

**Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern Section)
Ecology Pre-Clearance Survey Report**



General information

Item	Detail
Ecologist / Fauna Spotter(s) completing Pre-Clearance Survey	Name: Madeleine Cicchelli and Hannah Roberts Qualification: Ecologist
Date of Pre-Clearance Survey	16/01/2026
Specific Pre-Clearance Survey location (Line No./ Tower / Span No.)	Survey Extent: T250 - 300
Scope methodology	Desktop Survey: A desktop survey was undertaken that encompasses the full Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) assessment extent. Infield Survey: The in-field survey encompassed the full easement, including a 15-metre buffer on both sides of B10.

Pre-clearance Survey details

Infrastructure surveyed				
Tower footprint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Centreline		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brake and winch site, OPGW, EPZ, hurdle and/or crane pad site	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parking areas		<input type="checkbox"/>
Access track (existing)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Access track (new)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Disturbance Area B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any other details:	Full easement with 15-meter buffer to accommodate for hazard & tall growing trees			

Protected Matters

Item	Presence identified		Quantum surveyed (Ha)	Quantum which will be disturbed (Ha)	Comments
	Yes	No			
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland ^{1,2}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		0Ha	
Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia ^{1,2}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		0Ha	
Weeping Myall Woodlands ^{1,2}	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.30 Ha	0Ha	EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including additional disturbance areas)
Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains ^{1,2}	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	179.90 Ha	0.01Ha	EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including additional disturbance areas)
Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.36 Ha	0Ha	EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including

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Pre-clearance Survey details					
					additional disturbance areas)
Habitat for Mossriel Daisy ^{1,2}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Habitat for Chariot Wheels ^{1,2}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Habitat for Slender Darling Pea ^{1,2}	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	67.35 Ha	0Ha	Mapped vegetation, species identified (Tower 253-258, 267-268, 269-274, 275-277, 280-281; including additional disturbance areas)
Notes:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically endangered BC Act TEC <i>Weeping Myall Woodlands</i> identified within the surveyed area. • Critically endangered BC Act TEC <i>Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains</i> identified within the surveyed area. • Critically endangered BC Act TEC <i>Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains</i> identified within the surveyed area. 					
Management measures required to avoid or minimise impacts to Protected Matters:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusion zones not required in TECs as clearing has already occurred within the easement. • Exclusion zones required in Plains Wanderer habitat. • All works within mapped Plains Wanderer habitat are to be undertaken in accordance with the Plains Wanderer Protocol and in consultation with the project ecologist. • No additional mitigation measure required. Clearing works to be managed in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Management Plan. 					
Hollow Bearing / Habitat Trees					
Habitat trees and habitat features identified & marked?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments: Hollow-bearing trees and nests identified (includes initial pre-clearance surveys marked with GPS and incidental observations recorded on Field Maps). All trees to be re-assessed by ecologists prior to clearing due to the high likelihood of new nests being established since initial pre-clearance surveys. Additional violation trees marked for pruning or removal by ENSPEC have been assessed based on in-field and prior GIS data and identified as containing habitat.		
GPS coordinates and habitat trees recorded?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments: Total of 87 existing GPS waypoints recorded during pre-clearance surveys between Tower 250-300 (includes trees previously removed) Eight additional violation trees identified have the following ENSPEC IDs: 49, 50, 121, 122, 125, 126, 127, 128; as well as two trees that lack ENSPEC IDs (total of 10 violation trees).		
Nest boxes required?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments: Nest boxes previously installed.		

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Pre-clearance Survey details

Fauna spotter required to be present during clearing activities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Comments: Pre-inspection of all trees by an ecologist required prior to tree trimming and/or removal.</p> <p>Pre-inspection of all grassland habitat by an ecologist required before any ground stripping activities (including PCT 0).</p> <p>Ecologist required during removal of any hollow-bearing and/or nest trees.</p> <p>Ecologist required during ground stripping activities (only required in PCT 0 if suitable fauna habitat is identified by an ecologist during pre-inspection).</p> <p>Pre-inspection of identified Plains Wanderer habitat required by an ecologist prior to all works.</p>
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Weeds

Were any Weeds of National Significance or Priority Weeds identified?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Details:</p> <p>African Boxthorn (<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>) - Tower 271, 274-279, 280, 282-286, 288-292, 295-300</p>
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Environmental exclusion zones

Threatened Species Identified within Disturbance Area B?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Details:</p> <p>Grey-crowned Babbler (<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 257</p> <p>White-fronted Chat (<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 252-253</p> <p>Flame Robin (<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 296</p> <p>White-bellied Sea-eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 288</p>
Environmental exclusion zones required?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Details: Exclusion zones only required for Plains Wanderer habitat.</p>

Unexpected Finds

Were any Unexpected Finds identified?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details:
If yes, has the Environmental Manager been notified?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details:

Additional comments:

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Pre-clearance Survey details

- Ecologist required for pre-inspection of all vegetation prior to removal (ground stripping and tree trimming/removal).
- Ecologist required during removal of all vegetation (excludes non-habitat trees, cropped and/or pasture paddocks, and grassland with no habitat features identified during ecologist pre-inspection).
- Ecologist required for pre-inspection prior to removal or relocation of log piles or large hollow-bearing logs (if logs have remained in-situ for four (4) weeks or longer).
- Ecologist required during all works in Plains Wanderer habitat (Tower 267-268, 271-272, 279-280, 282-284, 285-286).
- Vegetation removal has previously occurred within easement.
- Assumed species presence Small Scurf Pea (*Cullen parvum*) (Tower 253-256, 269-275, 282-284, 299-300).
- Assumed species presence Superb Parrot (Tower 279-279A).
- Hollow-bearing limbs/logs to be retained as fauna habitat where possible.
- Weeds to be managed in accordance with the Biosecurity Management Plan.

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Pre-clearance Approval

Ecologist

Name	Madeleine Cicchelli
Signature	
Date	16/01/2026

Elecnor

Name	Oluwatobi Aina
Position	Environmental Advisor
Signature	
Date	01/02/2026

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