



**Independent DPE Compliance Audit**

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**SSI-10040 – Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section)**

**Trigalana Environment Pty Ltd**  
**11 April 2023**



## Independent DPE Compliance Audit

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# SSI-10040 – Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section)

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## Executive Summary

Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd has been engaged to undertake an independent audit of Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section), which consists of the construction of a high voltage energy connector (comprising 330kV and 220kV) between Buronga and Redcliff in South Australia and the expansion of the Buronga substation. Transgrid are the Proponent, Secure Energy Joint Venture (SEJV) are the Construction Contractor.

The Project is being delivered in 2 stages. Stage 1 is for early works and includes the upgrade of the existing substation at Buronga, establishing the Buronga accommodation camp, construction compound, and using and accessing a water supply point. Stage 2 includes all other construction activities.

Infrastructure Approval (SSI 10040) covers both the construction and operational phases of the Project and requires independent audits to be undertaken in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environments (DPE) Independent Post Approval Requirements (2020).

The audit covers construction activities for the period from the period following the initial audit on 19 August 2022 to 15 February 2023.

The audit included a site inspection, consultation with relevant project stakeholders and a review of management plans, project documents and management records.

The site inspection was undertaken on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 with members of Transgrid and SEJV present.

The findings of the audit are:

- Key environmental issues are being managed effectively with key mitigations summarised below:
  - Effective use of technology for key environmental controls including In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS), mapping and control of clearing processes using GPS and GIS and use of mobile applications for site inspections and environmental actions
  - Implementation of a pre-clearing process with authorisation by SEJV environment manager and the project ecologist
  - Completion of a heritage survey and test excavation and salvage where required
  - Limits of disturbance, endangered ecological communities and habitat trees were clearly marked in the field to prevent unauthorised clearing
  - An expanded environment team including dedicated labour force for implementation and maintenance of environmental controls in the field
  - Ongoing engagement of an experienced Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) to oversee the implementation and management of erosion and sediment controls
  - Establishment of water treatment systems and sediment basins with recycled water used for dust suppression and construction
  - Management of dust and mud tracking on adjacent roads through the construction of hard stand access/egress points, rumble grids, vehicle washdown areas, water carts and soil binding agents
  - Implementation of Out of Hours Works Protocol with approval by the independent Environmental Representative and no complaints received to date
- Compliance with the conditions of approval has been achieved, noting that further assessments will be undertaken during subsequent audits as the project construction continues.

Three recommendations for improvement are made relating to the role of the Independent Environmental Representative, Management Review and testing of the Fire and Emergency plan.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project Background

The EnergyConnect Project is being delivered by Transgrid and ElectraNet and consists of the construction and operation of a new electrical interconnector and network support option between NSW and SA, with an additional connection to Red Cliffs in north-west Victoria.

The interconnector is aimed at reducing the cost of providing secure and reliable electricity transmission between NSW and SA in the near term, while facilitating the transition of the energy sector across the National Electricity Market to low emission energy sources.

EnergyConnect involves constructing a new high voltage electricity interconnector, approximately 900km long, between the power grids of SA (starting at Robertstown) and NSW (finishing in Wagga Wagga). EnergyConnect comprises several sections (as shown on Figure1), being:

- Victorian section, which extends from the NSW/Victoria border to an existing electricity facility at Red Cliffs
- NSW sections including:
  - Western section (the subject area of this audit) which extends from: the SA/NSW border (near Chowilla in SA) to Buronga
  - Buronga to the NSW/Victoria border at Monak (near Red Cliffs in Victoria)
  - Eastern section, which extends from Buronga to Wagga Wagga
- SA section, which extends from Robertstown to the SA/NSW border.

TransGrid have two separate environmental planning approval applications for the sections within NSW these are for the:

- NSW – Western Section (Application Number SSI 10040)
- NSW – Eastern Section (Application Number SSI 9172452).

On the 28 September 2021, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces determined the NSW Western Section with Conditions of Approval. The NSW Eastern Section was subsequently determined on 22 September 2022.

## 1.2 Construction Activities

EnergyConnect NSW Western Section is being delivered in two stages as summarised in Table 1. Stage 1 construction commenced on 4 July 2022 and Stage 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2022.

Table 1: Stage Construction Details

Project Stage	Key Activities
Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental investigations, biodiversity and heritage protection, salvage, and recordings</li> <li>• Other survey work, such as road dilapidation surveys, and surveys of the general alignment and existing utilities</li> <li>• Site establishment and bulk earthworks at Buronga substation upgrade and expansion site</li> <li>• Site establishment of the Buronga accommodation camp</li> <li>• Site establishment and operation of the Buronga construction compound</li> <li>• Access points</li> </ul>

Project Stage	Key Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment and use of water supply points</li> <li>• Utility adjustments and protection.</li> </ul>
Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-construction minor works</li> <li>• Continuation of any outstanding Stage 1 construction activities</li> <li>• Establishment and operation of Wentworth accommodation camp, compound and Anabranh South ancillary site</li> <li>• Buronga substation upgrade and expansion</li> <li>• Establishment other ancillary facilities on the transmission line construction corridor outside identified heritage risk zones</li> <li>• Property adjustment work including adjustments to property fencing</li> <li>• Access points, water supply points establishment and/or use</li> <li>• Construction access tracks</li> <li>• Temporary works</li> <li>• Transmission line construction</li> <li>• Utility adjustments and protection</li> <li>• Decommissioning of existing infrastructure</li> <li>• Progressive site rehabilitation and landscaping.</li> </ul>

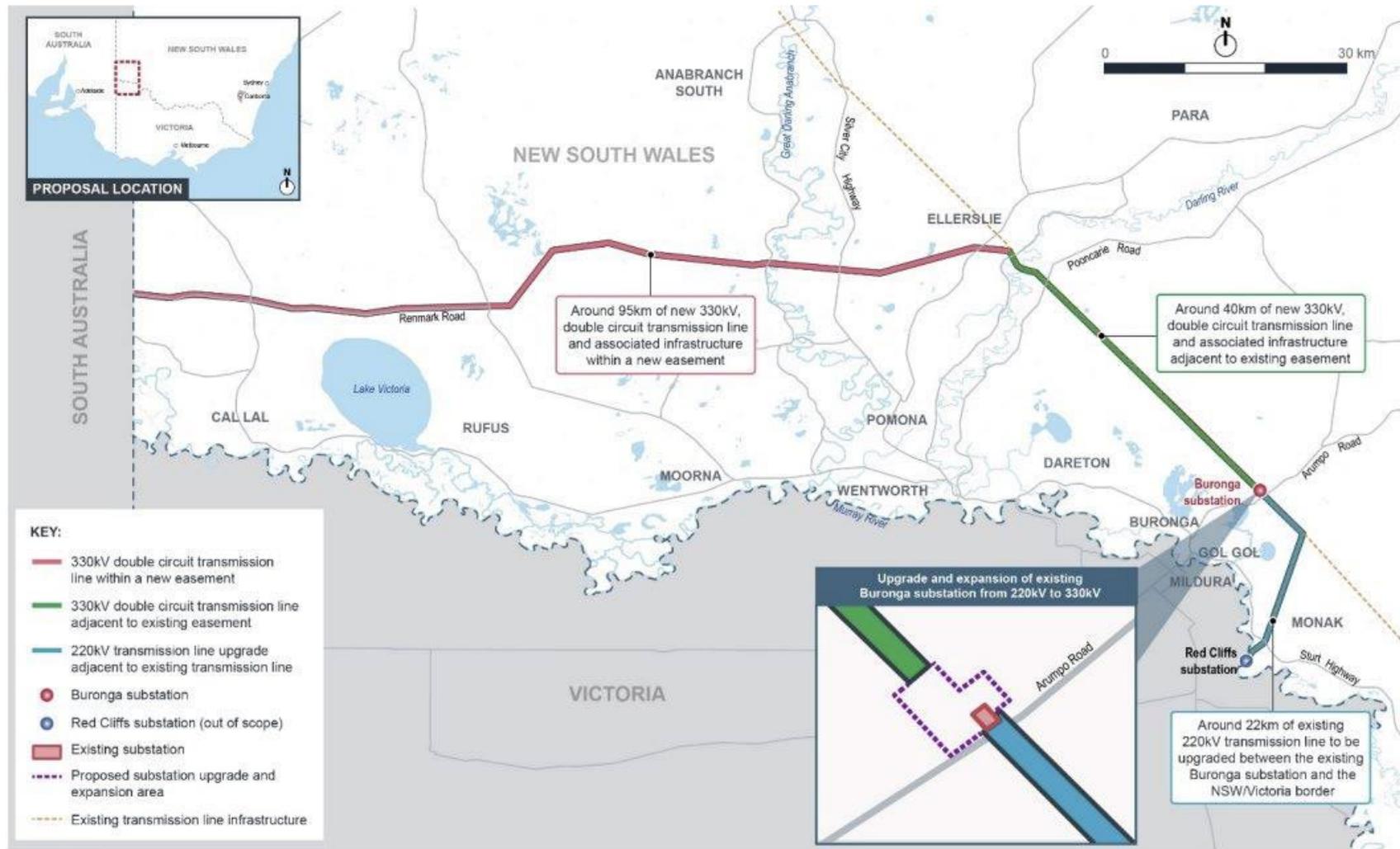


Figure 1: Project Location as described in the EIS

### 1.3 Auditor

Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd has been appointed to undertake this independent environmental audit. The auditor was approved by the Department of Planning and Environment. Details of the auditor are provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Auditor Details

Name	Qualifications	Key Experience
Richard Peterson	B. E Civil M. Environmental Management Management Systems Auditing Leading Management Systems Audit teams Exemplar Global Lead Auditor	25 years of environmental management experience in the infrastructure sector. Have undertaken over 100 audits including independent DPE audits for major infrastructure projects including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EnergyConnect</li> <li>• Crudine Ridge Windfarm</li> <li>• Sapphire Windfarm</li> <li>• Rye Park Windfarm</li> <li>• Albion Park Bypass</li> <li>• Warrell Creek to Nambucca Heads</li> <li>• Northern Road upgrade</li> <li>• Tweed Valley Hospital</li> <li>• Windsor Bridge</li> </ul>

The DPE Letter of approval for the auditor is provided in Appendix A.

### 1.4 Audit Objectives

The key objective of the Independent Environmental Audit was to assess compliance of the Project with the Ministers Conditions of Approval (MCoA) (SSI 10040) and the implementation of management plans as outlined in the MCoA. The audit is to recognise good practices while providing practical and reasonable recommendations for improvement that can be implemented throughout the project throughout construction.

### 1.5 Audit Scope and Period

This audit has been undertaken in accordance with Condition E 11 of the Ministers Conditions of approval as outlined below.

Table 3: Independent Audit – Requirements

Condition Reference	Condition	Comment
E 11	Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out at the frequency described and in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (PAR) (2020), unless otherwise agreed or directed by the Planning Secretary.	This audit was undertaken on 14th and 15th of February 2023. The audit was undertaken within 6 months of the initial audit in accordance with the independent audit PAR.

This is the first ongoing and the second independent audit for Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) and covers the period from the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 to the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

## 2 Audit Methodology

### 2.1 Scope Development

The audit scope was developed in consideration of:

- The NSW Department of Environment Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (May 2020)
- Project Conditions of Approval (SSI 6693) as modified dated 15 April 2021
- Stakeholder feedback from relevant project stakeholders (refer to Section 2.2 and Appendix D).

### 2.2 Stakeholder Consultation – Key Issues

In developing the audit scope, the Department of Planning and Environment were consulted by email and phone. The Department recommended several other government agencies and organisations be consulted with as follows.

- Environment Protection Authority
- Biodiversity Conservation Division
- Heritage NSW
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils
- Wentworth Council
- DPI Fisheries
- DPI Water
- Local Lands Service/Western Lands
- Federal Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment
- Transport for NSW.

These organisations were consulted with either formally by email correspondence or by telephone.

Key issues raised by these organisations that are relevant to the audit are summarised in Table 4 with further details and the auditor’s response to the stakeholder issues provided in Appendix D -1.

Table 4: Stakeholder Consultation - Key issues

Key Issue	Stakeholders focus areas
Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement to obtain an Environment Protection Licence for the project.</li> <li>• Identification and protection of Aboriginal and European cultural sites (as per consent and management plans)</li> <li>• Waste management</li> </ul>
Community and Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement of RAPs in surveillance for clearing activities</li> <li>• Complaints register and management of complaints.</li> <li>• Implementation of Community Consultation Strategy</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing vegetation limits as per condition/management plan</li> <li>• Identification and protection of flora and fauna (as per consent and mgt plans)</li> <li>• Restrictions on clearing and habitat</li> <li>• Recording of clearing undertaking including partial clearing and full clearing areas</li> <li>• Recording of Plant Community Types (PCT’s)</li> </ul>
Soil and Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion and sediment management</li> <li>• Management of tracking of material onto road network</li> <li>• Dust management</li> <li>• Flooding impacts and the need to undertake further flooding studies</li> <li>• Water management plans and extraction management plans</li> <li>• Water supply availability</li> <li>• Water metering</li> <li>• Annual reporting</li> </ul>

Key Issue	Stakeholders focus areas
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water licences</li> </ul>
Out of Hours Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recording and management of OOHW's</li> </ul>
Traffic Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of traffic controls, recording of vehicle movements, LV's and HV's</li> <li>Recording of vehicles using approved access routes</li> </ul>
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with all commitments/actions within management plans</li> <li>Evidence of obtaining all other relevant certificates such as OC's and CC;s</li> <li>Role of the Environmental Representative</li> <li>Waste management</li> <li>Development and implementation of the Emergency Plan.</li> </ul>

### 2.3 Summary of Audit Processes

To complete the audit, the following was undertaken:

- Opening meeting
- Site inspection, noting environmental practices and controls
- Audit interviews
- Review of documents and records
- Closing meeting.

### 2.4 Opening Meeting

An opening meeting was held on 8th of February 2023 where the auditor provided an overview of the audit process and confirmed the agenda for the audit.

### 2.5 Site Inspection

A site inspection was undertaken on Tuesday 14th of February 2023. The weather was hot and dry. Areas covered by the inspection included:

- Camp 6 /Arumpo Road Compound
- Camp 7 and laydown area
- Main line clearing activities

In addition to undertaking a site inspection, the auditor attended the project pre-start meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February prior to works commencing. The pre-start included a briefing on the clearing process and the importance of undertaking the necessary preclearance surveys and obtaining the required permits prior to clearing.

Observations during the site inspection are provided in Table 5.

