PECw Heritage datasets and Site Cards/ASIRFs. EMRC and associated documentation (Ref OIA_1).	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_47	AHDD	Section 4.2.8. Authorised Officers to undertake the Due Diligence Assessment TransGrid staff or consultants/contractors who meet the requirements of an Authorised Officer are approved to undertake the ACH DDA. Consultants/contractors acting as Authorised Officers however must be directly supervised by a TransGrid Authorised Officer.	DDA for X1/X9 OHEW works undertaken by E5/Authorised Officer Andrew Scott P86227. EMRC and associated documentation (Ref OIA_1).	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
OIA_48	AHDD	Section 7. Monitoring and review This procedure will be reviewed every three years and in response to changes in legislation or the DPIE CoP in line with the Document and Records Management procedure.	Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment Procedure, approved 11/12/25. OIA_48 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Procedure	Evidence indicates conformance with this requirement	C
Appendix E - Incident notification and reporting requirements SSI 10040					

A. Operational Environmental Management Plan					
OIA_49	Incident	Written Incident Notification Requirements 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.	No Notifiable Incident have occurred during Operations to date.	Not triggered.	NT
OIA_50	Incident	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.		Not triggered.	NT
OIA_51	Incident	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.	.	Not triggered	NT
OIA_52	Incident	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.		Not triggered.	NT

APPENDIX B – APPROVAL OF AUDITORS

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

NSW Planning ref: SSI-10040-PA-167

Mr David Donehue

Senior Environment and Sustainability Manager

NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Limited

17/12/2025

Sent via the Major Projects Portal only

Subject: Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) - Independent Environmental Audit – Operations - team endorsement request

Dear Mr Donehue

I refer to your request for the Planning Secretary's approval of suitably qualified, experienced, and independent persons to conduct an Independent Environmental Audit of the Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section), submitted as required by Condition E11 of SSI-10040 as modified (the Approval) to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW Planning) on 8 December 2025.

NSW Planning has reviewed the independent auditor nominations and based on the information you have provided is satisfied that the proposed persons are suitably qualified, experienced, and independent.

In accordance with Condition E11 of the Approval and the NSW Planning, *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (2020), as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I endorse the following independent audit team from WolfPeak Group Pty Ltd:

- Mr Steve Fermio Lead Auditor
- Mr Derek Low Auditor and Project Manager
- Mr Will Steggall Technical expert (Biodiversity)

Please note:

- This correspondence must be appended to the Independent Audit Report.
- The Independent Audit must be prepared, undertaken, and finalised in accordance with the conditions of approval and the NSW Planning *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (2020). Failure to meet these requirements will require revision and resubmission.
- The Lead Auditor must attend the site inspection component of the audit.
- Mr Steggall must attend site (unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary) and the IEA report must include specific sections (and/or an appended report) prepared by Mr Steggall which addresses his assessment of compliance (and recommendations for improvements) in respect to the

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

conditions, BDAR, EIS, management plans and any other matters considered relevant for his area of expertise.

- The above auditor/audit team is approved for the current operational audit only. Additional approval must be sought from the Planning Secretary for future audits of the project.
- Any change to the auditor or auditor roles must be approved by the Planning Secretary prior to the audit commencing.
- The audit period is the day after the site inspection date of the previous audit, to the final site inspection date of the current audit.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact me on 0429400261 or email compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. O'Reilly", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Katrina O'Reilly
Team Leader - Compliance
Compliance
As nominee of the Planning Secretary

APPENDIX C – Agency Consultation Records And Auditor Responses

Agency	Input	Auditor Response
DPHI	1. Evidence of compliance with commitments, reporting and monitoring in all management plans.	See Audit Report for details.
	2. Evidence of any adaptive management identified and implemented.	This will be evidenced in the Proponent's response to the audit findings
	3. Evidence of compliance with approved footprint and current activities.	To the best knowledge of the auditor as could be ascertained during the site inspection, the project infrastructure appears to have been constructed within the approved footprint (we would require a physical survey to be carried out to confirm this which is outside the scope of our proposal)
	4. Erosion and sediment controls, management, monitoring and maintenance.	These were being managed to a high standard with a positive observation made in this regard
	5. Comparison between EA predictions and actual impacts.	See Table 4 in the Audit Report
	6. Evidence (tracking documentation/measures implemented) to ensure compliance with clearing and disturbance limits.	WSP has independently confirmed that Transgrid's contractor (Elecnor) has used acceptable and accurate methods to calculate clearing. The EIS/BDAR field verified vegetation was used as the base layer and to assess / quantify the clearing impacts in conjunction with the following methods: - in field data (sub-metre accurate spatial survey = ATS supplied machinery tracking data), and - review of hi resolution imagery to create 'as built' spatial overlays showing the extent of clearing. The verification of vegetation integrity (VI) post clearing has been undertaken by WSP (BAM Plots/VI assessment), following the accepted

