

Biodiversity assessment

Understanding and minimising impacts

July 2026

Amendment Report



How proposed changes to the project may affect biodiversity

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share feedback, ask questions and participate in the VNI West (NSW) consultation process so far. While infrastructure projects can affect biodiversity, we are committed to thoroughly assessing these impacts and reducing them wherever possible.

We have finalised planning activity and have updated our assessment of biodiversity following the proposed project changes. This fact sheet outlines what we've reassessed, and what's changed or remains largely consistent*.

VNI West is a proposed new 500 kV double-circuit overhead transmission line connecting the electricity networks in New South Wales and Victoria.

Where planning has progressed to

Since the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in August 2025, Transgrid has further refined the project based on community and stakeholder feedback, as well as ongoing design and technical requirements.

These proposed amendments and refinements have been assessed in an Amendment Report, which has been submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) alongside a Submissions Report responding to issues raised during the EIS exhibition period.

What changes are covered

Potential biodiversity impacts were assessed as part of the EIS. Since the EIS was exhibited, we've undertaken additional work to re-evaluate biodiversity impacts resulting from the amended project.

Biodiversity impacts have been minimised where possible during project development through measures such as co-locating the transmission line route within existing areas of disturbance and minimising the need for native vegetation clearing. This approach has continued through project amendments and refinements, where we have continued to seek ways to reduce the impact of access tracks and the number of compounds required. However, given the scale of the project, some biodiversity impacts have been identified. Transgrid will continue to avoid and minimise impacts to biodiversity values during detailed design and further construction planning where practicable.

*For more information on Biodiversity, refer to Chapter 6 of the Amendment Report.

How the assessment has been updated

The revised biodiversity assessment in the Amendment Report includes:

- updating the biodiversity study area to reflect the amended project footprint
- undertaking additional flora, fauna and aquatic habitat surveys to improve understanding of biodiversity values across the project area
- updating vegetation mapping, biodiversity database searches and threatened species assessments
- assessing additional project infrastructure and activities, including:
 - temporary worker accommodation facilities
 - construction compounds
 - road upgrades and intersection improvements
 - additional infrastructure at Dinawan substation and the existing Wagga 330 kV substation
- updating biodiversity avoidance and mitigation measures to reflect the amended project footprint, additional survey information and agency feedback.



Figure 1: Southern Bell Frog located during surveys at the Edward River in March 2024.

What's changed since the EIS

The table below outlines what was presented in the EIS, and the revised assessment resulting from the amended project:

What was presented in the EIS	What has been updated as part of the Amendment Report
Biodiversity impacts associated with construction and operation of the project.	Assessment updated to reflect the amended project footprint, including new areas not previously assessed in the EIS, additional infrastructure and revised construction and operational disturbance footprints.
Field surveys to identify native vegetation, threatened ecological communities, threatened flora, threatened fauna, fauna habitat and aquatic species.	Additional flora, fauna and aquatic surveys, updated database searches and species expert reports have informed the revised biodiversity assessment for the amended project.
Assessment of impacts to native vegetation, threatened species and ecological communities.	Impact assessment updated to reflect the amended project footprint and additional survey information. The amended project has resulted in a slight reduction of native vegetation clearing which was proposed in the EIS. This is the result of steps taken to reduce the footprint such as relocating access tracks to be run parallel to the transmission line and a reduction in the number and size of compounds.
Measures to avoid, minimise and manage biodiversity impacts during construction and operation.	Mitigation measures updated to reflect additional survey information, project refinements and agency feedback. Opportunities to further avoid and minimise biodiversity impacts will continue to be considered during detailed design and construction planning.
Biodiversity offset requirements to address residual impacts.	Biodiversity offset requirements updated to reflect the amended project footprint and revised biodiversity assessment.

What this means for biodiversity and the project

- Additional ecological surveys have improved understanding of biodiversity values across the amended project footprint
- Project refinements have reduced biodiversity impacts in some areas where practicable
- Updated mitigation measures reflect additional survey information, project refinements and agency feedback
- Opportunities to avoid and minimise biodiversity impacts will continue to be considered during detailed design and construction planning.

What happens next

The VNI West (NSW) EIS, Amendment Report, and Submissions Report have been submitted to the NSW DPHI for review before a determination is made.

If approved, the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will issue the Conditions of Approval for construction and operation of VNI West (NSW). The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water will also review the determination and decide whether to grant approval, including any additional conditions.



Get in touch

If you have questions or would like more information, please get in touch.

We're committed to keeping you informed and are available if you have questions.

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To learn more about upcoming consultations and explore more information on VNI West in NSW, please visit transgrid.com.au/vniw or scan the QR code.