Table 5: Site inspection observations

Issue	Observations	Photographs (refer to Appendix C)
General Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camp 6 and site laydown area is now established with camp accommodation, offices, water treatment, carpark, laydown, fire water storage, waste, refuelling and chemical storage areas</li> <li>Buronga Substation earthworks are ongoing, with rehabilitation of borrow pit well advanced</li> <li>Establishment at Camp 7 had recently commenced, with earthworks underway</li> <li>Main line clearing is underway with approximately 80% of clearing activities completed at the time of the audit</li> </ul>	1-2

Issue	Observations	Photographs (refer to Appendix C)
Soil, Water and Dust Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of tower bases, fabrication and mobilisation of towers is underway.</li> <li>• Actions from the previous audit relating to erosion and sedimentation planning and control had been implemented including a review of the Camp 6 site layout</li> <li>• A robust system has been implemented to prevent mud tracking onto Arumpo Road. This consisted of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An attended boom gate so vehicles may be inspected prior to exiting the site</li> <li>○ A high-pressure hose wheel wash for vehicles with excessive mud or dirt</li> <li>○ Rumble grid and stabilised (bitumen) access and egress</li> </ul>               The system appeared to be effective with no visible mud being tracked onto Arumpo Road             </li> <li>• Erosion and Sediment Controls implemented included rock lined channels, sediment fences and sediment basins. Treated water from the sediment basin is used for dust suppression</li> <li>• Stripped topsoil was being used to create perimeter berms with evidence of re-growth and stabilisation observed</li> <li>• A recycled effluent plant has been established at Camp 6 to treat greywater so that it may be reused for dust suppression and construction purposes through a permit to pump system</li> <li>• While Camp 7 is in the progress of being established, the water management, erosion and sediment controls appear to be consistent with those installed at Camp 6</li> <li>• Dust appeared to be effectively managed through dust water carts. A polymer soil binder had also been applied at Camp 6 to minimise dust generation</li> <li>• The project has recently experienced a significant flooding event, there were no observed impacts or residual effects such as debris, potholing, rutting damage to sediment controls etc.</li> </ul>	3-12
Chemicals, Hazards, and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spill control measures were available on site including a designated covered storage area. The storage area was separated from the accommodation and site offices and consisted of vented and bunded storage containers, storage cabinets, impermeable concrete floor and spill kits</li> <li>• All chemical and fuel containers were stored appropriately, there were no waste containers located on site and no evidence of spilt material such as soil staining</li> <li>• Secondary containment bunding was provided around equipment such as generators</li> <li>• A vehicle refuelling station including designated impermeable concrete bund and spill kits</li> <li>• A fire water tank had been installed to be used by the Rural Fire Service in the event of a bushfire</li> <li>• A signposted and plastic lined concrete washout pit had been provided for concrete washout</li> <li>• Appropriate waste and recycling facilities were provided.</li> </ul>	13-18
Biodiversity, Clearing and Ground Disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing activities were being undertaken with the use of GPS technology with a remote tracking device used to identify clearing limits in the field. The clearing limits for both full and partial clearing were mapped using GIS and connected to the tracking device to ensure clearing activities were undertaken within the approved boundary</li> <li>• Native vegetation and heritage (no/go) areas were clearly identified in the field with visible “No Go” signage</li> <li>• Examples of habitat tree preservation (e.g. Wedge Tailed Eagles Nest) were observed</li> </ul>	19-22

Issue	Observations	Photographs (refer to Appendix C)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nest boxes were installed with additional supplies stored at the Camp 6 site ready for deployment.</li> </ul>	

## 2.6 Document Review

In undertaking the audit, a broad range of documents were reviewed or referred to including:

- Project conditions of approval (SSI 10040)
- Project Environmental Impact Statement
- Environmental Management Plans, developed in accordance with the Project Conditions
- Correspondence with relevant authorities
- Consultation records
- Specialist reports
- Records of implementation of the environmental management plans including checklists, inspection reports, waste records etc.

## 2.7 Closing Meeting

The closing meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2023 where the summary of the audit findings was provided, noting areas of good practice and recommendations for improvement.

## 2.8 Compliance Descriptors

The compliance status of each condition was determined using the relevant descriptors in Table 6 and as described in the DPE 2020 Auditing Post Approval Requirement.

Table 6 Compliance Descriptors

Status	Description
Compliant (C)	Sufficient verifiable evidence to demonstrate that all elements of the requirement have been completed
Non- Compliant (NC)	One or more specific elements of the conditions or requirements have not been complied with within the scope of the audit
Not Triggered (NT)	A requirement has an activation or timing trigger that has not been met at the time when the audit was undertaken

## **3 Audit Findings**

### **3.1 Non-Compliances**

No non compliances were identified by the audit.

### **3.2 Summary of Agency Notices, Orders, Penalty Notices and Prosecutions**

No agency notices, orders, penalty notices or prosecutions have been issued to the project to date.

### **3.3 Actions from previous audits**

Seven recommendations for improvement were made during the previous audit. The status of the actions is provided in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Previous Audit Recommendations

Ref	Observations	Recommendation	Auditor Findings
1	<p><b>B1 - CEMP</b></p> <p>The project is significant in terms of both size and complexity with substantial commitments, stakeholder engagement, monitoring and reporting requirements. Ensuring the correct balance between field supervision with office-based administration, stakeholder and reporting will be a challenge as an imbalance may result in increased risk of incident in the field. There may also be instances where resource gaps within the team may need to be filled during roster periods.</p>	<p>An opportunity to improve process efficiency through enhanced use of technological applications, simplifying routine processes and administrative tasks (on a risk-based approach) may optimise the field time of the site-based environment team to ensure on the ground risks are minimised. It is recommended that this opportunity is explored.</p> <p>It is also recommended that contingency resourcing plans for the environment team should be developed to account for the roster system.</p>	<p>Technology applications applied to the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPS and GIS technology for planning, executing and reporting vegetation clearance activities</li> <li>• In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) for both heavy and light vehicles</li> <li>• Site inspections undertaken using mobile phone applications to avoid unnecessary paperwork and double handling</li> </ul> <p>Since the previous audit, the environment team has grown substantially and now includes 8 environmental specialists and three dedicated labourers to support the implementation and maintenance of environmental controls. Contingency plans are in place to account for the roster system so there is always adequate coverage.</p> <p><b>Action Closed</b></p>
2	<p><b>B1-CEMP</b></p> <p>The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and specialist management plans are technically rigorous and complex. This may lead to misinterpretation or misunderstanding of the requirements in the field resulting in an increased risk of incident or non-conformance.</p>	<p>There may be benefit in reviewing the plans and presenting the critical information with simpler and more user-friendly documents by optimising the use of visual presentations, flowcharts, tables, and technology applications such as GIS. This may be particularly useful for high risk and routine processes such as ground disturbance and clearing. It may be beneficial to re-engage with relevant stakeholders including aboriginal, technical specialists (soil and water, heritage, ecology, so that the requirements are clearly understood, and process improvements may be identified).</p>	<p>The requirements of construction environmental management plans and specialist subplans for specific activities has been summarised in the form of Environmental Work Method Statements, which are a simple and widely used tool in the construction industry. EWMS are included in work packs and a pre-work supervisors briefing is held so that key issues, risks, and mitigations are understood. All workers involved in the delivery of the work sign the EWMS as confirmation of their understanding of the key risks and mitigations. Examples of EWMS prepared to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preconstruction minor works</li> <li>• Earthworks and stockpile management</li> <li>• Access points</li> <li>• Clearing and grubbing</li> </ul>

Ref	Observations	Recommendation	Auditor Findings
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demolition and decommissioning</li> <li>• Borrow pit management</li> <li>• Tower and pole installation</li> <li>• Piling and drilling works</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Closed</b></p>
3	<p><b>B1 CEMP</b></p> <p>There are a range of mechanisms within the CEMP to communicate CEMP requirements, provide training, education and promote cultural awareness. These include daily pre-start talks, leadership visits and targeted environmental briefings.</p> <p>An opportunity exists to capitalise on current platforms to deliver clear messaging to the workforce of the importance of environmental and aboriginal cultural heritage values.</p>	<p>It is recommended that an environmental and aboriginal cultural heritage risk and awareness program that is aimed at the project workforce is developed and implemented focusing on the priority risks and important cultural heritage values. The program may utilise the existing platforms such as pre-starts and leadership visits but may also include additional tools such as field pocket handbooks and posters.</p> <p>The opportunity to involve aboriginal stakeholder groups and the project leadership in the program is encouraged.</p>	<p>A Cultural Awareness Training program aimed at construction workforce is currently under preparation. This is supplementary to the pre-starts and toolbox talks which are being delivered focussing on cultural awareness.</p> <p><b>Action Ongoing</b></p>
4	<p><b>B1 CEMP</b></p> <p>The International Standard for Environmental Management (ISO 14001) documents a process for undertaking management reviews involving top management to ensure the continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the Environmental Management System.</p> <p>SEJV have a range of reporting mechanisms and management tools to ensure top management are involved with the implementation of the CEMP and related management plans, however the format and frequency of undertaking management reviews is not defined within in the CEMP.</p>	<p>It is recommended a formalised process for undertaking management reviews involving the top project management team is documented in the CEMP (noting that this may be the formalisation of existing processes).</p> <p>It is recommended that the reviews include an assessment of key performance metrics such as biodiversity clearing limits, indigenous employment, and local industry participation targets etc.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been reviewed and amended and will be closed upon completion of the new action identified (refer to item # 3 in Table 10)</p> <p><b>Action Open</b></p>

Ref	Observations	Recommendation	Auditor Findings
5	<p><b>D14,16 Dust Erosion and Sedimentation</b></p> <p>Camp 6 is in the early phases of construction, the primary method of controlling dust is with a water cart and a street sweeper with a broom attachment which may be less effective during hot, dry and dusty conditions. There is also the potential for tracking dirt on the road as construction activities accelerate.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the site layout, vehicle movement plan and erosion and sediment control plan are reviewed concurrently with the objective of providing primary dust and sediment control. This will provide the opportunity to test systems prior to the establishment of other site compounds, accommodation camps and laydown areas.</p>	<p>The CPESC was involved in reviewing the site setup, erosion and sediment controls at Camp 6 with further involvement for Camp 7 and general clearing and construction activities.</p> <p>Robust erosion and sediment control systems have now been established at Camp 6 including stabilised site access, sediment basins, rock lined drains, vehicle washdown facilities and rumble grid to prevent off site mud tracking.</p> <p>Erosion and sediment controls at Camp 6 are deemed appropriate and effective. Erosion and sediment controls at Camp 7 are being established in a consistent manner to Camp 6.</p> <p><b>Action Closed</b></p>
6	<p><b>D35, 36 Vehicle Routes</b></p> <p>Driver's code of conduct does not include a map or clear instruction of the approved vehicle routes.</p> <p>There is no visible signage on key access routes alerting drivers to correct (or incorrect) vehicle routes.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the driver code of conduct is updated to include a map showing the approved vehicle routes (as per Appendix 2 of the infrastructure approval).</p> <p>It is also recommended that the current measures to communicate and monitor the approved routes to contractors, suppliers and personnel are reviewed and appropriate mechanisms are implemented that may include visible signage at key intersections and/or on approved routes. Another alternative for consideration may be the use of vehicle tracking technology.</p>	<p>The Driver code of conduct has now been updated and a toolbox refresher has provided to remind operators of the correct transport routes to site.</p> <p>An In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) has been installed on all vehicles which allows tracking of vehicle movements, vehicle speeds using GPS. IVMS includes speed, location, idle time, overrevving and sharp turn braking.</p> <p>The system generates an automated email to the SEJV Environment Manager whenever a vehicle uses the incorrect route. To date there have been no recorded breaches of the approved project routes.</p> <p><b>Action Closed</b></p>
7	<p><b>D25 Restrictions on Habitat Removal</b></p>	<p>It is recommended that biodiversity accounting and reporting processes are reviewed, and a clear process is defined and implemented so up to date information is available so compliance with clearing restrictions may be monitored and reported accurately.</p>	<p>Clearing limits are mapped by a GIS specialist. The limits are provided to the clearing contractor who have their own GPS tracking system which is linked to the GIS maps. GIS maps are detailed and include access tracks, parking areas, centreline clearance and B4, B10 (partial) clearing zones.</p> <p>Data is transmitted fortnightly to the GIS database by the clearing contractor.</p>

Ref	Observations	Recommendation	Auditor Findings
	<p>The project is in its early stages of construction with minimal clearing undertaken to date. The project has an established pre-clearing process which is overseen by the project ecologist with cleared areas recorded and reported. While the current process is adequate for the limited clearing to date, there does not appear to be a documented process for auditing the clearing limits and for providing up to date information regarding progress and compliance with clearing restrictions.</p>		<p>A register of all clearing activities is kept up to date by the SEJV Environment Manager that includes mainline clearing and partial clearing with a breakdown of Plant Community Types (PCT's) as well as individual species that are listed in the conditions of approval.</p> <p><b>Action Closed</b></p> <p>-</p>

### 3.4 Supplementary Approvals and Licences

In addition to the Project Planning Approval, several other approvals and licences are relevant to the work. These include:

- Water Access Licence (WAL 7731) which is held by Western Murray Irrigation Ltd and is utilised by SEJV for the purposes of construction water for dust suppression – two bores located at Fletchers Lake and Alcheringa Drive
- Potable Water – agreement with Council
- Environment Protection Licence (EPL 2029) held by Wentworth Shire Council for the operation of the Buronga Landfill (the disposal site for project waste generated by SEJV).

The current activities do not trigger the requirement for an Environment Protection Licence.

### 3.5 Community Complaints

No community complaints have been received at this stage of the project.

### 3.6 Adequacy of Environmental Management Plans

The management plans implemented for this construction phase have been prepared by suitably qualified personnel, endorsed by the independent Environmental Representative, and approved by the Department of Planning and Environment following consultation with relevant stakeholders. The plans are technically robust and meet the conditions of approval and other relevant legislative requirements. The management plans are adequate for the current scope of work and were observed to be implemented effectively in the field.

### 3.7 Assessment of Compliance with Predictions in the Environmental Impact Statement

Based on the observations, audit interviews and records reviews as part of the audit, it may be reasonably concluded that the environmental impacts of construction activities to date are consistent with predictions made in the Environmental Impact Statement noting that:

- It was observed on site that the ground disturbance activities undertaken at Buronga, Camp Camp 6 and Camp 7 were generally within the disturbance area described in the EIS with boundary fencing and “no go” signage to prevent work from occurring outside the approved disturbance area
- There were no observed off-site impacts such as:
  - Evidence or reports of clearing outside the project boundary
  - Dust or mud tracking on local roads
  - Excessive noise or vibration emissions, noting that current activities are at a substantial distance from residential or other sensitive receivers with no complaints received to date
  - No incidents of fuel, chemical spills, unlawful waste disposal or pollution of waters or complaints received were observed or reported.

Clearing activities are being undertaken in a systematic manner with GIS /GPS systems employed to ensure clearing limits are complied with. Surveyed clearing limits are marked in the field with high visibility bollards.

All clearing activities are recorded, and a register of clearing is kept by SEJV. A summary of the status of actual clearing against the predictions made in the EIS (refer to Table 13.2 of the Biodiversity Assessment Report (BDAR)) are presented below in Table 8. For reference, the clearing limits for various species described in Condition D25 are also provided.

With clearing almost complete, it is likely that the overall biodiversity impacts will be less than those predicted in the EIS, and in Condition D25 however further assessment will be required upon the completion of clearing to confirm the final clearing footprint.

Table 8: Biodiversity Values – Predicted vs Actual

Biodiversity Value	EIS Prediction	Infrastructure Approval (D25)	Impacts to Date
Native Vegetation - full disturbance A	606.76 ha		269.15 ha
Native Vegetation – partial disturbance B	292.7 ha		95.15 ha
Sandhill Pine Woodland	14.02 ha	19.6 ha	10.23 ha
Harrow Wattle (habitat)	0.01 ha	0.04 ha	Nil
A Saltbush	2.18 ha	0.32 ha	Nil
A Spear Grass	2.18 ha	1.51 ha	0.97ha
Bitter Quandong	18 individuals	14 individuals	Nil
Regent Parrot (habitat)	6.91 ha	6.91 ha	0.38ha

## 4 Conclusions

### 4.1 Management of Key Issues

Key environmental issues identified during the audit as relevant to the stage of project along with a summary of measures employed to minimise risk are provided in Table 9. These measures are deemed to be practical and appropriate to manage the key environmental issues with further recommendations for improvement identified in Table 10.