Agency	Input	Auditor Response
		methods for field based assessment, consistent with RMM B15. The actual clearing impacts are substantially less than what was predicted in the EIS and approved in the SSI Project approval conditions.
	7. Evidence of compliance with partial clearing, clearing commitments (how is this tracked, managed and monitored). Is the current clearing (in particular partial clearing) activity being undertaken in accordance with the commitments within BMP, EA, BDAR and description of partial clearing.	No vegetation clearing occurred during operations (none since August 2024 according to Clearing Register). Evidence of compliance with clearing limits provided in Umwelt April 2025 biodiversity audit report. Cyclic maintenance of state of vegetation (e.g. regrowth) by Energy Connect staff will occur. Full and partial clearing has been accounted for in the Umwelt audit. All of the clearing, both partial and full, has been accounted for in the BOP. LiDAR is flown each year on whole NSW network to identify vegetation hazards wrt encroachment of vegetation within vegetation clearance requirements (e.g. for safe electrical clearances) Auditors are of the view that partial clearing is being managed appropriately.
	8. Implementation of ACHMP and compliance with conditions and evidence of consultation with Local RAPS.	Other than maintenance work during operations
	9. Evidence of progress, timing and implementation of Progressive Rehabilitation.	
	10. Road maintenance/ monitoring and management and the interface /access onto road networks. Recent media has stated that councils are not happy with road upgrades/ maintenance repair and payment for road repairs etc. across both PEC projects so would be good to deep dive into the road upgrades and maintenance and compliance with all related conditions and management plans and the dilapidation reports specifically compliance with all requirements in conditions D39 and D40 and evidence of consultation with all relevant councils.	This was addressed in previous construction phase audit in March 2025 and no issues were identified in that audit. It is also noted that Wentworth Council made no response when invited to

Agency	Input	Auditor Response
		provide input into the audit requirements.
	11. Complaints management, monitoring and responses.	No complaints recorded since operations commenced
	12. Emergency preparedness including but not limited to appropriate fire equipment such as water tanks and mobile water karts, training etc., working in hot weather processes/policies.	See Audit Report for details
EPA	The EPA's interest in the project relates to the requirement for an Environment Protection License under section 43 and 48 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act) for crushing, grinding or separating, clause 16 of Schedule 1 - for the upgrade of the Buronga Substation (SS1-10040).	Noted
	The proponent should be aware that under section 120 of the POEO Act, it is an offence in NSW to pollute waters. During operation the proponent must take all necessary precautions and implement all practical measures that could be taken to prevent, control, abate or mitigate water pollution and protect human health and the environment from harm.	No water pollution incidents were observed during the audit site inspection, and no such incidents have been recorded since the project commenced operation in September 2025.
	The proponent should also be aware of the management of noise and vibration from the operation, ensuring that all practical measures that could be taken to prevent noise and vibration impacts on sensitive receptors are undertaken, including the scheduling of noisy activities.	Noted.
	In addition, note should be taken on the management of dust from the work sites, in particular ensuring that all practical measures that could be taken to prevent dust moving from the work sites are being implemented.	No dust observed leaving site during the audit site inspection. Surfaces well stabilized generally.
NSW Conservation, Programs, Heritage and Regulation Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	No input provided/no issues to be examined	NA
Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment	No input provided/no issues to be examined	NA

Agency	Input	Auditor Response
and Water DCCEEW		
TfNSW	Compliance with Instrument of Consent transport-related conditions	Noted, see Audit Report.
	Implementation and enforcement of shuttle bus arrangements	Construction phase requirement.
	Management of construction traffic volumes during AM and PM peak periods	Construction phase requirement.
	Any pre-construction minor works mitigation measures and associated Planning Secretary approvals	Construction phase requirement.
	Implementation of the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) and Traffic Management Plans (TMPs)	Construction phase requirement.
	Commitments made within the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	See Table 5 in Audit Report.
	Assumptions underpinning the assessed traffic task within the TIA, including traffic distribution assumptions	Construction phase requirement.
	Effectiveness of mitigation measures detailed within the TMP	Construction phase requirement.
	Alignment between assessed and actual traffic volumes and vehicle characteristics	Construction phase requirement.
	Suitability of existing intersection treatments under cumulative background and project traffic	Construction phase requirement.
	Ongoing appropriateness of approved OSOM routes for the configurations being utilised	Construction phase requirement.
	Any incidents of non-compliance with mitigation measures, commitments or assessed traffic volumes, and measures implemented in response	No incidents or non compliances recorded since operations commenced in September 2025
	Audit report outcomes and recommended actions relevant to the State road network	Not clear what this pertains to.
Wentworth Shire Council	No input provided/no issues to be examined	
DPI Fisheries	No input provided/no issues to be examined	
DPI Agriculture	No input provided/no issues to be examined	
RFS	No input provided/no issues to be examined	

