



CENTRAL-WEST ORANA REZ TRANSMISSION

Ecology surveys

Central-West Orana REZ Transmission

TransGrid is working with the NSW Government to plan new transmission infrastructure for Australia's first coordinated Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) in the State's Central-West Orana region.

Investment in the new infrastructure will allow renewable energy providers from the region to connect to the grid and enable more affordable, reliable and clean energy for New South Wales customers.

The project has received funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) as part of ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program.

Ecology surveys

TransGrid is undertaking ecology surveys and investigations to help identify existing animal and plant species and their habitats within the local area.

These surveys are part of a preliminary environmental assessment which will inform the route design and will be included in the formal planning process.

A combination of public and private land will be identified for the surveys. If access to private land is required, consent will be sought from the landowner.

TransGrid representatives will seek all necessary permits and approvals prior to commencing any surveys and will comply with the New South Wales and Australian Government ecological survey guidelines. These activities are generally non-invasive.

What to expect?

TransGrid representatives will work with landowners to understand their expectations and requirements prior to undertaking and completing the ecology surveys proposed on their land. This will cover requirements to access the property and the types of activities proposed, including the duration and timing.

After all necessary permits and approvals are in place, the team will schedule work in the survey area as agreed with the landowner.



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How are ecology assessments done?

The assessment methods can vary greatly depending on the focus of the survey. The surveys can focus on flora (plant), fauna (animal) and/or aquatic (water-based).

Some surveys may be required at specific times of the year when certain species can be more easily identified (e.g. when flowering occurs or during breeding season).

Flora

Flora surveys are usually conducted during daylight hours by teams of 2–4 ecologists walking through identified areas, cataloguing the plant species found. In some instances samples may be required to accurately catalogue the plant, however photographs are usually sufficient.



Fauna

Fauna surveys are usually conducted by teams of 2–4 ecologists during the day and occasionally at night. The survey method will depend on the species being investigated but can involve observations and gathering of samples. In some instances the humane use of nets and traps may be necessary. To prevent harm to any fauna, traps are checked and any captured animals are photographed and released.



Aquatic

Aquatic surveys are usually conducted by teams of 2–4 ecologists within and along streams, creeks and rivers to identify aquatic life. The field team will use a variety of methods to better understand the existing species.



Contact us

TransGrid is committed to working with landowners and communities to develop a route for the transmission lines that minimises impacts on properties, local communities and the environment.

To share your views or find out more about the Central-West Orana REZ Transmission, please contact us.

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