Table 9: Key Environmental Issues and Summary of Management Controls Employed

Key Environmental Issues	Summary of Management Controls and Resources Employed
Soil and Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction Soil and Water Management Plan</li> <li>• Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)</li> <li>• Progressive erosion and sediment control plans</li> <li>• Monthly CPESC ERSED inspections and reporting</li> <li>• Progressive rehabilitation providing groundcover</li> <li>• Bunded and ventilated chemical storage area</li> <li>• Fully stocked spill kits</li> <li>• Sediment fences</li> <li>• Water reuse (of sediment basin water) for dust suppression</li> <li>• Water Access Licence</li> <li>• Recycled camp water for construction</li> <li>• Lined concrete washout pits</li> <li>• Secondary containment bunding of plant and equipment.</li> </ul>
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Management Plan</li> <li>• Cultural awareness training</li> <li>• Heritage consultant</li> <li>• Project Heritage Manager</li> <li>• Ground disturbance checklist</li> <li>• Pre-ground disturbance inspections involving aboriginal stakeholders.</li> <li>• Heritage No- Go Signage</li> <li>• Work area boundary fencing.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity Management Plan</li> <li>• Nest Box Management Plan</li> <li>• Field Ecologist</li> <li>• Biodiversity Assessors</li> <li>• Ground disturbance checklist</li> <li>• Pre-ground disturbance inspections involving project ecologist</li> <li>• Signage and fencing protecting areas</li> <li>• Clearing reporting</li> <li>• GIS and GPS System accessible to field operators</li> <li>• Biodiversity clearing reporting.</li> </ul>
Traffic and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic and Transport Management Plan</li> <li>• Site Induction</li> <li>• Driver Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Contractual instructions (for site access routes)</li> <li>• In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS).</li> </ul>
Community Stakeholder and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Communication Strategy</li> <li>• Mobile community engagement van</li> <li>• Participation at local events (e.g., Wentworth Show)</li> <li>• Local aboriginal participation employment manager</li> <li>• Local Business and Employment Strategy</li> <li>• Engagement Manager</li> <li>• Land and Property Access Manager</li> <li>• Community notifications</li> <li>• Project website</li> </ul>

Key Environmental Issues	Summary of Management Controls and Resources Employed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of employment targets</li> <li>• OOH Works protocol.</li> </ul>

## 4.2 Key Strengths

Key strengths identified are as follows:

- The use of technology for clearing processes and traffic control using GIS, GPS and IVMS is an efficient and accurate means of providing real time management information to the project team and field operators
- Methods for controlling erosion and sediment and off-site mud tracking at the Camp 7 compound including a boom gate and inspection of vehicles prior to departure, wheel washing, rumble grids and stabilised site access were very effective with no observed mud tracking on to Arumpo Road
- The site based environment team has expanded considerably since the previous audit and includes dedicated labourers to implement and maintain environmental controls in the field.

## 4.3 Audit Recommendations

Audit recommendations are provided in Table 10.

Table 10: Audit Recommendations

Ref	Condition (s)	Key Issues	Observations	Recommendation
1	A19	Environmental Representative	The ER is fulfilling their obligations in relation to the Conditions of Approval, however, has not undertaken any formal inspections of the Environmental Management Controls at this stage in the project.	It is recommended the ER undertakes an initial site inspection and then develops and agrees with TransGrid a program for further inspections to be undertaken for the remainder of the project. The program should be developed in consultation with the Department.
2	B1	CEMP	<p>There is currently not a mechanism within the CEMP to undertake formal management reviews.</p> <p>Management Reviews are an integral component of the International Standard for Environmental Management Systems (ISO14001) and can contribute towards continual improvement</p>	<p>It is recommended that formal management review meetings involving SEJV and Transgrid are undertaken that may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results and actions of audits</li> <li>• Compliance with project conditions of approval</li> <li>• Stakeholder issues</li> <li>• Project lookahead</li> <li>• Key risks and opportunities</li> <li>• CEMP and Subplan review/update.</li> </ul> <p>The recommended frequency for management reviews is quarterly and minutes of the management reviews are kept.</p>
3	D46/D47	Fire and Emergency Management	The 20kL fire tank has been installed at the Buronga Camp in accordance with D467 and an Emergency Plan has been prepared in accordance with D47	It is recommended that the local Rural Fire Service is invited to the site as part of the testing of the Emergency Plan and inducted into the location of the fire tank. Commission testing of the FRNSW suction connection with RFS equipment should also be undertaken to ensure effectiveness in a fire emergency.

## Appendix A DPE Auditor Approval

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Department of Planning and Environment

Mr John Fisher  
180 THOMAS STREET  
HAYMARKET NSW 2000

30/11/2022

Dear Mr Fisher

**Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) (SSI-10040)  
Independent Environmental Audit (Second) Team approval request**

I refer to your request (SSI-10040-PA-81) submitted on 24 November 2022 for the Secretary's approval of suitably qualified person/s to undertake the second Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) and prepare the IEA Report for the Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) (SSI-10040).

The department has reviewed the nomination and information you have provided and is satisfied that the expert is suitably qualified and experienced. In accordance with Condition E11 of SSI-10040 (the 'Consent') and the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements, I can advise the Secretary approves the appointment of Mr Richard Peterson of Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd.

Please ensure this correspondence is appended to the Independent Audit Report.

The Independent Audit must be prepared, undertaken and finalised in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements. Failure to meet these requirements will require revision and resubmission.

The department reserves the right to request an alternate auditor or audit team for future audits. Please note that this approval of Mr Peterson is conditional upon him maintaining certification as a lead or principal auditor with a relevant industry body.

Notwithstanding the agreement for the above listed audit team for this Project, each respective project approval or consent requires a request for the agreement to the auditor or audit team be submitted to the department, for consideration of the Secretary. Each request is reviewed and depending on the complexity of future projects, the suitability of a proposed auditor or audit team will be considered.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact me on 04293400261 or [compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



Katrina O'Relly  
Team Leader - Compliance  
Compliance  
As nominee of the Planning Secretary

## Appendix B Independent Audit Table

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## Schedule 2 Part A – Administrative conditions

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
<b>Obligation to minimise harm to the environment</b>				
<b>A1</b>	In meeting the specific performance measures and criteria of this approval, all reasonable and feasible measures must be implemented to prevent, and if prevention is not reasonable and feasible, minimise any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, rehabilitation, upgrading or decommissioning of the development.	Site Observations Audit Interview Documents reviewed as part of the audit and noted below	All reasonable and feasible measures were observed to be implemented on site.	Compliant
<b>Terms of approval</b>				
<b>A2</b>	The development may only be carried out: In compliance with the conditions of this approval; In accordance with all written directions of the Planning Secretary; Generally in accordance with the EIS; and Generally in accordance with the Development Layout in Appendix 1.	Site Observations Audit Interview Documents reviewed as part of the audit and noted below	No directions received from the Planning Secretary.  A compliance tracking program is in place to manage compliance with the conditions of approval	Compliant
<b>A3</b>	The proponent must comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Departments assessment of: Any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this approval; Any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this approval and; The implementation of actions or measures contained in these documents.	Site Observations Audit Interview Documents reviewed as part of the audit and noted below	DPE comments incorporated into the management plans.	Compliant
<b>A4</b>	The conditions of this approval and directions of the Planning Secretary prevail to the extent of any inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict between them and a document listed in condition A2(c) or A2(d). In the event of an inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict between any of the documents listed in condition A2(c) or A2(d), the most recent document prevails to the extent of inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict.	Site Observations Audit Interview Consistency Assessment – Access points outside Heritage PAD Sites Rev 1 dated 28/6/22.	Consistency Assessments undertaken to ensure compliance with this requirement. No inconsistencies identified	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
A5	Any document that must be submitted within the timeframe specified in or under the terms of this approval may be submitted within a later timeframe agreed with the Planning Secretary. This condition does not apply to the immediate written notification required in respect of an incident under condition E6.	Audit Interview Site Observations	Not triggered, a request for alternative timeframes has not been sought.	Not triggered
<b>Lapse of Approval</b>				
A6	This approval will lapse if the Proponent does not physically commence the development within 5 years of the date on which is it granted.	Site Observations Audit Interview	The development commenced on 4 July 2022 within 5 years of the date of approval (28/9/21).	Compliant
<b>Evidence of Consultation</b>				
A7	Where conditions of this approval require consultation with an identified party, the Proponent must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Consult with the relevant party prior to submitting the subject document to the Planning Secretary for approval; and</li> <li>b) Provide details of the consultation undertaken including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The outcome of that consultation, matters resolved and unresolved; and;</li> <li>ii) Details of any disagreement remaining between the party consulted and the Proponent and how the Proponent has addressed the matters not resolved.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Consultation records ER review letters.	Consultation records, Environmental Representative review letters and DPE letters of approval demonstrate the necessary consultations have been undertaken.	Compliant
<b>Protection of Public Infrastructure</b>				
A8	Unless the Proponent and applicable authority agree otherwise, the Proponent Must; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Undertake any works on or in the vicinity of public infrastructure in consultation with the applicable public authority or service provider responsible for that public infrastructure;</li> <li>b) Repair, or pay the full costs associated with repairing, any public infrastructure that is damaged by the development; and</li> </ul>	Audit interview Site observations	No public infrastructure impacted by the project at this stage of construction.	Not triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>c) Relocate, or pay the full costs associated with relocating, any public infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a result of the development.</p> <p>This condition does not apply to any damage to roads caused as a result of general road usage which is expressly provided for in the conditions of this approval.</p> <p>NSW Government 9 Project EnergyConnect (NSW- Western Section) Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (SSI 10040)</p>			
<b>Demolition</b>				
<b>A9</b>	<p>The Proponent must ensure that all demolition work on site is carried out in accordance with AS 2601-2001: The Demolition of Structures (Standard)</p>	<p>Site Observations Audit Interview</p>	<p>Demolition not undertaken at this stage of the project.</p>	<p>Not triggered</p>
<b>Structural Adequacy</b>				
<b>A10</b>	<p>The Proponent must ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA; and where the BCA is not applicable, to the relevant Australian Standard.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Under part 6 of the EP&amp;A Act, the proponent is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the development.</i></li> <li>- <i>Part 8 of the EP&amp;A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the development</i></li> </ul>	<p>Site Observations Audit Interview Transgrid Letter dated 16/6/22 Transgrid Standard Design Manual Revision 1.04 dated 3/5/19</p>	<p>Substation buildings have not been constructed. Transmission structures (bases and masts) have been prepared but are yet to be installed. GHD has been engaged to verify the new structures comply with the relevant Australian standards.</p> <p>Substation buildings are being constructed to meet the requirements of the Transgrid Design Manual which nominates relevant Australian Standards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bench Design</li> <li>• Earthworks</li> <li>• Roadways and Pavements</li> <li>• Parking and Hardstand Areas</li> <li>• Water Services</li> <li>• Buildings and Building Services</li> <li>• Oil Containment</li> <li>• Transformer Compounds</li> </ul>	<p>Not triggered</p>

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
<b>Compliance</b>				
A11	The Proponent must ensure that all of its employees, contractors (and their sub-contractors) are made aware of, and are instructed to comply with, the conditions of this approval relevant to activities they carry out in respect of the development.	Audit Interview Site Observations  Online Environmental and Heritage Induction  Site specific induction Contract documentation – Appendix F Toolbox meeting minutes 11/11/22, 10/1/23 Daily Pre-start meeting records 2/2/23, 20/2/23 Induction Register 7/3/23.	All subcontractors are required to attend an online induction which includes environmental and heritage aspects as well as site specific induction. A register is kept up to date of all induction attendees. Contracts (Appendix F) stipulate minimum standards for environmental performance. Other methods to communicate environmental requirements include daily pre-start meetings and toolbox talks. A pre-start toolbox presentation was given to supervisors and subcontractors relating to the process for clearing on the first day of the audit.	Compliant
<b>Operation of Plant and Equipment</b>				
A12	All plant and equipment used on site or in connection with the development must be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and</li> <li>b) Operated in a proper and efficient manner.</li> </ul>	Site Observations Audit Interview Plant and equipment pre-start checklist Work Order Reports 27/2/23, 12/2/23	Plant and equipment is subject to daily pre-start and onboarding checks. Plant and equipment observed on site was operating effectively with no visible fumes or excessive noise. Work Order reports provide documented evidence of ongoing maintenance for individual items of plant.	Compliant
<b>Applicability of Guidelines</b>				
A13	References in the conditions of this approval to any guideline, protocol, Australian Standard or policy are to such guidelines,	-	Administrative note.	Noted

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	protocols, Standards or policies in the form they are in as at the date of this approval.			
A14	However, consistent with the conditions of this approval and without altering any limits or criteria in this approval, the Planning secretary may, when issuing directions under this approval in respect of ongoing monitoring and management obligations, require compliance with an updated or revised version of such a guideline, protocol, Standard or policy, or a replacement of them.	-	Administrative note.	Noted
<b>Community Communication Strategy</b>				
A15	<p>Prior to the commencement of construction, the Proponent must prepare a Community Communication Strategy to provide mechanisms to facilitate communication between the Proponent and the community (including adjoining affected landowners) during construction.</p> <p>The Community Communication Strategy must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify landowners for potentially impacted receivers;</li> <li>Ensure that the landowners identified in (a) are consulted during construction;</li> <li>Set out procedures and mechanisms for the regular distribution of information to the wider community</li> <li>Establish a public liaison officer(s) to engage with the local community; and</li> <li>Set out procedures and mechanisms; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through which the community can discuss or provide feedback from the community; and</li> <li>To resolve any issues and mediate any disputes that may arise in relation to construction of the development.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>The Proponent must implement the Communication Strategy for the duration of construction.</p>	<p>Community Communication Strategy (EnergyConnect) NSW Western Section) dated 15/2/22</p> <p>Records of Implementation of the Strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wentworth Shire Council Facebook Page updates</li> <li>Wentworth Shire Council Consultation Report</li> <li>SEJV Substation Factsheets</li> <li>Mobile Community Van (Photograph)</li> <li>Construction update – Work outside approved construction hours (February 2023)</li> <li>Factsheet – Overhead Transmission Lines 2023</li> <li>Various LinkedIn Posts</li> <li>Community Newsletters</li> <li>Landowner Consultation reports</li> <li><a href="#">EnergyConnect - Australia's Largest Transmission   Transgrid</a></li> </ul>	<p>The strategy includes these necessary details.</p> <p>A range of communication mechanisms are being implemented across the project ensure effective consultation with the community and key stakeholders and these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A mobile community van travels the project route enabling community members to drop in and find out more information regarding the project</li> <li>Social media utilising Facebook and LinkedIn</li> <li>Community notifications and newsletters</li> <li>Establishment of a community complaints number</li> <li>Establishment and implementation of a community complaints and enquiries database</li> <li>Project website includes Community newsletters, community webinars and FactSheets as well as project documents</li> </ul>	Compliant



Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>Department);</p> <p>b) As may be requested by the Planning secretary, assist the Department in the resolution of community complaints; and</p> <p>c) Consider any minor amendments to be made to plans/ strategies in conditions A15, D11, D52, D53, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7 that involve updating or are of an administrative nature and do not increase impacts to nearby sensitive receivers, and ensure they are consistent with the terms of this approval and, if satisfied such amendment is necessary, approve the amendment. This does not include any modifications to the terms of this approval.</p>		<p>It is recommended that a program of ER inspections is developed and implemented that focusses on the key project risks occurring at the time of each inspection. The ER should undertake an initial site visit and compliance inspection with a program for visits developed and agreed with TransGrid (as the Proponent) in consultation with the Department.</p>	
A20	<p>The proponent must provide the ER with all documentation requested by the ER in order for the ER to perform their functions specified in condition A19, as well as the complaints register for any complaints received (on the day they are received).</p>	<p>Audit Interview ER formal correspondence</p>	<p>The ER has been provided with the necessary documents to allow them to satisfactorily perform their role</p> <p>No complaints had been received at the time of the audit.</p>	Compliant

## Part B Construction Environmental Management

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status												
<b>Construction Environmental Management Plan</b>																
<b>B1</b>	<p>Prior to commencing construction, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) must be prepared to detail how the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures specified in the EIS will be implemented and achieved during construction to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</p>	<p><b>Stage 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 Rev I dated 23/11/21</li> <li>- ER letter of endorsement dated 24/11/21</li> <li>- DPE Letter of approval dated 24/12/21</li> </ul> <p><b>Stage 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 2 Rev 2 dated 6/7/22</li> <li>- DPE Letter of approval dated 15/7/22</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stage 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CEMP was endorsed by the ER on 24/11/21 and approved by DPE on 24/12 2021</li> <li>- Stage 1 Construction Commenced on 4/7/22.</li> </ul> <p><b>Stage 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CEMP was endorsed by the ER on 7/3/22 and approved by DPE on 15/7/22</li> <li>- Stage 2 Construction Commenced on 18/7/22.</li> </ul>	Compliant												
<b>B2</b>	<p>The following CEMP Sub-plans must be prepared in consultation with the relevant government agencies identified for each CEMP Sub-plan in Table 1.</p> <p><i>Table 1: CEMP Subplans</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Required CEMP Subplan</th> <th>Consultation requirements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>a</i></td> <td>Noise and Vibration</td> <td>Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>b</i></td> <td>Soil and Water</td> <td>DPIE Water Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>c</i></td> <td>Biodiversity</td> <td>BCS</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Required CEMP Subplan	Consultation requirements	<i>a</i>	Noise and Vibration	Council	<i>b</i>	Soil and Water	DPIE Water Council	<i>c</i>	Biodiversity	BCS	<p><b>Stage 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DPE Letters of approval for Stage 1 subplans (various)</li> <li>- Heritage Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 Rev F dated 17/12/21</li> <li>- Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Rev K dated 08/03/2022)</li> </ul>	DPE have approved CEMP subplans noting consultation with relevant stakeholders has been undertaken.	Compliant
	Required CEMP Subplan	Consultation requirements														
<i>a</i>	Noise and Vibration	Council														
<i>b</i>	Soil and Water	DPIE Water Council														
<i>c</i>	Biodiversity	BCS														

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status									
	<table border="1" data-bbox="183 258 891 402"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d</td> <td>Heritage</td> <td>Heritage NSW Aboriginal Stakeholders</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e</td> <td>Traffic and Transport</td> <td>TfNSW Council</td> </tr> </table>			Council	d	Heritage	Heritage NSW Aboriginal Stakeholders	e	Traffic and Transport	TfNSW Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Soil and Water Management Plan, dated 9/3/2022)</li> <li>- Biodiversity Management Plan (Rev F, dated 10/06/2022)</li> <li>- Heritage Management Plan, dated 24/06/2022)</li> <li>- Traffic and Transport Plan EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 Rev H dated 24/2/22</li> </ul> <p><b>Stage 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DPE Letter of approval dated 15/7/22</li> <li>- Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Rev H, dated 06/07/2022)</li> <li>- Soil and Water Management Plan (Rev H dated 6/7/22)</li> <li>- Heritage Management Plan — EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) (Rev G, dated 24/06/2022)</li> <li>- Biodiversity Management Plan - EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) — Rev F dated 10/6/22</li> <li>- Traffic and Transport Management Plan — EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) (Rev H, dated 12/07/2022)</li> </ul>		
		Council											
d	Heritage	Heritage NSW Aboriginal Stakeholders											
e	Traffic and Transport	TfNSW Council											
<b>B3</b>	Details of all information requested by an agency to be included in a CEMP Sub-plan as a result of consultation must be provided with the relevant CEMP Sub-plan.	DPE Letter of approval dated 24/12/21	DPE letter notes the CEMP and all associated subplans have been prepared in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and contain all the information required by the conditions of approval.	Compliant									
<b>B4</b>	Any of the CEMP Sub-plans may be submitted along with, or subsequent to, the submission of the CEMP but in any event prior to	-	Noted	Compliant									

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	commencing construction.			
<b>B5</b>	Construction must not commence until the CEMP and all CEMP Sub-plans have been approved by the Planning Secretary. The CEMP and CEMP Sub-plans, as approved by the Planning Secretary, must be implemented for the duration of construction. Where the construction of the development is staged, construction of a stage must not commence until the CEMP and Sub-plans for that stage have been approved by the Planning Secretary.	<p>DPE Letter of approval dated 24/12/21 (Stage 1)</p> <p>DPE Letter of approval dated 15/7/22 (Stage 2)</p> <p>Transgrid Letters to DPE dated 23/6/22 and 18/8/22</p>	<p>Stage 1 construction commenced on 4/7/22 following CEMP 1 approval by the Secretary.</p> <p>Stage 2 Construction commenced on 18/7/22 following CEMP 2 approval and formal notification to DPE on the 23/6/22.</p>	Compliant
<b>Management Plan Requirements</b>				
<b>B6</b>	<p>The CEMP and CEMP Sub-plans required under this approval must be prepared by the suitably qualified and experienced persons in accordance with relevant guidelines and include where relevant;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A summary of relevant background or baseline data;</li> <li>b) Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval or license conditions);</li> <li>ii) Any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. The specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the EIS;</li> <li>c. A description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures and criterial</li> <li>d. A program to monitor and report on the; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Impacts and environmental performance of the development (including a table</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>CEMP and management subplans</p> <p>DPE Letter of approval dated 24/12/21 (Stage 1)</p> <p>DPE Letter of approval dated 15/7/22 (Stage 2)</p>	<p>Environmental Management documentation prepared by suitably qualified and experienced individuals and contain the relevant details as required by this condition.</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>summarising all the monitoring and reporting obligations under the conditions of this approval); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph d);</li> <li>e. A contingency plan to manage any unprecedented impacts and their consequences and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible;</li> <li>f. A program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time;</li> <li>g. A protocol for managing and reporting any; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion and;</li> <li>ii. Performance criterion;</li> <li>iii. Complaint; or</li> <li>iv. Failure to comply with other statutory requirements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>h. Set out the procedures that would be implemented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the construction and environmental performance of the development;</li> <li>ii. Receive, handle, respond to and record complaints;</li> <li>iii. Resolve any disputes that may arise;</li> <li>iv. Respond to any non-compliance;</li> <li>v. Respond to emergencies; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>i. A description of the roles and environmental responsibilities, authority and accountability for all relevant employees, as well as training and awareness; and</li> <li>j. \protocol for periodic review of the CEMP and</li> </ul>			

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>associated Sub-plans and programs. The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for management plans.</p>			

### Part C - Operational Environmental Management

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
<b>Operational Environmental Management Plan</b>				
<b>C1</b>	An Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) must be prepared to detail how the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures made and identified in the EIS will be implemented and achieved during operation. This condition (condition C1) does not apply if condition C2 of this approval applies.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Not required until operational phase.	Not Triggered
<b>C2</b>	<p>An OEMP is not required for the development if the Proponent has an Environmental Management System (EMS) or equivalent as agreed with the Planning Secretary, and demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary, that through the EMS;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures, made and identified in the EIS, and specified relevant terms of this approval to be achieved;</li> <li>b) Issues identified through ongoing risk analysis can be managed;</li> <li>c) There is a clear plan depicting all monitoring to be carried out in relation to the development, including a table summarizing all the monitoring and reporting obligations under the conditions of this approval;</li> <li>d) There is a strategic framework for environmental management of the development;</li> <li>e) The role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development is clear; and</li> <li>f) Procedures are in place for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keeping the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the development;</li> <li>- Receiving, handling, responding to, and recording complaints;</li> <li>- Resolving any disputes that may arise;</li> <li>- Responding to any non-compliance; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Site Observations Audit Interview	Not required until operational phase.	Not Triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	- Responding to emergencies.			
<b>C3</b>	Prior to commencing operation, the OEMP or EMS or equivalent as agreed with the Planning Secretary must be prepared to the Satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Not required until operational phase.	Not Triggered