Agency	Input	Auditor Response
NSW Fire and Rescue	No input provided/no issues to be examined	
Local Aboriginal Councils (RAPS)	No input provided/no issues to be examined	
Heritage NSW	No input provided/no issues to be examined	
CPHR	OEMP 1.4.3.5 – Easement and access track maintenance Ensure all easement and access track maintenance is consistent with the clearing descriptions listed in the BDAR for the respective disturbance zones (B4, B10).	This was confirmed during audit site inspection
	OEMP 5.2.3.2 - Study of impact of electric and magnetic fields on birds CPHR queries whether the work funded by Transgrid meets the condition of consent D28(b) that requires them to fund a scientific study into the impacts of electric and magnetic fields on birds in Australia	In our view the scientific study does meet the requirements of D28 and it is being progressed.
	OEMP 5.2.4 Visual amenity Have the residents of properties R1489, R2022 and R2023 requested that Transgrid implement visual impact mitigation measures? If yes, what landscaping or vegetation screening has occurred or is proposed to occur and are the species endemic to the area?	No
	OEMP 5.2.7.1 Weeds Ensure that all weed management commitments are being met. Ensure that Transgrid biosecurity protocols are being followed, including maintaining records in operational systems	No specific mapping on TSS on privately owned land but weeds are mapped on Transgrid owned land. Transgrid only have an easement and manage weeds when identified. Records indicated that weeds are being managed through Transgrid's biosecurity procedures wash downs, inspections etc., and there is a checklist for biosecurity guidance
	OEMP 5.2.9 Rehabilitation Ensure that a suitable rehabilitation plan has been prepared. Check the progress of the rehabilitation of ancillary facilities, accommodation camps, and earthwork material sites. Noting that	Rehabilitation of all former worksites is progressing very well. Camp 6 and 7 have been handed back to the relevant landowners in the agreed condition. Both of

Agency	Input	Auditor Response
	rehabilitation was required to occur within six months following completion of construction	these sites are suitably stabilized.

APPENDIX D – ATTENDANCE REGISTER



INDEPENDENT AUDIT MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

PROJECT (NAME AND APPROVAL NUMBER)		Project Energy Connect West / SSL-10040			
LOCATION:	Buronga and west to SA border, south to Victorian border				
DATE/TIME (Opening Meeting):	24 March 2026	DATE/TIME (Closing Meeting):	25 March 2026		
Lead Auditor:	Steve Fermio	Audit Scope:	Operational Audit		
NAME	POSITION / TITLE	ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE		
			Opening Meeting	Closing Meeting	
DAVID DOULIERE	Service Environment & Sustainability Manager	TRANSBOLD	David Doulier	David Doulier	
ANDREW SCOTT	Senior Env. BP.	TRANSBOLD	Andrew Scott	Andrew Scott	
Jared Lipkin	Enviro + Sust Manager	TG	Jared Lipkin	Jared Lipkin	
Scott Moarney	Environmental Advisor	TG	Scott Moarney	Scott Moarney	
Will Stegall	Principal Ecologist	wolfPeak	Will Stegall	Will Stegall	
STEVE FERMIO	LEAD AUDITOR	wolfPeak	Steve	Steve	



APPENDIX E – SITE PHOTOS

Site inspection photographs

No.	Comment	Photograph
1	Former Camp 7 area, stabilised, no evidence of erosion, runoff controls and drainage in place	
2	Former Camp 7 entry / exit, rumble grid still in place as agreed with landowner.	

