

Addendum REF Decision Statement

Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ) Transposition
Project: Central Cluster

Transgrid is the proponent for the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ) Transposition Project: Central Cluster.

The proposed activity consists of transposition works, which would involve the systematic of the conductors at selected locations along the transmission network.

The works required would include: vegetation clearing and trimming, upgrades to existing access tracks, establishment of temporary construction work areas and level benches for plant and equipment installation of transposition structures at Structures 356 and 432 on Line 5A3/5A5, reconfiguration of conductors at Structure 518 on Line 5A3/5A5, immediately west of Mount Piper 330 kV substation, to return the conductors to the required configuration before entering the substation, testing and commissioning, and rehabilitation of disturbed areas following construction.

An Addendum Review of Environmental Factors (REF) was prepared in August 2026 by Transgrid to assess the potential impacts of the proposed activity.

The REF has been prepared in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regulation) and the Guidelines for Division 5.1 Guidelines approved under section 170 of the EP&A Regulation.

In considering the proposed activity, Transgrid has examined and taken into account matters affecting or likely to affect the environment by reason of that activity, as addressed in the REF.

As an authorised person on behalf of Transgrid, I discharge the duty as a determining authority under Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act and determine that:

- the proposed activity is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required
- the proposed activity will not be carried out in a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value and is not likely to significantly affect threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats or impact biodiversity values, meaning a Species Impact Statement (SIS) and/or Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is not required
- the proposed activity may proceed as it is needed to address the risk of voltage imbalances rearrangement arising from the integration of the CWOREZ into Transgrid's existing network
- mitigation measures are required to eliminate, minimise or manage environmental impacts as documented in Appendix C of the REF, with the exception of EC7 which has been reworded as follows (the text with strike-through indicates part of the mitigation measure has been removed and the underlined text indicates the revised mitigation measure):

To offset impacts associated with the loss of hollow bearing trees, the following measures shall be implemented:

- The removal of hollows for the purpose of the proposed works shall be replaced with high-quality artificial hollows based on the following ratios:
 - A ratio of 1:1 for every hollow ≥ 8 cm diameter
 - A ratio of 1:2 for hollows < 8 cm diameter
- Artificial hollows shall be installed in consultation with an ecologist, in accordance with the recommendations provided in the Biodiversity Assessment and with consideration to the size classes being removed, suitable locations, opportunities at the site, landowner agreements and accessibility for future monitoring
- Artificial hollows shall be installed ~~prior to~~ within three months of hollow removal
- Artificial hollows monitoring and maintenance shall be as specified in the Biodiversity Assessment Report.

- the proposed activity is not likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance, or on the environment of Commonwealth land, and therefore referral to the Minister under the EPBC Act is not required.



Monika Moutos
 General Manager Environmental Strategy and Planning
 Transgrid
 Date: 25/08/2026

Addendum REF

Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ) Transposition Project: Central Cluster

August 2026

Certification

REF preparer

I certify that I have prepared the contents of this Addendum REF document and, to the best of my knowledge, it is in accordance with the EP&A Act, the EP&A Regulation and the Guidelines approved under section 170 of the EP&A Regulation and the information it contains is neither false nor misleading.

Name	Christine Lussier
Title	Senior Environmental Planner
Company name	Transgrid
Signature	
Date	21/08/2026

REF reviewer/ endorser

I certify that I have reviewed and endorsed the contents of this Addendum REF document and, to the best of my knowledge, it is in accordance with the EP&A Act, the EP&A Regulation and the Guidelines approved under section 170 of the EP&A Regulation and the information it contains is neither false nor misleading.

Name	Denise Lo
Title	Manager of Environmental Approvals and Biodiversity
Company name	Transgrid
Signature	
Date	24/08/2026

1. Project Overview

A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) was prepared for the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ) Transposition Project: Central Cluster and was determined in July 2026.

Transgrid is proposing to carry out transposition works, which would involve the systematic rearrangement of the conductors at selected locations along the transmission network to address the risk of voltage imbalances arising from the integration of the CWOREZ into Transgrid’s existing network.

The works required would include vegetation clearing and trimming, upgrades to existing access tracks, establishment of temporary construction work areas and level benches for plant and equipment installation of transposition structures at Structures 356 and 432 on Line 5A3/5A5, reconfiguration of conductors at Structure 518 on Line 5A3/5A5, immediately west of Mount Piper 330 kV substation, to return the conductors to the required configuration before entering the substation, testing and commissioning, and rehabilitation of disturbed areas following construction.

2. Purpose of the Addendum REF

This Addendum REF only addresses a change to the timing of the installation of artificial hollows in mitigation measure EC7. There is no change to the proposed activity description. The proposed change is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Proposed change to the REF – mitigation measure EC7

REF	Wording of mitigation measure EC7
REF	Artificial hollows are to be installed prior to the removal of hollow-bearing trees.
Addendum REF	Artificial hollows are to be installed within three months of the removal of hollow-bearing trees.

The reasons for changing the timing of artificial hollows installation are to:

- reflect the outcome of discussions with Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR) regarding the timing of artificial hollow installation
- allow for re-use of hollows where suitable
- maintain consistency across all components of Transgrid CWOREZ works.

The timing of artificial hollow installation was discussed with CPHR in May 2026, and it was agreed that artificial hollows did not need to be installed prior to clearing as this would allow for re-use of hollows.

The other components of the Transgrid CWOREZ works that require the installation of artificial hollows are:

- Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project
- CWOREZ Transposition Project: Southern Cluster
- CWOREZ Transposition Project: Northern Cluster

In accordance with the advice from CPHR, the mitigation measures for these works require artificial hollows to be installed within three months of the removal of existing hollows.

3. Summary of Changes to the REF

Table 2 presents a summary of the changes to the original REF. The text with strike-through indicates part of the mitigation measure has been removed and the underlined text indicates the revised mitigation measure.

Table 2 Summary of changes to Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ) Transposition Project: Central Cluster REF

Section of REF	Summary of changes
Planning context	No change from original REF
Consultation	No change from original REF
Environmental impacts	No change from original REF
Mitigation measures	The wording of mitigation measure EC7 would be updated as follows: To offset impacts associated with the loss of hollow bearing trees, the following measures shall be implemented: • The removal of hollows for the purpose of the proposed works shall be replaced with high-quality artificial hollows based on the following ratios: - A ratio of 1:1 for every hollow $\geq 8\text{cm}$ diameter - A ratio of 1:2 for hollows $< 8\text{cm}$ diameter • Artificial hollows shall be installed in consultation with an ecologist, in accordance with the recommendations provided in the Biodiversity Assessment and with consideration to the size classes being removed, suitable locations, opportunities at the site, landowner agreements and accessibility for future monitoring • Artificial hollows shall be installed prior to <u>within three months of</u> hollow removal • Artificial hollows monitoring and maintenance shall be as specified in the Biodiversity Assessment Report.
Consideration of statutory factors	No change from original REF

4. Conclusion

The Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ) Transposition Project: Central Cluster has been assessed under Part 5, Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act. This REF has examined and taken into account matters affecting or likely to affect the environment by reason of the proposed activity, including consideration of other NSW and Commonwealth legislation. The REF has considered and assessed environmental impacts in accordance with Section 171 of the EP&A Regulation.

Considering the assessment of the impacts detailed in this Addendum REF, it is concluded that:

- the proposed activity is not likely to significantly affect the environment and therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.
- the proposed activity is not likely to significantly affect threatened species, ecological communities or their habitats and would not be carried out in a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value, therefore a Species Impact Statement (SIS) and/or Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is not required.