## Part D – Key Issue Conditions

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>				
D1	<p><b>Construction Hours</b> Road upgrades, construction, upgrading and decommissioning activities may only be undertaken between;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday;</li> <li>b) 8am to 1pm Saturdays; and</li> <li>c) At no time on Sundays and NSW public holidays; unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.</li> </ul>	<p>Out of Hours Works Protocol EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Rev H 8/3/22</p> <p>Agency Consultation Report Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Stage 1) Rev A dated 2/12/21</p> <p>OOH Works Permits dated 10/8/22, 24/2/23, 20/1/23, 25/1/23</p>	<p>The approved hours of construction are documented in the Noise and Vibration Management Plan.</p> <p>Some OOH works has been undertaken at Buronga Substation, Camp 7, 6, Substation and L1/L4</p> <p>This has generally been for weekend work and extended daytime hours for activities such as concrete pours etc.</p> <p>Examples of OOH work approvals have been provided for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of Access Points for Buronga Substation between 6<sup>th</sup> March 23- 1 May 23 for extended durations (6am-6pm Mon- Sun)</li> <li>• Buronga Substation and Borrow Pit (1/2/23- 1/5/23) (6am-6pm Mon- Sun)</li> <li>• Construction of Overhead Transmission Lines for lines 1 and 4 between 24/1/23 and 1/5/23</li> </ul> <p>It is noted that the OOH approval forms include an assessment of cumulative impacts (acknowledging that these activities occur concurrently). Noise monitoring for OOH work is undertaken</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
			with no complaints received	
D2	<p>The following construction, upgrading and decommissioning activities may be carried out outside the hours specified in condition D1 above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The delivery or dispatch of materials as requested by the NSW Police Force or other public authorities for safety reasons;</li> <li>b) Emergency work to avoid the loss of life, property or to prevent material harm to the environment; or</li> <li>c) Works carried out in accordance with the hours and noise limits specified in any negotiated agreements with sensitive receivers (owners and occupiers), provided the negotiated agreements are in writing and finalized before the commencement of works.</li> </ul>	Audit Interview	OOH works have not been undertaken as allowed by this condition.	Not triggered
D3	<p>An Out-of-Hours Work Protocol must be prepared to identify a process for the consideration, management and approval of works which are outside the hours defined in conditions D1, D2, and D7. The Protocol must be approved by the Planning Secretary before commencing works. The Protocol must;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Be prepared in consultation with the Council;</li> <li>b) Provide a process for the consideration of out-of-hours works against the relevant noise and vibration criteria, including the determination of low and high-risk activities;</li> <li>c) Provide a process of the identification of mitigation measures for potential impacts, including respite periods in consultation with any affected receivers;</li> <li>d) Provide a process for the identification of out-of-hours works undertaken by third parties in the vicinity of the site, and coordination of out-of-hours works with these third parties to achieve respite periods in locations where receivers may be</li> </ul>	<p>Noise and Vibration Management Plan dated 8/3/22  Out of Hours works protocol dated 8/3/22  DPE Letter of approval dated 9/3/22  Out of Hours Works Permit ER approval letters  DPE OOH work lodgment correspondence dated 29/7/22</p>	<p>Appendix A of the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan includes and out of hours protocol. The Noise and Vibration Management plan and the out of hours works protocol was approved by DPE.  Several out of hours works applications have been approved by the ER in accordance with the OOH work protocol.</p> <p>The noise impacts of other OOH works are assessed by the SEJV environment team and where the risks are deemed to be negligible, the SEJV Environment Manager approves the activity. The noise assessment considers the cumulative effects of concurrent activities. Consultation with relevant stakeholders is</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>affected by concurrent activities;</p> <p>e) Identify an approval process that considers the risk of activities, proposed mitigation, management and coordination, including where;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low risk activities can be undertaken without the approval of the Planning Secretary and with the approval of the ER; and</li> <li>- High risk activities that are approved by the Planning Secretary; and</li> </ul> <p>f) Identify Department, Council and community notification arrangements for approved out-of-hours work.</p>		<p>undertaken and “no objection” to the activity is documented.</p> <p>Generally, the OOH activities are being undertaken in sparsely populated areas with appropriate assessment and consultation undertaken, no complaints have been received to date in relation to OOH work activities.</p>	
<b>D4</b>	<p><b>Construction and Decommissioning</b></p> <p>The Proponent must take all reasonable and feasible steps to minimise the construction upgrading or decommissioning noise of the development in the locations where the noise is audible to sensitive receivers, including any associated traffic noise.</p>	<p>Site Observations Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan</p>	<p>Construction Noise and Vibration management plan prepared.</p> <p>No rock breaking, blasting or impulsive noise observed during the site inspection.</p> <p>No noise complaints received to date.</p>	Compliant
<b>D5</b>	<p>The Proponent must implement mitigation measures;</p> <p>a) To ensure that the noise generated by any construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities is managed in accordance with the requirements for construction ‘noise affected’ management levels established in accordance with Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009); and</p> <p>b) With the aim of achieving the road traffic noise assessment criteria for residential land uses from NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011).</p>	<p>Site Observations Audit Interview Noise Monitoring Register</p>	<p>Current construction activities are in sparsely populated areas with a considerable buffer distance between construction activities and residential receivers.</p> <p>No highly impactful activities observed during the audit inspection.</p> <p>Noise monitoring is undertaken by the SEJV Environment team in instances as required by the OOH works protocol, a register of monitoring results is kept up to date.</p> <p>No complaints have been received to date for noisy activities (including OOH work).</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
D6	The Proponent must comply with the following vibration limits; a) Vibration criteria established using the Assessing vibration: a technical guideline (DEC, 2006) (for human exposure); b) BS 7385 Part 2 – 1993 “Evaluation and measurement for vibration in buildings Part 2” as they are “applicable to Australian conditions”; and c) Vibration limits set out in the German Standard DIN 4150-3: Structural Vibration – effects of vibration on structures (for structural damage)	Site Observations Audit Interview	No vibration undertaken to date as construction activities are a substantial distance from nearby sensitive receivers or structures. No vibration causing activities such as impact piling or vibratory rollers were observed to be occurring during the site inspection.	Compliant
D7	Blasting may only be carried out on the site between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday and between 9am and 1pm on Saturday. No blasting is allowed on Sundays or public holidays.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Blasting has not been undertaken during the audit period.	Not Triggered
D8	The Proponent must ensure that any blasting carried out on the site does not exceed the criteria in Table 2. [refer to infrastructure approval for table]	Site Observations Audit Interview	Blasting has not been undertaken during the audit period.	Not Triggered
D9	<b>Operation</b>  The Proponent must implement all reasonable and feasible measures with the aim of ensuring that the noise generated by the operation of the development does not exceed 40dB (A) Laeq, 15min at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017) at any non-associated residence.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Operational Phase requirement.	Not Triggered
D10	Within 12 months of the date of this approval, the Proponent must prepare an Operation Noise Review to confirm noise predictions and control measures that would be implemented for the operation of the development. The Review must; a) Be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person whose appointment has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary; b) Be prepared in the consultation with the landowner of impacted residences; c) Identify residences predicted to experience noise levels that exceed 40dB(A) Laeq, 15 at the reasonably most affected point of the residence, determine in accordance with the	DPE Letter dated 19/11/21 Audit Interview DPE Letter dated 20/9/22 Environmental Representative endorsement letter dated 27/2/23 PEC Operational Noise Review 27/2/3 DPE Post Approval form 28/2/23	Renzo Tonin were appointed by SEJV to prepare the ONR and have been approved by DPE.  Operational Noise Review (ONR) was due on 28 September 2022 (12 months following date of project approval).  DPE Provided an extension to the preparation of the Operational Noise Review to the 28/2/23. The Operational Noise Review was completed on the 27/2/23 in accordance with this revised	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) Detail the noise mitigation measures to achieve the noise criteria identified, including the timing of implementation;</li> <li>e) Provide evidence of consultation with affected landowners;</li> <li>f) Include a consultation strategy to seek feedback from directly affected landowners on the noise mitigation measures; and</li> <li>g) Identify procedures for the management of operational noise complaints.</li> </ul> <p>The Proponent must implement any identified mitigation measures prior to the commencement of operation.</p>		timeframe.	
<b>D11</b>	<p><b>Operational Noise Monitoring</b></p> <p>Within 6 months of commencement of operations (or commencement of operation of a stage if the development is to be staged), the Proponent must;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Undertake noise and monitoring to determine whether the development is complying with the relevant conditions of this approval; and</li> <li>b) Submit a copy of the monitoring results to the Department.</li> </ul>	Site Observations Audit Interview	Operational Phase requirement.	Not Triggered
<b>D12</b>	The Proponent must undertake further noise monitoring of the development if required by the Planning Secretary.	Site Observations Audit Interview	Operational Phase requirement.	Not Triggered
<b>D13</b>	<p><b>Noise and Vibration CEMP Sub-Plan</b></p> <p>The Noise and Vibration CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensure the requirements in conditions D1 and D12 are complied with;</li> <li>b) Include a description of reasonable and feasible measures that would be implemented to minimise noise and vibration impacts of the development;</li> <li>c) Include a detailed description of the noise and vibration management system for the development;</li> <li>d) Include a protocol for the identification, notification, notification and management of works that exceeded the noise management levels; and</li> </ul>	<p>Noise and Vibration Management Plan – EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 8/3/22</p> <p>Noise and Vibration Management Plan – EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 2 6/7/22</p>	Noise and Vibration Management Plans for both Stage 1 and Stage 2 contain the necessary content and have been reviewed and endorsed by the Environmental Representative.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	e) Include a monitoring program that evaluates and reports on the effectiveness of the noise and vibration of the management system.			
<b>Air Quality</b>				
<b>D14</b>	<p>In addition to the performance outcomes, commitments and mitigation measures specified in EIS, the Proponent must take all reasonable steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Minimize the off-site dust, fume, blast emissions and other air pollutants of the development; and</li> <li>b) Minimize the surface disturbance of the site.</li> </ul>	Site Observations	Water carts are available and were observed to be in operation to reduce dust emissions. Erosion and Sediment controls have been implemented and appear to be effective at minimising the generation of dust from vehicle traffic.	Compliant
<b>Soil and Water</b>				
<b>D15</b>	<p><b>Water Supply</b>            The proponent must ensure that it has sufficient water for all stages of the development, and if necessary adjust the scale of the development to match its available water supply.  <i>Note: Under the Water Act 1912 and/or the Water Management Act 2000, the Proponent is required to obtain the necessary water licenses for the development.</i></p>	Site Observations Audit Interview Water access licence 17/5/22 Western Murray Irrigation email 30/5/22 NSW Water Register 22/6/22 Email correspondence with Wentworth Shire Council dated 18/8/21 SP1 C6 Water Reconciliation Report 06/22-06/23	<p>Water used on site for construction purposes such as dust suppression and compaction is extracted from the site sediment basin and /or the wastewater treatment plant pond.</p> <p>Potable water is purchased in bulk from Wentworth shire Council</p> <p>Raw water for construction purposes is also drawn from the approved water supply points associated with the Project (Alcheringa Dr and Fletchers Lake Road)</p> <p>The logistics manager is responsible for overseeing the management of water supply and consumption and maintains a register of water consumed and predicted water requirements for the project.</p> <p>Further detail is provided in Appendix D-1</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
D16	<p><b>Erosion and Sedimentation</b> The Proponent must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Minimize erosion and control sediment generation; and</li> <li>b) Ensure all land disturbances have appropriate drainage and erosion and sediment controls designed, installed and maintained in accordance with <i>Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and construction Volume 1 (Landcom 2004)</i> and <i>Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume 2c Unsealed Roads (DECC, 2008)</i>;</li> </ul>	<p>Site Observations Audit Interview Camp 6 Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Monthly Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports dated 20/2/23, 24/2/23,</p>	<p>A Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) has been appointed to assist the SEJV prepare progressive erosion and sediment control plans. ERSED controls installed on site were consistent with Blue Book requirements. The CPESC has been retained by SEJV for the construction phase to provide ongoing advice and to undertake monthly inspections of erosion and sediment controls. The CPESC was on site during the audit. Erosion and sediment controls were appropriate.</p>	Compliant
D17	<p><b>Pollution of Waters</b> Unless otherwise authorised by an EPL, the Proponent must ensure all development does not cause any water pollution, as defined under Section 120 of the POEO Act.</p>	<p>Audit Interview Site Observations</p>	<p>No incidents to date that have resulted in pollution of waters. Spill kits are in place at the site compound and appropriate bunding is provided for chemicals and fuel storage.</p>	Compliant
D18	<p>The Proponent must;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensure that appropriate components of the concrete batching plants and substation are suitable bunded; an</li> <li>b) Minimise any spills of hazardous materials or hydrocarbons, and clean up an spills as soon as they occur.</li> </ul>	<p>Audit Interview Site Observations</p>	<p>Concrete batch plants and substation have not been constructed. There are currently no plans to install concrete batch plants.</p>	Not triggered
D19	<p>The Proponent must ensure that any groundwater dewatering activities do not discharge to watercourses.</p>	<p>Site Observations</p>	<p>No groundwater dewatering observed during the site inspection.</p>	Not triggered
D20	<p><b>Riparian Areas</b> The Proponent must ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) All activities on waterfront land are constructed in accordance with the <i>Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (2012)</i>, unless DPIE Water agrees otherwise; and</li> <li>b) The geomorphic condition of the major rivers and distributary channels crossed by the development is not</li> </ul>	<p>Site Observations</p>	<p>No construction activities observed on waterfront land, or adjacent to creeks or rivers.</p>	Not triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	impacted.			
D21	<p><b>Flooding</b> The Proponent must ensure that the development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Does not materially alter the flood storage capacity, flows or characteristics in the development area or off-site; and</li> <li>b) Is designed, constructed and maintained to reduce impacts on surface water, localised flooding and groundwater at the site, unless otherwise agreed by the council.</li> </ul>	<p>Construction Soil and Water Management Plan</p> <p>Environmental Impact Statement – Technical Paper 6</p>	Refer to response to BCD submission in Appendix D-1 for detailed audit findings	Compliant
D22	<p><b>Acid Sulfate Soils</b> The Proponent must ensure that any construction activities in identified areas of acid sulfate soil risk are undertaken in accordance with the Acid Sulfate Soil Manual (Acid Sulfate Soil Management Advisory Committee, 1998).</p>	<p>Site Observations Audit Interview Environmental Impact Assessment Soil and Water Management Plan</p>	No excavations observed to be undertaken that would impact Acid Sulphate Soils. Current activities are outside the areas of known acid sulphate soil risk areas.	Not triggered
D23	<p><b>Salinity</b> The Proponent must ensure that any construction activities in identified areas of moderate to high salinity are undertaken in accordance with the Salinity Training Manual (DPI, 2014) and Book 4 Dryland Salinity: Productive use of Saline Land and Water (NSW DECC, 2008)</p>	<p>Site Observations Audit Interview Environmental Impact Assessment</p>	<p>Areas classified as having high salinity potential are not within the vicinity of the proposal study area.</p> <p>No excavations observed to be undertaken that would impact saline soils. Current activities are outside the areas of known soils of moderate to high salinity.</p>	Not triggered
D24	<p><b>Soil and Water CEMP Sub-Plan</b> The soil and Water CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensuring the requirements in conditions D15 to D23 are complied with;</li> <li>b) Managing flood risk during construction;</li> <li>c) Investigating, assessing and managing contaminated land, soils and groundwater in the development area;</li> <li>d) Investigating, assessing and managing the potential for asbestos and other hazardous materials in the development area; and</li> <li>e) Managing any unexpected and/ or suspected contaminated land, asbestos and unexploded ordinance excavated, disturbed or otherwise discovered during construction.</li> </ul>	<p>Soil and Water Management Plan – EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 7/2/22</p> <p>Soil and Water Management Plan – EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 2 6/7/22</p>	Soil and Water management subplans have been prepared for both Stages 1 and 2 and includes the necessary content.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
<b>Biodiversity</b>				
D25	<p><b>Restrictions on Clearing and Habitat</b> Unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary, the Proponent must:</p> <p>a) Ensure that no more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 19.6 hectares (ha) of BC Act listed Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW Southwestern Slopes bioregions;</li> <li>- 0.04 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species <i>Acacia acanthoclada</i> (Harrow Wattle);</li> <li>- 0.32 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed flora species <i>Atriplex infrequens</i> (A saltbush);</li> <li>- 1.51 ha of habitat for BC Act listed flora species <i>Austrostipa nullanulla</i> (A spear-grass);</li> <li>- 14 individuals of BC Act listed <i>Santalum murrayanum</i> (Bitter Quandong); and</li> <li>- 6.91 ha of habitat for BC Act and EPBC Act listed fauna species <i>Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides</i> (Regent Parrot) (eastern subspecies); is cleared for the development; and</li> </ul> <p>b) Minimise;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The impacts of the development on hollow-bearing trees;</li> <li>- The impacts of the development on threatened bird and bat populations; and</li> <li>- The clearing of native vegetation and key habitat.</li> </ul>	<p>Clearing and Habitat Disturbance Register Pre-Clearing and clearing procedure Energy</p> <p>Connect (NSW – Western Section Stage 1) 16/12/21</p> <p>Connect (NSW – Western Section Stage 2) 11/5/22</p> <p>Secure Energy Land Clearing and Disturbance Area Register 17/3/23.</p> <p>Clearing and Land Disturbance Permit Camp 6</p> <p>Clearing and Land Disturbance Permit Camp 7</p> <p>Clearing and Land Disturbance Permit (L4 between towers 29-38)</p>	<p>Approximately 80% of clearing has been completed for the project to date. This includes clearing for Camps 6 and 7, the Buronga Substation and mainline clearing.</p> <p>Clearing is undertaken by a clearing contractor and is guided by GPS and GIS systems with live digital information available to the clearing crew. A clearing register is maintained by the SEJV Environment team. According to the SEJV clearing register, 9Ha of Sandhill pine woodland has been cleared with no species of A -Saltbush, A- Spear grass or Bitter Quandong, cleared to date.</p> <p>There were several examples of retained habitat observed during the audit site inspection, including the retention of a Wedge tailed eagles' nest and a decrease in the footprint of the Camp 6 site with a corresponding reduction in habitat loss.</p> <p>Opportunities to reduce partial clearing in the B4 and B10 zones (collectively known as disturbance area B). between towers is also being assessed on a progressive basis.</p> <p>Sample clearing and Ground disturbance permits were provided for site compound and main clearing activities.</p> <p>The permit is signed by the project ecologist and includes key ecological items including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exclusion Zones</li> <li>- Preclearing ecologist inspection</li> </ul>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirement for a fauna spotter</li> <li>- Requirement for nest boxes</li> <li>- Retention of habitat features</li> </ul> <p>Further information is provided in Appendix D-1 response to BCD submission.</p>	
