

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



## General information

Item	Detail
Ecologist / Fauna Spotter(s) completing Pre-Clearance Survey	Name: Scott Rolph, Hannah Roberts, Madeleine Cicchelli Qualification: Ecologist
Date of Pre-Clearance Survey	16/01/2026
Specific Pre-Clearance Survey location (Line No./ Tower / Span No.)	<b>Survey Extent:</b> T100-150
Scope methodology	<b>Desktop Survey:</b> A desktop survey was undertaken that encompasses the full Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) assessment extent. <b>Infield Survey:</b> 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 <sup>1,2</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20.07 Ha	0.17Ha	EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including additional disturbance areas)
Grey Box ( <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> ) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia <sup>1,2</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5.26 Ha	0.02	EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including additional disturbance areas)
Weeping Myall Woodlands <sup>1,2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains <sup>1,2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Habitat for Mossgiel Daisy <sup>1,2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Habitat for Chariot Wheels <sup>1,2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Habitat for Slender Darling Pea <sup>1,2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

#### Notes:

- Critically endangered BC Act TEC *White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* identified within the surveyed area.

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- Endangered BC Act TEC *Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Peneplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions* identified within the surveyed area.

**Management measures required to avoid or minimise impacts to Protected Matters:**

- Exclusion zones not required as clearing has already occurred within the easement.
- 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 297 existing GPS waypoints recorded during pre-clearance surveys between Tower 100-150 (includes trees previously removed).  Eight additional violation trees identified have the following ENSPEC IDs: 4, 6, 15, 28, 29, 32, 38, 104; as well as 15 trees that lack ENSPEC IDs (total of 23 violation trees).
Nest boxes required?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments: Nest boxes previously installed.
Fauna spotter required to be present during clearing activities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments: Pre-inspection of all trees by an ecologist required prior to tree trimming and/or removal.  Pre-inspection of all grassland habitat by an ecologist required before any ground stripping activities (including PCT 0).  Ecologist required during removal of any hollow-bearing and/or nest trees.  Ecologist required during ground stripping activities (only required in PCT 0 if suitable fauna habitat is identified by an ecologist during pre-inspection).

**Weeds**

Were any Weeds of National Significance or Priority Weeds identified?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Details: African Boxthorn ( <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> ) - Tower 120-121, 132-133, 139-140, 149-150
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**Pre-clearance Survey details**

**Environmental exclusion zones**

Threatened Species Identified within Disturbance Area B?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Details: Spotted Harrier ( <i>Circus assimilis</i> ) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 143-144 Superb Parrot ( <i>Polytelis swainsonii</i> ) (EPBC and BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 103-104, 108-109, 110-111, 120-121, 130-131, 140-141, 143-144 Grey-crowned Babbler ( <i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i> ) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 111-112, 119-121, 130-131, 132-133, 139-140, 143-144, 146-147, 149-150 Black Falcon ( <i>Falco subniger</i> ) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 118-11 Square-tailed Kite ( <i>Lophoictinia isura</i> ) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 130-131
Environmental exclusion zones required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details: Not required due to prior clearing within easement.

**Unexpected Finds**


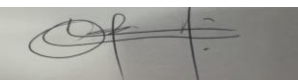
Were any Unexpected Finds identified?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details:
If yes, has the Environmental Manager been notified?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details:

**Additional comments:**

- 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).
- Vegetation removal has previously occurred within easement.
- Squirrel Glider habitat mapped within Disturbance Area B (Tower 108-109, 110-115, 119-121, 126-127, 129-133, 139-141, 144-148, 149-150).
- Assumed species presence Small Scurf Pea (*Cullen parvum*) (Tower 142-144).
- Assumed species presence Superb Parrot (Tower 100-101, 110-112, 142-144).
- 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	Hannah Roberts
Signature	
Date	16/01/2026
Elecnor	
Name	Oluwatobi Aina
Position	Environmental Advisor
Signature	
Date	30/01/2026

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