No.	Comment	Photograph
3	Camp 7 perimeter drain with former lined treatment pond in background. Site is fenced and secured.	
4	Guide Tower 222 showing good groundcover regeneration	

No.	Comment	Photograph
5	Guide Tower 252 showing good groundcover regeneration	
6	Good groundcover regeneration along centre line north of Tower 252	

No.	Comment	Photograph
7	Nest box located to north of Tower 252	
8	Good groundcover regeneration under Guide Tower 269	

No.	Comment	Photograph
9	Partial and centre line clearing north of Tower 269	
10	Spraying of regrowth under centre line north of Tower 269	

No.	Comment	Photograph
11	Vegetation within Big Bend Biodiversity Offset Area	
12	Rill erosion in swale drain at Buronga Sub Station	

No.	Comment	Photograph
13	Bunded chemicals and fuels adjacent to Buronga Sub Station	
14	Area adjacent to Buronga Sub Station undergoing replanting	

No.	Comment	Photograph
15	As above	

APPENDIX F – AUDITOR DECLARATION

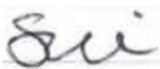
Project Name:	Project Energy Connect West
Consent Number:	SSI 10040
Description of Project:	Construction and operation of new 330kV transmission line from SA/NSW border to Buronga Substation, upgrade of substation and upgrade of existing transmission lines to Red Cliff in Victoria and related ancillary works
Project Address:	Land in Wentworth Shire local government area, as described in the EIS and shown on the development layout plans
Proponent:	Transgrid
Title of Audit	Project Energy Connect West (Operations) Audit No 6
Date:	15 May 15, 2026

I declare that I have undertaken the Independent Audit and prepared the contents of the attached Independent Audit Report and to the best of my knowledge:

- i. the audit has been undertaken in accordance with relevant condition(s) of consent and the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (Department 2020)*;
- ii. the findings of the audit are reported truthfully, accurately and completely;
- iii. I have exercised due diligence and professional judgement in conducting the audit;
- iv. I have acted professionally, objectively and in an unbiased manner;
- v. I am not related to any proponent, owner or operator of the project neither as an employer, business partner, employee, or by sharing a common employer, having a contractual arrangement outside the audit, or by relationship as spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or child;
- vi. I do not have any pecuniary interest in the audited project, including where there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation of financial gain or loss to me or spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or child;
- vii. neither I nor my employer have provided consultancy services for the audited project that were subject to this audit except as otherwise declared to the Department prior to the audit; and
- viii. I have not accepted, nor intend to accept any inducement, commission, gift or any other benefit (apart from payment for auditing services) from any proponent, owner or operator of the project, their employees or any interested party. I have not knowingly allowed, nor intend to allow my colleagues to do so.

Notes:

- a) Under section 10.6 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) in a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit if the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The proponent of an approved project must not fail to include information in (or provide information for inclusion in) a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit if the person knows that the information is materially relevant to the monitoring or audit. The maximum penalty is, in the case of a corporation, \$1 million and for an individual, \$250,000; and
- b) The *Crimes Act 1900* contains other offences relating to false and misleading information: section 307B (giving false or misleading information – maximum penalty 2 years imprisonment or 200 penalty units, or both)

Name of Proposed Auditor:	Steve Fermio
Signature:	
Qualification:	Bachelor of Science, ANU Honours in Geology, Monash University Graduate Diploma Land Rehabilitation, Federation University Certificate IV in Soil Health, Plant Nutrition & Pasture Development, New England Institute of TAFE Exemplar Global Lead Environmental Auditor Number 110498
Company:	WolfPeak Pty Ltd

APPENDIX G – Biodiversity Specialist Statement

13/05/2026

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
12 Darcy Street
Parramatta
NSW 2150

To whom it may concern,

RE: PECW Assessment of Compliance on Biodiversity Matters

This letter has been prepared to confirm my involvement in the Independent Environmental Audit (operations) of the Project Energy Connect West.

A letter from DPHI (dated 17/12/2015) endorsing the WolfPeak Audit team has the following note:

“Mr Steggall must attend site (unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary) and the IEA report must include specific sections (and/or an appended report) prepared by Mr Steggall which addresses his assessment of compliance (and recommendations for improvements) in respect to the conditions, BDAR, EIS, management plans and any other matters considered relevant for his area of expertise.”

I have attended the site over one day on 24th March 2016 and was present during interviews with TransGrid staff. I have reviewed relevant conditions, management plans and the BDAR for the project.

It is my conclusion that the project is compliant with the conditions, management plans and approval documentation.

Several observations have been made in respect to Biodiversity matters which are included in this Audit report. These are in relation to fauna nesting box monitoring and the Big Bend stewardship site.

It is noted that there has not been any clearing undertaken during the operational phase of the project and WSP have verified the clearing totals of native vegetation during construction. On site I observed full and partial clearing areas and was satisfied with the approach taken during vegetation removal which has resulted in vegetation loss being significantly reduced from the approved clearing totals stated in the BDAR and EIS. Furthermore, there are positive signs of

regeneration around tower footprints, and it is understood that native groundcover can be maintained in these areas aside from access tracks to the tower.

Should you have any queries or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely,



Will Steggall
Principal Ecologist
Email: wsteggall@wolfpeak.com.au
M: 0477611677