D26	<p><b>Biodiversity Offset Package</b>            Prior to carrying out any development that would impact on biodiversity values, the Proponent must prepare a Biodiversity Offset Package (Package) that is consistent with the EIS, in consultation with the BCS and to the satisfaction of the Secretary in writing. The Package must include, but not necessarily be limited to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Details of the specific biodiversity offset measures to be implemented and delivered in accordance with the EIS;</li> <li>b) The cost of each specific biodiversity offset measure, which would be required to be paid into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund if the relevant measures is not implemented as delivered (as calculated in accordance with Division 6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) and the offsets payment calculator was established as at 29 July 2021);</li> <li>c) The timing and responsibilities for the implementation and delivery of the measures required in the Package; and</li> <li>d) Confirmation that the biodiversity offset measures will have been implemented and delivered no later than 31 December 2023</li> </ol> <p>Following approval, the Proponent must implement and deliver the Biodiversity Offset Package.</p>	<p>Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Biodiversity Offset Package 14/3/22            DPE Letter of approval dated 16/3/22</p>	<p>DPE approved the biodiversity offset package on 16/3/22.</p>	Compliant
D27	<p>Prior to carrying out any development that could impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Proponent must establish an escrow account and pay into that account \$48 million, in accordance with the Deed of Agreement with the Planning Secretary executed on 13 September 2021. The Proponent must comply with the terms of the Deed.  <i>Note: this condition provides security to the Minister for the</i></p>	<p>Escrow Account Receipt for \$48M dated 13/9/21</p>	<p>Escrow account fund was established prior to project approval and was therefore in place prior to any development that could impact biodiversity values prior to offset such as construction or any other minor works such as local road upgrades etc.</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p><i>performance of the Proponent's obligations under this approval in relation to biodiversity offsets and release funds for payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Trust in the event that the biodiversity offsets (either in whole or part) are not delivered in accordance with the Package by the Proponent.</i></p>			
D28	<p><b>Biodiversity CEMP Sub-Plan</b> The Biodiversity CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A description of the measures that would be implemented for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimising the amount of native vegetation clearing within the approved development footprint</li> <li>- Minimizing the loss of key fauna habitat, including tree hollows;</li> <li>- Minimising the potential indirect impacts on threatened flora and fauna species, migratory species and 'at risk species;</li> <li>- Rehabilitating and revegetating disturbance areas;</li> <li>- Protecting native vegetation and key fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance area;</li> <li>- Maximizing the salvage of resources within the approved disturbance area – including vegetative and soil resources – for beneficial reuse (such as fauna habitat enhancement) during the rehabilitation and revegetation of the site;</li> <li>- Collecting and propagating seed (where relevant);</li> <li>- Controlling weeds</li> <li>- Controlling erosion; and</li> <li>- Bushfire management;</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Details of the Proponent's commitment to make one of \$150,000 funding contribution targeted at further scientific study into the impacts of electric and magnetic fields on birds in Australia;</li> <li>c) Preparation and implementation of a two year bird impact monitoring program at the commencement of operations; and</li> <li>d) A detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures.</li> </ul>	<p>Biodiversity Management Plan, EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section Stage 1) Revision F dated 21/12/21 DPE Letter of approval dated 9/2/2022 Nest Box Strategy dated 29/4/22 Site Pre-clearing Permit</p>	<p>Biodiversity Management Plan was approved by DPE on 9/2/2022.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
<b>Heritage</b>				
<b>D29</b>	<p>Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy, prepared in consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders and Heritage NSW, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The Strategy must;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Identify any additional risk zones outside the potential archaeological deposits (PADs) where construction must not commence until subsurface testing in b) and surveys in c) are complete;</li> <li>b) Describe additional subsurface testing that will be undertaken to confirm the significance of the PADs that would be impacted by the final transmission infrastructure design and ancillary facilities in line with the Code of Practice for Archeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010);</li> <li>c) Describe additional Aboriginal heritage surveys that will be undertaken where the ground disturbance activities are required outside of the heritage survey area;</li> <li>d) Include details of ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, including any written responses and records of any meetings; and</li> <li>e) Include an updated Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, which; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is based on the findings of the subsurface testing in b) and surveys in c);</li> <li>- Describes any potential additional impacts to heritage items;</li> <li>- Identifies further mitigation measures including avoidance or salvage</li> <li>- Includes detailed justification where the final transmission line alignment is not able to avoid impacts to heritage items; and</li> <li>- Provides an updated and consolidated list of sites that would be protected and remain in-situ throughout construction and sites that would be salvaged and relocated to suitable alternative locations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Heritage Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 Rev F dated 17/12/21</p> <p>DPE Letter of approval dated 4/2/2022</p> <p>Everick Heritage – EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy- October 2022 DPE Letter of approval 29/8/22</p>	<p>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy Approved by DPE on 4/2/2022/ Construction commenced on 4/7/22.</p> <p>Stage 2a of the Strategy was approved by DPE on 29/9/22</p> <p>The ACHS was further approved on 18/11/22 after update to incorporate Stage 2 ACHAR and HMP</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
D30	<p><b>Avoidance and Salvage</b> The Proponent must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to avoid and minimize harm to heritage items and potential archaeological deposits (PADs) identified in the EIS and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy required by condition D29, prior to carrying out any development that could harm the items or deposits.</p>	<p>Everick Heritage – Preclearing survey inspections dated 14/12/21, 15/12/21, 10/5/22, 15/12/21, 26/2/22</p> <p>Everick Heritage – Addendum Archaeological Survey Report dated 7/5/22</p> <p>Archaeological Salvage Summary 10/3/22</p> <p>Clearing and Land Disturbance Permit Camp 6</p> <p>Clearing and Land Disturbance Permit Camp 7</p> <p>Clearing and Land Disturbance Permit (L4 between towers 29-38)</p> <p>SecureEnergy correspondence dated, 25/3/22, 30/3/22, 8/4/22</p>	<p>SEJV have appointed a heritage specialist to undertake Aboriginal Heritage surveys with members of the local aboriginal groups. Pre-clearance letters were provided for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Camp 7</li> <li>- Camp 6</li> <li>- Mainline clearing (L4) between towers 29-38)</li> <li>- Alcherinda Drive Road Reserve</li> <li>- Alcherinda Drive Water Supply Point</li> <li>- Buronga Substation</li> <li>- Duncans Access Track and Grand Lush Junction</li> </ul> <p>SEJV maintain a register of salvaged items.</p> <p>Several unexpected finds have been discovered during construction including scattered artefacts, potential ancestral remains and a grindstone. Appropriate notifications to NSW Police and NSW Heritage have been undertaken</p>	Compliant
D31	<p>The proponent must ensure the development does not cause any harm to heritage items identified for avoidance in the approved Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy or any Aboriginal heritage items located outside the approved development footprint.</p>	<p>Audit Interview Everick Heritage Report 18/12/21</p>	<p>No harm to any heritage items at this stage in the project has been reported. SEJV have several procedures and controls in place to prevent harm to aboriginal heritage items including implementation of “no go” signage and exclusion zones as well as unexpected finds protocol.</p>	Compliant
D32	<p>Prior to carrying out any activity that could harm heritage items, the Proponent must salvage and relocate all heritage items identified for salvage and relocation in the updated and approved Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy to a suitable alternative location, in</p>	<p>Pre-clearing Inspection surveys (refer to D30 above)</p>	<p>Pre-clearance surveys were undertaken prior to the commencement of ground disturbance activities. To date, no heritage items have been discovered within</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010)</p>		<p>clearing areas therefore salvage has not been required at this stage of the project. Salvage has been completed across approximately 70% of the PAD sites, and all items requiring salvage outside of the PAD sites have been collected. Areas are gradually released for construction as salvage is progressing. Salvage is completed by the Project archaeologists and RAP's. Confirmation of completion of salvage is provided by the archaeologist and attached to the clearing permit. Upon completion of all salvage, a salvage report will be provided by the archaeologists.</p>	
D34	<p><b>Heritage CEMP Sub-Plan</b> The Heritage CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition B2 must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person whose appointment has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary;</li> <li>b) Include a description of the measures that would be implemented for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressing the outcomes of the of the additional assessment, testing and surveys identified in condition D29;</li> <li>- Protecting the heritage items identified in conditions D31 and D33, including fencing off the heritage items (where required) prior to carrying out any development that could harm the heritage items, and protecting any items located outside the approved development corridor;</li> <li>- Salvaging and relocating the heritage items identified in condition D32:</li> <li>- Minimising and managing the impacts of the development on heritage items within the development corridor including:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Heritage Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW- Western Section Stage 1) - 17/12/21 DPE Letter of approval dated 4/2/22</p>	<p>Heritage Management Plan approved by DPE on 4/2/22.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategy for the long-term management of any heritage items or material collected during the test excavation or salvage works;</li> <li>- A contingency plan and reporting procedure if:</li> <li>• Heritage items outside the approved disturbance area are damaged;</li> <li>• Previously unidentified heritage items are found; or</li> <li>• Aboriginal skeletal material is discovered;</li> <li>- Ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site and that records are kept of these inductions; and</li> <li>- Ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders during the implementation of the plan; and</li> <li>c) Include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and any heritage impacts of the development.</li> </ul>			
<b>Traffic and Transport</b>				
<b>D35</b>	<p><b>Designated Heavy and Over-Dimensional Vehicle Routes</b> All over-dimensional vehicles associated with the development must only travel to and from the site via the Primary Access Routes described in the EIS, as identified in the figure in Appendix 2, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. <i>Notes: The proponent is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of over-dimensional vehicles on the road network.</i></p>	Driver Code of Conduct EnergyConnect Rev C Audit Interview	The driver code of conduct has been updated to include the approved routes for the project (addressing the recommendation from the previous audit). An In Vehicle Management System (IVMS) has also been installed to track vehicles route and speed. The SEJV environment manager is notified immediately by email in the event of a noncompliance with the approved transport route.	Compliant
<b>D36</b>	<p>All heavy and light vehicles associated with the development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Must travel to and from the site via the Primary Access Route described in the EIS, as identified in the figure in Appendix 2; and</li> <li>b) May travel to and from the site via the Secondary Access Routes and Water Supply Routes, subject to the</li> </ol>	Audit Interview Site observations	No non compliances reported, or complaints received regarding vehicle routes.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>requirements in conditions D37 and D38, to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proponent is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of over dimensional vehicles on the road network</li> </ul>			
D37	<p><b>Traffic Strategy</b></p> <p>Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must prepare a Traffic Strategy, in consultation with the relevant roads authority, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For all access routes:</li> <li>- Identifies the location and types of any necessary road upgrades (including roads, intersections, crossing points and access points), including consideration of relevant amenity impacts;</li> <li>- Ensures that any road upgrades comply with the Austroads Guide to Road Design (as amended by TFNSW supplements), unless the relevant roads authority agrees otherwise;</li> <li>- Includes a detailed assessment of potential impacts of any necessary road upgrades (such as heritage and biodiversity impacts), including consideration of appropriate mitigation measures;</li> <li>- Identifies whether intersections, crossing points and access points would be permanent or temporary; and</li> <li>- Includes measures for notifying, seeking feedback from and addressing the concerns of impacted residents along the routes;</li> <li>- For Secondary access Routes and Water Supply Routes:</li> <li>- Provides detailed usage of the routes, including maximum daily numbers of heavy and light vehicles and approximate durations of use;</li> <li>- includes an assessment of dust impacts to any residences along the routes and identifies mitigation measures to minimise any impacts; and</li> </ul>	<p>Traffic Strategy EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 rev F dated 11/2/22</p> <p>Traffic Strategy EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 2 Rev D dated 28/4/22</p> <p>DPE letter of approval (stage 1) dated 24/2/22</p> <p>DPE letter of approval (stage 2) dated 7/7/22</p>	<p>Traffic Strategy (stage 1) prepared and approved prior to construction commencement. Stage 2 has been subsequently approved.</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identifies any residences along the routes that would experience road traffic noise above the relevant assessment criteria from Table 3 in <i>NSW Road Noise Policy</i> (DECCW, 2011) due to project-related traffic and identifies mitigation measures to minimise impacts.</li> </ul>			
D38	<p>Prior to commencing construction, the proponent must implement the road upgrades and the mitigation measures identified in the Traffic Strategy in condition D37, to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority and the Planning Secretary, respectively.</p>	<p>Condition D38 Compliance Report – Stage 1 Package 1 Road Upgrades dated 18/5/22</p> <p>TransGrid Letter dated 5/5/22</p> <p>DPE Letter of Approval dated 20/5/22</p>	<p>Transgrid have written to DPE to confirm their approach to meeting the requirements of this condition. DPE approved the requested approach on 20/5/22.</p>	Compliant
D39	<p><b>Road Maintenance</b> The Proponent must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) undertake an independent dilapidation survey to assess the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- existing condition of all local roads on the transport route (including local road crossings) prior to construction, upgrading or decommissioning works; and</li> <li>- condition of all local roads on the transport route (including local road crossings</li> <li>- within 1 month of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, or within a timeframe agreed to by the relevant roads authority;</li> <li>- On an annual basis during construction, or within a timeframe agreed to be relevant roads authority;</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Repair (or pay the full costs associated with repairing) any damage to local roads on the transport route (including local road crossings), if dilapidation surveys identify that the road has been damaged by the development during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works; in consultation with the relevant roads authority, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</li> </ul>	<p>SP1 Dilapidation Condition Report Part 1 Dated 6/5/22</p> <p>Email to Wentworth Council dated 17/5/22</p>	<p>Independent Survey undertaken prior to construction.</p>	Compliant
D40	<p><b>Traffic and Transport CEMP Sub-Plan</b> The Traffic and Transport CEMP Sub-Plan required under condition</p>	<p><b>Stage 1</b> - Traffic and Transport</p>	<p><b>Stage 1</b> - TTMP endorsed by the ER on</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>B2 must include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Details of the transport route to be used for all development related traffic;</li> <li>b) Details of the road upgrade works required by condition D38 of this approval;</li> <li>c) Details of the measures that would be implemented to;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimise traffic safety impacts of the development and disruptions to local road users during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, including;                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of the proposed dilapidation surveys required by condition D39 of this approval;</li> <li>• A description of the proposed measures for managing traffic flow around the work sites, construction compounds and accommodation camps;</li> <li>• Temporary traffic controls, including detours and signage;</li> <li>• Procedures for stinging cables and transmission lines across roads;</li> <li>• Notifying the local community about development-related traffic impacts</li> <li>• Procedures for receiving and addressing complaints from the community about development related traffic.</li> <li>• Minimising potential cumulative traffic impacts with other projects in the area;</li> <li>• Minimising potential conflict between development related traffic and rail services, stock movements and school busses, in consultation with local schools, including preventing queuing on the public road network;</li> <li>• Implementing measures to minimise development related traffic on the public road network outside of standard construction hours;</li> <li>• Minimising dirt tracked onto the public road network from development related traffic;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Stage 1 Rev H dated 24/2/2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ER Letter of endorsement dated 13/1/22</li> <li>- DPE letter of approval dated 28/2/22</li> </ul> <p><b>Stage 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Traffic and Transport Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Stage 2 Rev E dated 24/2/2022</li> <li>- ER Letter of endorsement dated 28/4/22</li> <li>- DPE letter of approval dated 15/7/22</li> </ul>	<p>24/12/22 and approved by DPE on 28/2/22</p> <p><b>Stage 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TTMP endorsed by the ER on 28/4/22 and approved by DPE on 15/7/22</li> </ul>	

