

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(s)
Date of Pre-Clearance Survey	16/01/2026
Specific Pre-Clearance Survey location (Line No./ Tower / Span No.)	Survey Extent: T200-250
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.31 Ha	0.08Ha	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 ^{1,2}	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12.10 Ha	0Ha	EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including additional disturbance areas)
Weeping Myall Woodlands ^{1,2}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		0Ha	
Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains ^{1,2}	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	187.92 Ha	0.01Ha	EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including additional disturbance areas)
Habitat for Mossy Daisy ^{1,2}	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34.40 Ha	0Ha	Mapped vegetation, species identified (Tower 228-231; including

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Pre-clearance Survey details					
					additional disturbance areas)
Habitat for Chariot Wheels ^{1,2}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		0Ha	
Habitat for Slender Darling Pea ^{1,2}	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	135.70 Ha	0Ha	Mapped vegetation, species identified (Tower 223-237, 248-250; including additional disturbance areas)
Notes:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically endangered BC Act TEC <i>White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland</i> identified within the surveyed area. Endangered BC Act TEC <i>Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina, NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Peneplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions</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 					
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 and Special Biodiversity Zone. 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. During clearing an ecologist shall be on site at all times to monitor activities within special biodiversity protection zones as per Biodiversity Management Plan. 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 125 existing GPS waypoints recorded during pre-clearance surveys between Tower 200-250 (includes trees previously removed). Nine additional violation trees identified have the following ENSPEC IDs: 8, 7, 36, 41, 51, 52, 53, 115, 132; as well as nine trees that lack ENSPEC IDs (total of 18 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 208-210</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>Spotted Harrier (<i>Circus assimilis</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 201-202, 225-226</p> <p>White-fronted Chat (<i>Epithianura albifrons</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 228-234</p> <p>Little Eagle (<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 203-204</p> <p>Black Falcon (<i>Falco subniger</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 242-243, 246-247</p> <p>Winged Peppercress (<i>Lepidium monoplocoides</i>) (EPBC and BC Act-listed as Endangered) - Tower 243-245</p>
Environmental exclusion zones required?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Details: Exclusion zones only required for Plains Wanderer habitat and Special Biodiversity Zone.</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 223-225, 242-243) and Special Biodiversity Zone (Tower 226-234)
- Vegetation removal has previously occurred within easement.
- Squirrel Glider habitat mapped within Disturbance Area B (Tower 203-205).
- Assumed species presence Superb Parrot (Tower 245-249).
- Assumed species presence Small Scurf Pea (*Cullen parvum*) (Tower 223-225, 226-228, 238-241, 243-249).
- 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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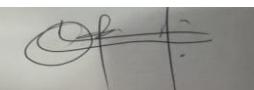


Pre-clearance Approval

Ecologist

Name	Hannah Roberts
Signature	
Date	16/01/2026

Elecnor

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

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