

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	23/01/2026
Specific Pre-Clearance Survey location (Line No./ Tower / Span No.)	Survey Extent: T1-50
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"/>	3.21 Ha	0.57 Ha	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"/>	2.48 Ha	0 Ha	EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community (including additional disturbance areas)
Weeping Myall Woodlands ^{1,2}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains ^{1,2}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Habitat for Mossgiel 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 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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Pre-clearance Survey details

- 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"/>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
GPS coordinates and habitat trees recorded?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Comments: Total of 227 existing GPS waypoints recorded during pre-clearance surveys between Tower 1-50 (includes trees previously removed).</p> <p>Additional violation trees assessed include the following:</p> <p>Three with ENSPEC IDs (24-26)</p> <p>Nine without ENSPEC ID's</p> <p>Six group polygons</p>
Nest boxes required?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Comments: Nest boxes previously installed.</p>
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>

Weeds

Were any Weeds of National Significance or Priority Weeds identified?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Details:</p> <p>Blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> sp. agg.) - Tower 1-2, 13-18</p>
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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: Grey-headed Flying-fox (<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>) (EPBC and BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 3-4 Superb Parrot (<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>) (EPBC and BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 33-34 Grey-crowned Babbler (<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 4-5 White-fronted Chat (<i>Epithianura albifrons</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 5-6 Flame Robin (<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 14-15, 24-25, 39-40 Scarlet Robin (<i>Petroica boodang</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 19-20 Black Falcon (<i>Falco subniger</i>) (BC Act-listed as Vulnerable) - Tower 29-30
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 1-2).
- Assumed species presence Small Scurf Pea (*Cullen parvum*) (Tower 1-2, 8-11, 13-14, 24-25, 33-34, 37-38).
- Assumed species presence Superb Parrot (Tower 24-25, 47-48).
- 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	23/01/2026
Elecnor	
Name	Oluwatobi Aina
Position	Environmental Advisor
Signature	
Date	28/01/2026

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