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the employee shuttlebus service (if proposed), including pick-up and drop-off points and associated parking arrangements for construction workers and measures to encourage employee use of this service;</li> <li>• Encouraging car-pooling or ride sharing by employees;</li> <li>• Scheduling of haulage vehicle movements to minimise convoy length or platoons;</li> <li>• Responding to local climate conditions that may affect road safety, such as fog, dust, wet weather and flooding.</li> <li>• Ensuring loaded vehicles entering or leaving the site have their loads covered or contained;</li> <li>• Responding to any emergency repair or maintenance requirements;</li> <li>• Provisions for maintaining emergency vehicle access at all times;</li> <li>• A traffic management system for managing over-dimensional vehicles: and</li> <li>• Fatigue management.</li> </ul> <p>- Comply with the traffic conditions in this approval;</p> <p>d) Include a drivers code of conduct that addresses;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Traveling speeds;</li> <li>- Procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development adhere to the designated over-dimensional and heavy vehicle routes;</li> <li>- Procedures to ensure that drivers to and from the development implement safe driving practices; and</li> <li>- Include a detailed program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and the code of conduct; and</li> </ul> <p>e) A flood response plan detailing procedures and options for safe access to and from the site in the event of flooding.</p>			

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
<b>Visual Amenity</b>				
D41	<p><b>Visual Impact Mitigation</b></p> <p>Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, for a period of 2 years from the commencement of operations, the owners of R1489, R2022 and R2023 may ask the Proponent to implement visual impact mitigation measures of their land to minimise the visual impacts of the development of their residence (including its curtilage). Upon receiving such a written request from the owner of these residences, the Proponent must implement appropriate mitigation measures (such as landscaping and vegetation screening) in consultation with the owner.</p> <p>These mitigation measures must be reasonable and feasible, aimed at reducing the visibility of the transmission line and towers from the residence and its curtilage, and commensurate with the level of visual impact on the residence.</p> <p>All agreed mitigation measures must be implemented within 12 months of receiving the written request, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.</p> <p>If the Proponent and the owner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Planning Secretary for resolution.</p> <p>To avoid any doubt, mitigation measures are not required to be implemented to reduce the visibility of transmission lines and towers from any other locations on the property other than the residence and its curtilage.</p>	Audit interview	Condition relates to operations.	Not triggered
D42	<p><b>Visual Appearance</b></p> <p>The proponent must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take reasonable steps to minimise the off-site visual impacts of the development; and</li> <li>Not mount any advertising signs or logos on site except where it is required for identification or safety purposes.</li> </ol>	Site Observations	No advertising signs or logos were observed on site. Site compound locations are a reasonable distance from residential areas and are unlikely to cause any visual impacts.	Compliant
D43	<p><b>Lighting</b></p> <p>The Proponent must;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take all reasonable steps to minimise the off site lighting impacts of the development; and</li> <li>Ensure that any external lighting associated with the</li> </ol>	Site Observations Audit Interview	<p>Lighting installed for site offices and accommodation.</p> <p>Security Lighting is turned down at night. No complaints received regarding lighting.</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	development: i) Is installed as low intensity lighting (except where required for safety or emergency purposes); ii) complies with Australian/ New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4282:2019 – Control of Obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting.			
<b>Hazard and Risk</b>				
<b>D44</b>	<b>Dangerous Goods</b> The Proponent must ensure that the storage, handling, and transport of dangerous goods is undertaken in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and guidelines, particularly AS1940 <i>The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids</i> and AS/NZS 1596:2014 <i>The storage and handling of LP Gas, the Dangerous Goods Code</i> , and the EPA's <i>Storing and Handling of Liquids; Environmental Protection – Participants Manual</i> .	Site Inspection Audit Interview	Robust systems have been established for fuel and chemical storage, including a covered area with a hardstand floor that houses several bunded and ventilated chemical storage containers and cabinets.	Compliant
<b>D45</b>	<b>Electric and Magnetic Fields</b> The Proponent must ensure that the design, construction and operation of the development is managed to comply with the applicable electric and magnetic fields (EMF) limits in the <i>International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for limiting exposure to time varying electric and magnetic fields (1Hz-100Hz) (ICNIRP, 2010)</i> .	330kV L1 Border to Buronga – Electric and Magnetic Fields Study (AECOMM) dated 26/11/21  330kV L1 Buronga to Dinewan – Electric and Magnetic Fields Study (AECOMM) dated 22/12/21 220kV L4 Buronga to Red Cliffs – Electric and Magnetic Fields Study 25/1/22	Three design studies have been undertaken for the transmission lines and incorporate the requirements of the <i>(ICNIRP) Guidelines</i> . Each study concludes that the power frequency electric and magnetic field levels near ground level are confirmed to be acceptable to humans, livestock and plants.  Further review will be required during subsequent audits to evaluate compliance with these requirements as design and construction progress.	Not triggered
<b>Bushfire Safety</b>				
<b>D46</b>	<b>Operating Conditions</b> The Proponent must: a) Minimise the fire risks of the development, including	Accommodation Camp Management Plan EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Stage 1 rev 0 2/3/22	A 20,000-litre water supply tank fitted has been installed at Camp 6.  All chemicals were stored in a bunded and	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>managing vegetation fuel loads on site</p> <p>b) Ensure that the development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complies with the relevant asset protection requirements in the RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent) and Standards for Asset Protection Zones;</li> <li>- Is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site, including provision of a 20,000 litre water supply tank fitted with a 65 mm Storz fitting and a FRNSW compatible suction connection located at each of the construction compounds and accommodation camps;</li> <li>- Incorporates the recommendations of a fire risk assessment as per TransGrid's design standards;</li> </ul> <p>c) Ensure that buildings within the compounds and accommodation camps comply with Australian Standard AS3959-2018 <i>Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas</i> (or equivalent) and RFS's Planning for Bushfire protection 2019;</p> <p>d) Develop procedures to manage potential fires on site, in consultation with the RFS and FRNSW;</p> <p>e) Assist the RFS, FRNSW and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site; and</p> <p>f) Notify the relevant local emergency management committee following completion of construction of the development, and prior to commencing operations.</p>		<p>ventilated container away from main site activities.</p> <p>Refuelling activities were undertaken in a concrete hardstand area.</p>	
D47	<p><b>Emergency Plan</b></p> <p>Prior to commencing construction, the proponent must develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Plan and detailed emergency procedures for the development, in consultation with the local Fire Control Centre, and provide a copy of the plan to the local Fire Control Centre. The Proponent must keep two copies of the plan on site in a prominent position adjacent to the site entry point(s) to the Buronga Substation at all times. The plan must:</p> <p>a) Be consistent with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RFS's Planning for Bushfire protection 2019(or equivalent);</li> <li>- RFS's Development Planning – a Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and evacuation plan;</li> </ul>	<p>Emergency Plan Agency Consultation Report dated 10/3/22</p> <p>Emergency Plan, EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section) Rev 0 dated 14/3/22</p>	<p>A copy of the Emergency plan was provided to the Lower West Rural Fire Service for consultation. To date there have been no bushfires in the vicinity of the project.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the local Rural Fire Service is invited to the site as part of the testing of the Emergency Plan and inducted into the location of the fire tank.</p>	<p>Compliant</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p>

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The fire and rescue NSW act 1989;</li> <li>- The Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2011;</li> <li>b) Identify the fire risks and hazards and detailed measures for the development to prevent or mitigate fires igniting;</li> <li>c) Include procedures that would be implemented if there is a fire on site or in the vicinity of the site;</li> <li>d) List works that should not be carried out during a total fire ban;</li> <li>e) Include availability of fire suppression equipment access and water;</li> <li>f) Include procedures for the storage and maintenance of any flammable materials;</li> <li>g) Detail access provisions for emergency vehicles and contact details for both a primary and alternative site contact who may be reached 24/7 in the event of an emergency;</li> <li>h) Include a figure showing site infrastructure, any Asset Protection Zones and the on site water supply tank(s)</li> <li>i) Include location of hazards (physical, chemical and electrical) that may impact on fire fighting activities and procedures to manage identified hazards during fire fighting activities.</li> <li>j) Include details of the location, management and maintenance of any Asset Protection Zone and who is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Asset Protection Zone;</li> <li>k) Include bushfire emergency management planning;</li> <li>l) Include details of how RFS would be notified and procedures that would be implemented, in the event that:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a fire on site or in the vicinity of the site;</li> <li>- There are any activities on site that would have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; or</li> <li>- There are any proposed activities to be carried out during a bushfire danger period that have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>m) Include details on how live transmission infrastructure can be safely isolated in an emergency.</li> </ul>		<p>Commission testing of the FRNSW suction connection with RFS equipment should also be undertaken to ensure effectiveness in a fire emergency</p>	

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
<b>Waste</b>				
D48	<p>Waste generated during construction, operation upgrading, and decommissioning must be dealt with in accordance with the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Waste generation must be avoided and where avoidance is not reasonable practicable, waste generation must be reduced:</li> <li>b) Where avoiding or reducing waste is not possible, waste must not be re-used, recycled or recovered; and</li> <li>c) Where reusing, recycling or recovering waste is not possible, waste must be treated or disposed of.</li> </ul>	<p>Site observations            Audit interview            Construction Waste Management Plan            SEJV Camp 6 Waste Summary 2023            Cleanaway waste receipts 01251, 01303, 6101,</p>	<p>Recycling facilities (skip bins) are available on site for both general waste and comingled recycling. 1. Any other waste unable to be re-used is disposed of to the Buronga waste disposal facility.</p> <p>Waste tracking register is kept up to date and includes general waste, sanitary bin waste, concrete, contaminated soil, hydrocarbon waste and timber.</p>	Compliant
D49	<p>The importation of waste and the storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing of disposal of such waste must comply with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, the Protection of the Environment Operations (waste) Regulation 2014, and orders or exemptions under the regulation.</p>	<p>Site observations            Audit interview</p>	<p>There have not been any waste materials imported to site.</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
D50	Waste must not only be exported to a site licenced by the EPA for the storage, treatment, processing or reprocessing or disposal of the subject waste, or in accordance with a Resource Recovery Exemption or Order issued under the Protection of the Environment Operations (waste) Regulation 2014, or to any other place that can lawfully accept such waste.	Site Observations Audit Interview Waste Tracking Register Environmental Material Tracking form dated 12/12/21 Environment Protection Licence 20209	Buronga Landfill is operated by Wentworth Shire Council and holds an Environment Protection Licence (EPL 20209).	Compliant
D51	All wasted that is removed from site must be classified in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines, with appropriate records and disposal dockets retained for audit purposes.	Site Observations Audit Interview Waste Tracking Register Environmental Material Tracking form dated 12/12/21 Environment Protection Licence 20209	As above	Compliant
<b>Accommodation Camp</b>				
D52	<p>Prior to establishing the accommodation camps, the Proponent must prepare the Accommodation Camp Management Plan to the satisfaction of Council, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. The plan must;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensure utilities at the accommodation camps, including water, wastewater, waste and electricity, are designed and located in accordance with Council specifications and relevant standards, in consultation with Council;</li> <li>b) Ensure the accommodation camp complies with conditions D21 and D46;</li> <li>c) Ensure any treated wastewater from the accommodation camps used for dust suppression during construction;</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complies with the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) &amp; Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ) (2000) guidelines for irrigation water quality;</li> <li>- Meets the requirements of the Public Health Act 2010;</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) Include measure for dust suppression within the accommodation camps;</li> <li>e) Provide the site layout including building locations, vehicle access and movement, site servicing and utilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accommodation Camp Management Plan Rev 0 dated 2/3/22</li> <li>- Email from Wentworth Council dated 21/2/22</li> </ul>	<p>Accommodation plan prepared and submitted to DPE. Wentworth Council have no comments on the management plan.</p> <p>Construction water is sourced from several locations including Bore water with a Water Access Licence (refer to Section 3.4).</p> <p>On site sediment basin (for dust suppression at Camp 6 and Bronga Substation) Recycled (grey water from the Camp 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On site turkey's nest</li> <li>- Council potable water (under agreement with start to finish metering records</li> <li>- Any grey water sourced from the onsite water treatment plant is tested for a range of parameters including E Coli to ensure it is safe for usage.</li> </ul>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>infrastructure; and</p> <p>f) Include measures to support local suppliers in servicing the camp where possible.</p> <p>Following approval, the Proponent must implement the Accommodation Camp Management Plan.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reuse of water on site is subject to approval from the Environment team following testing of the water and the issue of a permit which directs where the water can be safely reused to avoid any public health impacts. The SEJV logistics manager oversees the day-to-day management of water and keeps a tracking schedule (updated monthly) of water usage (by source), application and projected water demand so adequate water can be sourced including the purchase of bulk water where required. The annual operating reporting period is June to July. There is no groundwater extraction taking place.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Local Business and Employment Strategy</b></p>				
<p><b>D53</b></p>	<p>Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must prepare a Local Business and Employment Strategy for the development in consultation with Council. This strategy must investigate options for prioritising the employment of local Aboriginal workforce and suppliers for the construction of the development, where feasible. The proponent must implement the Accommodation and Employment Strategy.</p>	<p>Local Business and Employment Strategy EnergyConnect (NSW - Western Section) 45860-CM-PL-G-1002</p> <p>Audit Interview</p> <p>Project EnergyConnect, Monthly Progress Report Excerpts</p> <p>Project Energy Connect Strategic Working Group Minutes Notes</p> <p>Local Industry Monthly Participation Reporting Table</p>	<p>SEJV have appointed a Local Industry Participation Manager (LIPM) to work with the engineering teams to identify opportunities for local goods and services and facilitate their procurement with the engineering, construction and tender teams. The LIPM also has a role in meeting locals and workers and connecting them with the relevant people within SEJV</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
		<p>Subcontractor Tender Requirements for Indigenous Engagement Guideline</p> <p>Local Industry Participation Plan (SLIPP) Subcontractors Local Industry Participation Plan – Tenderers Guidance Note</p> <p>Local Industry Participation and Indigenous Participation – Monthly Reporting Table</p> <p>Example Job Advertisement, Health and Safety Advisor Indigenous Participation Job Manager Advertisement Supplier Information Guideline</p>	<p>Local industry and indigenous participation is monitored and reported internally on a monthly basis.</p> <p>In addition, an Indigenous Participation Manager has been recently appointed whose role is to promote indigenous participation on the project.</p>	
<b>Rehabilitation</b>				
<b>D54</b>	<p>Within 6 months of the completion of construction, upgrading or decommissioning, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Proponent must rehabilitate the areas where ancillary facilities, accommodation camps and earthwork materials sites are located, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives in Table 3.</p> <p><b>[refer to infrastructure approval for table]</b></p>	<p>Audit Interview Site Observations</p>	<p>This condition won't be triggered until 6 months following the completion of construction.</p> <p>Some rehabilitation work has been initiated for the Borrow Pit at Buronga Substation.</p> <p>Mulch is spread on the centreline of the main clearing areas and tower footprints progressively rehabilitated and in accordance with the biodiversity and vegetation management plan</p>	Not triggered

## Part E – Environmental Management, Reporting and Auditing

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
<b>Revision Of Strategies, Plans and Programs</b>				
<b>E1</b>	<p>The Proponent must review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans or programs required under this approval to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within 3 month of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submission of an incident report under condition E6;</li> <li>- Submission of an audit report under condition E11; or</li> <li>- Any modification to the conditions of this approval.</li> </ul>	Audit Interview	Management plans were reviewed following the audit, however, were deemed adequate by SEJV therefore no changes were made	Compliant
<b>Staging, Combining and Updating Strategies, plans or Programs</b>				
<b>E2</b>	<p>With approval of the Planning Secretary, the Proponent may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Prepare and submit any strategy, plan or program required by this approval on a staged basis (if a clear description is provided as to the specific stage and scope of the development to which the strategy, plan or program applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the strategy plan or program);</li> <li>b) Combine any strategy, plan or program required by this approval (if a clear relationship is demonstrated between the strategies, plans or programs that are proposed to be combined); and</li> <li>c) Update any strategy, plan or program required by this approval (to ensure the strategies, plans and programs required under this approval and updated on a regular basis and incorporate additional measures or amendments to improve the environmental performance of the development).</li> </ol> <p>If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan or program may be staged or updated without consultation being undertaken with all parties required to be consulted in the relevant condition in this approval.</p> <p>If approved by the Planning Secretary, updated strategies, plans or</p>	<p>EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Staging Report Rev C dated 24/11/21</p> <p>Letter to DPE dated 26/11/21 DPE letter of approval of approach to staging dated 24/12/21</p>	<p>DPE approved the approach to staging the project as follows:</p> <p><b>Stage 1</b> – commencing the upgrade of the existing substation at Buronga (Arumpo Road, Buronga), establishing the Buronga accommodation camp and construction compound, and using and accessing two water supply points off Corbett Avenue, Buronga to supply raw water for construction and potable water for the accommodation camp.</p> <p><b>Stage 2</b> – all other construction activities.</p>	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<p>programs supersede the previous versions of them and must be implemented in accordance with the condition that requires the strategy, plan or program.</p> <p>If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan or program may be staged without addressing particular requirements of the relevant condition of this approval if those requirements are not applicable to the particular stage.</p>			
<b>Notifications</b>				
<b>E3</b>	<p><b>Notification of Department</b></p> <p>Prior to commencing construction, operations, upgrading or decommissioning of the development or, the Proponent must notify the Department in writing via the Major Projects website portal of the date of commencing relevant phase.</p> <p>If any of these phases of the development are to be staged, then the Proponent must notify the Department in writing prior to commencing the relevant stage, and clearly identify the development that would be carried out during the relevant stage.</p>	<p>Transgrid Letter dated 23/6/22 Transgrid Letter dated 18/7/22 DPE Portal Lodgment Receipt</p>	<p>DPE were notified of Construction commencement of both stages 1 and 2. Evidence of DPE Portal submission provided.</p>	Compliant
<b>E4</b>	<p><b>Final Layout Plans</b></p> <p>Prior to commencing construction, the Proponent must submit detailed plans of the final layout of the development to the Department via the Major Projects website, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Details on sitting of transmission towers, ancillary infrastructure and / or ancillary facilities; and</li> <li>b) Showing comparison to the approved layout.</li> </ul> <p>The Proponent must ensure that the development is constructed in accordance with the Final Layout Plans.</p>	<p>Final Layout plan sketches (45860-SK-26000-C-series) BRG Series of Plans Stage 2 Final Layout Plans DPE Email dated 18/7/22 DPE Email dated 19/7/22</p>	<p>DPE confirmed receipt of the final layout plans for stages 1 and 2.</p>	Compliant
<b>E5</b>	<p><b>Work as Executed Plans</b></p> <p>Prior to commencing operations, the Proponent must submit plans that confirm the constructed layout of the development and showing comparison to final layout plans to the Planning Secretary, via the Major Projects website.</p>	<p>Audit Interview Site Observations</p>	<p>Not applicable until operational phase.</p>	Not triggered
<b>E6</b>	<p><b>Incident Notification</b></p> <p>The Department must be notified via the Major Projects website portal immediately after the Proponent becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the development</p>	<p>Audit Interview</p>	<p>There have not been any incidents reported for the audit period</p>	Not triggered

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	application number and the name of the development if it has one), and set out the location and nature of the incident. Subsequent notification requirements must be given, and reports submitted in accordance with the requirements set out Appendix 3.			
E7	<b>Non-Compliance Notification</b> The Planning Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after the Proponent becomes aware of any non-compliance.	Audit Interview	There have not been any non - compliances reported for the audit period	Not triggered
E8	A non-compliance notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of approval that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.	Audit Interview	There have not been any non - compliances reported for the audit period	Not triggered
E9	A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.	Audit Interview	There have not been any non-compliances reported for the audit period'	Not triggered
E10	<b>Notification of Landowners</b> Prior to the commencement of construction, the Proponent must notify the owners of the owners of R1489, R2022 and R2023 of their rights under the condition D41.	Transgrid Letter to Landowners dated 15/7/22	Landowners of R2022, R149, R2023 were formally notified in accordance with this condition.	Compliant
<b>Independent Environmental Audit</b>				
E11	Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out at the frequency described and in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020), unless otherwise agreed or directed by the Planning Secretary.	This audit report	Initial audit undertaken on 17 and 18 August 2022, within 3 months of construction commencement.	Compliant
<b>Access to Information</b>				
E12	The Proponent must: a) Make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development: (i) The EIS (ii) Current approved statutory approvals for the development	<a href="#">EnergyConnect   Transgrid</a>	Relevant documents are included on the project website.	Compliant

Ref	Requirement	Evidence Collected	Independent Audit Findings & Recommendations	Compliance Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iii) Approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this approval</li> <li>(iv) The proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, decommissioning and/or operation of the development is to be staged</li> <li>(v) A comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, which have been reported in accordance with the various programs and plans approved under the conditions of approval</li> <li>(vi) A record of complaints, which is to be updated on a monthly basis</li> <li>(vii) Any independent environmental audit, and the Proponents response to the recommendations in the audit</li> <li>(viii) Any other matter required by the planning secretary</li> </ul> <p>b) Keep this information up to date.</p>			

## Appendix C Site Photographs

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**Photo 1:** Towers ready for erection



**Photo 2:** Tower bases



**Photo 3:** Rumble grid – Camp 6



**Photo 4:** Stabilised site access – Camp 6



**Photo 5:** Rock lined channel and sediment fence – Camp 6



**Photo 6:** Water cart in operation – Buronga Substation Site



**Photo 7:** Stabilised carpark site – Camp 6



**Photo 8:** Bitumen site access/egress Arumpo Road



**Photo 9:** Primary basin inlet channel with fire tank and basin dewatering pump in the background



**Photo 10 :** Vehicle washdown – Camp 6



**Photo 11:** Rehabilitation – Buronga Borrow pit



**Photo 12:** Revegetated topsoil bunds



**Photo 13:** Chemical storage cabinet, spill kits and covered hardstand area Camp 6



**Photo 14:** Bunded and ventilated chemical storage container Camp 6



**Photo 15:** Waste and recycling facilities – Camp 6



**Photo 16:** Plastic lined concrete washout pit



**Photo 17:** Refuelling station – Camp 6



**Photo 18:** Firewater tank – Camp 6



**Photo 19:** Mainline clearing activities



**Photo 20:** GPS tracking device – mainline clearing



**Photo 21:** Nestboxes



**Photo 22:** Retained vegetation, eagles nest – Buronga Substation

## Appendix D Stakeholder Consultation Records

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## Appendix D-1 Consultation Summary

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
DPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with key stakeholders</li> <li>• Compliance with management plans</li> <li>• Evidence of obtaining all other relevant certificate such as CC and OC's.</li> <li>• Erosion and sediment management.</li> <li>• Management of tracking of material onto road network</li> <li>• Dust management.</li> <li>• Clearing vegetation limits as per condition/mgt plan.</li> <li>• Identification and Protection of flora and fauna (as per consent and management plans)</li> <li>• Identification and Protection of Aboriginal and European cultural sites (as per consent and management plans)</li> <li>• Traffic management – implementation of Traffic Controls, recording of vehicle movements (HV and LV); recording of vehicles using approved access routes</li> <li>• Recording and management of OOHW's.</li> <li>• Complaints register and management of;</li> <li>• Implementation of Community Consultation strategy.</li> <li>• Review of Environmental Representative responsibilities.</li> <li>• Waste management.</li> <li>• Development/implementation of Emergency plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Consultation was undertaken with all relevant stakeholders as requested by DPE with details provided below and following in Appendix D-2 and D-3.</p> <p>Transgrid have appointed GHD to verify the new structures comply with the relevant Australian standards.</p> <p>Substation buildings are being constructed to meet the requirements of the Transgrid Design Manual which nominates relevant Australian Standards.</p> <p>Environmental issues as noted relating to erosion and sediment control, material tracking, waste, flora fauna, vegetation clearing limits, aboriginal heritage, traffic management and materials tracking were found to be managed effectively with no incidents or non-compliances recorded during the audit period.</p> <p>OOH works have been undertaken in accordance with the OOH works protocol with several approvals provided by the ER and other work assessed by SEJV to be under the noise management level (NML), with consideration of cumulative impacts of concurrent activities. There have been no complaints relating to OOH (or any other matter) to date.</p> <p>Implementation of the Community Consultation Strategy is an ongoing activity; substantial evidence was provided to the auditor demonstrating effective implementation Strategy.</p> <p>Two recommendations have been made in relation to the role of the Environmental Representative and the testing of storage with the RFS to minimise the risk of systems failure in the event of an emergency</p>
DPE (BCD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding - the only way Condition D21 can be met is through an evidence-based approach, consisting of flood modelling and assessments on infrastructure located in floodplain areas. As such, BCD requests that the auditor seek evidence that flood modelling and impact assessments have been completed for infrastructure located in floodplain areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Technical Paper 6 – Hydrology, flooding and water quality (Section 6.1) estimates that there would be insignificant impacts to flood behaviour for the operational phase and negligible impacts during the construction phase.</p>

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
		<p>Flooding impacts may therefore be considered as a very low risk. Regardless of the above, mitigation measure HF 2 of (Technical Paper 6) recommends that detailed construction planning will consider flood risk at construction areas. This will include identification of measures to not worsen flood impacts downstream and on other property and infrastructure during construction up to and including the 1% AEP flood event, and review of site layout and staging of construction works to avoid or minimise obstruction of overland flow paths and to limit the extent of flow diversion required.</p> <p>SEJV commissioned AECOMM to undertake an initial flood study following the EIS and prior to construction commencement focussing on the Buronga substation. The AECOMM study concluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed site does not impact on existing flood storage volumes across the two nearby depressions within the local catchment</li> <li>• Site runoff would drain towards the western depression and would therefore have a neutral (or marginally beneficial) impact on existing flooding conditions across the eastern depression</li> <li>• Increased peak flow rates from the largely impervious site would not coincide with peak flow rates from the much larger, rural catchment that also drains towards Lake Gol Gol. Peak flow rates heading towards Lake Gol Gol are dominated by these large rural catchment flows, not site flows.</li> <li>• The site would therefore have minimal impact on flooding across the receiving environment.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, SEJV have engaged flood engineers BMT to undertake further flooding assessments for Camps 6 and 7. In undertaking the assessment, a broadscale direct – rainfall hydraulic model was developed to inform flood behaviour surrounding the transmission line alignment and each camp. The model was assessed for the 1% AEP design event and has been updated to include the 20% AEP design event. The results of this assessment illustrate that the two sites are susceptible to inundation from significant rainfall events, appropriate design mitigation was implemented for towers in this location.</p>

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal involves areas of partial clearing in addition to complete clearing. BCD requests that the auditor ensures that the clearing quantities are being recorded for partial and full clearing areas for all vegetation zones consistent with the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR).</li> </ul>	<p>In response, to the BMT assessment, camp 7 located at Renmark Road has been raised by approximately 0.5m, the site was in balanced cut fill minimising flooding storage impacts.</p> <p>SEJV have prepared and implemented a register for clearing and disturbance areas. This includes a breakdown of whether the clearing is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A -Full Clearing</li> <li>Partial Clearing (noted as A-Centerline clearing or Disturbance B)</li> </ul> <p>The schedule includes a breakdown of Plant Community Types (PCT's) individual plant species and fauna habitat as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCT10, 11,13,15,17,19,21,58,63,139,143,153,154,157,159, 163,170,171,172, 216, 221, 252, 253</li> <li>Harrow Wattle, A saltbush, A-Speargrass, Bitter Qandong</li> <li>Regent Parrot (PCT 11A), Regent Parrot (13A) Regent parrot (PCT 138)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The species and Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) in Condition D25 a) partial clearing is required for Sandhill Pine Woodland, Santalum murrayanum and Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides. For example, the approved clearing of Santalum murrayanum is for 6   3 plants in Plant Community Type (PCT) 170 (mod/good) within disturbance area A, and 8 plants in PCT 170 (whipstick) disturbance area B.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> </ul>

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Condition D25 a) is not a comprehensive list of all PCTs that are being impacted by the development. Given this, BCD requests that the auditor confirms whether records are being kept for the clearing of other PCTs that are identified in the BDAR, but not specifically listed in Condition D25 a). If this request is outside of the scope of the audit, please advise BCD so that we can ensure future conditions capture all clearing limits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As noted above, records for PCTs 10,11,13,15,17,19,21,58,63,139,143, 153,154,157,159, 163,170,171,172, 216, 221, 252, 253 are kept</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCD would also like to highlight that one of the areas presented in Condition D25 a) that is inconsistent with the final BDAR. The area of 6.91 ha presented for <i>Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides</i> is incorrect. The actual clearing area as assessed in the BDAR and for which credits were generated is 16.32 ha.</li> </ul>	Noted
NSW EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement for an Environment Protection Licence for the project</li> </ul>	The activities undertaken to date and that are planned do not trigger the requirement for an Environment Protection Licence.
DPE Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No issues raised</li> </ul>	The local Fisheries Office was contacted; however a response was not received. It is noted that the activities undertaken at the time of the audit were not in the vicinity of any creeks, waterways or fisheries that would be impacted.
Heritage NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No issues raised</li> </ul>	Not applicable.
Local Aboriginal Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involvement of RAPs in ground disturbance monitoring</li> </ul>	ACHAR 2b notes that “Given the generally low occurrence and low density of subsurface archaeological deposits across the Stage 2b Project area monitoring is not recommended as a mitigation measure”. The Unexpected Finds Procedure would be used should any unidentified subsurface objects be found during construction or operation of the project.
DPE (Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement to prepare and implement management plans such as Water Management Plans and related sub-plans eg. Site Water Balance, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, Stormwater Management Plan,</li> </ul>	<p>Construction water is sourced from several locations including.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bore water with a Water Access Licence</li> </ul>

Organisation	Key Issues/Comments	Auditor Response
	<p>Surface and Groundwater Management Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraction Plans and related sub-plans eg. Water Management Plan, Subsidence Management Plan.</li> <li>• The requirement to prepare and implement trigger action response plans for water source impacts which set clearly defined limits and actions. This is to be reported on within annual and exceedance-based reporting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water supply availability is clearly defined for the project.</li> <li>○ Water take at the site via storage, diversion, interception or extraction is clearly documented and is authorised by a relevant Water Access Licence or exemption under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Water metering at the site is in accordance with the NSW Non-Urban Metering Framework where relevant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On site sediment basin (for dust suppression at Camp 6 and Buronga Substation)</li> <li>• Recycled (grey water from the Camp 6)</li> <li>• On site turkey's nest</li> <li>• Council potable water (under agreement with start to finish metering records)</li> </ul> <p>Any grey water sourced from the onsite water treatment plant is tested for a range of parameters including E Coli to ensure it is safe for usage.</p> <p>Reuse of water on site is subject to approval from the Environment team following testing of the water and the issue of a permit which directs where the water can be safely reused to avoid any public health impacts. The SEJV logistics manager oversees the day-to-day management of water and keeps a tracking schedule (updated monthly) of water usage (by source), application and projected water demand so adequate water can be sourced including the purchase of bulk water where required. The annual operating reporting period is June to July. There is no groundwater extraction taking place.</p> <p>As noted throughout this audit report, Soil and Water Management plans have been prepared and implemented with ongoing advice provided by a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Consultant (CPESC)</p>
Transport for NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No issues raised</li> </ul>	Not Applicable
Community Consultative Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not Applicable</li> </ul>	A community consultative committee for the project has not been established. Due to the scale and nature of the project, consultation is undertaken with individual landowners as well as local aboriginal groups.
Wentworth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not Applicable</li> </ul>	No response received
Local Lands Service/Western Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not Applicable</li> </ul>	No response received
Federal Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not Applicable</li> </ul>	No response received

## Appendix D-2 Correspondence Issued

## Appendix D-3 Correspondence Received

## Appendix E Auditor Declaration

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<b>Project name</b>	Project EnergyConnect (NSW Western Section)
<b>Consent Number</b>	SSI 10040
<b>Description of Project</b>	Development of a new 330 kV transmission line connecting the NSW and SA transmission networks (via Buronga substation) and upgrading the existing transmission line between Buronga substation and the NSW / Vic border. The land on which the project is constructed is within the Wentworth Shire
<b>Proponent</b>	Transgrid
<b>Date</b>	11 April 2023

I declare that I have undertaken the Independent Audit and prepared the contents of the attached Independent Audit Report and to the best of my knowledge:

*I declare that*

- (i) the audit has been undertaken in accordance with relevant condition(s) of consent and the Independent Audit Compliance Requirements (Department 2019);
- (ii) the findings of the audit are reported truthfully, accurately and completely;
- (iii) I have exercised due diligence and professional judgement in conducting the audit;
- (iv) I have acted professionally, objectively and in an unbiased manner;
- (v) I am not related to any proponent, owner or operator of the project neither as an employer, business partner, employee, or by sharing a common employer, having a contractual arrangement outside the audit, or by relationship as spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or child;
- (vi) I do not have any pecuniary interest in the audited project, including where there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation of financial gain or loss to me or spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or child;
- (vii) neither I nor my employer have provided consultancy services for the audited project that were subject to this audit except as otherwise declared to the Department prior to the audit; and
- (viii) I have not accepted, nor intend to accept any inducement, commission, gift or any other benefit (apart from payment for auditing services) from any proponent, owner or operator of the project, their employees or any interested party. I have not knowingly allowed, nor intend to allow my colleagues to do so

Notes:

- a) Under section 10.6 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) in a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit. If the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The proponent of an approved project must not fail to include information in (or provide information for inclusion in) a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit if the person knows that the information is materially relevant to the monitoring or audit. The maximum penalty is, in the case of corporation, \$1 million and for an individual, \$250,000; and
- b) The *Crimes Act 1900* contains other offences relating to the false and misleading information; section 307Bv (giving false or misleading information – maximum penalty 2 years imprisonment or 200 penalty units, or both).

**Name of auditor** Richard Peterson

**Signature** 

**Qualification** BE Civil, M Environmental Management

**Company:** Trigalana Environmental Pty Ltd

