## Project EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) Ecology Pre-Clearance Report



#### **Table 1 - Information**

Item	Detail
Ecologist / Fauna Spotter(s) Completing Pre-Clearance Survey	Name: Madeleine Cicchelli  Qualification: Ecologist
Date of Pre-Clearance Survey	09/10/2024
Specific Pre-Clearance Survey Location (Line No./ Tower / Span No.)	L5 Access Track 5018-5019 between Towers 53-55 (revised location)
Scope Methodology	Desktop review of vegetation mapping for nominated area  In field visual inspection by ecologists of the proposed disturbance area.
Work Package ID	L5 Ecology – Pre-clearance surveys

### Table 2 - Pre-Clearance Survey Details

Infrastructure Surveyed					
Tower Footprint			ntreline		
Break and Winch Site	□ Par		Parking Areas		
Access Track (existing)		☐ Access Track (new)		)	$\boxtimes$
Disturbance Area B		Otl	Other		
Details of Other:					
Protected Matters					
Item	Presence	Identified		Comments	
	Yes	No	Clear (Ha)		
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland <sup>12</sup>					
Grey Box ( <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> ) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia 12		$\boxtimes$			
Weeping Myall Woodlands 12		$\boxtimes$			
Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains <sup>12</sup>		$\boxtimes$			
Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions <sup>2</sup>		$\boxtimes$			
Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion <sup>2</sup>		$\boxtimes$			
Plains mallee box woodland of the Murray Darling Depression, Riverina and Naracoorte Coastal Plains bioregions <sup>2</sup>		$\boxtimes$			
Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains <sup>2</sup>		$\boxtimes$			
Habitat for A spear-grass (austrostipa metatoris) <sup>2</sup>		$\boxtimes$			

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Habitat for A spear-grass (austrostipa wakoolica) <sup>2</sup>	$\boxtimes$	
Habitat for Mossgiel Daisy 12	$\boxtimes$	
Habitat for Sand-hill Spider Orchid <sup>2</sup>	$\boxtimes$	
Habitat for A burr-daisy <sup>2</sup>	$\boxtimes$	
Habitat for Winged Peppercross <sup>1</sup>	$\boxtimes$	
Habitat for Chariot Wheels 12	$\boxtimes$	
Habitat for Slender Darling Pea <sup>12</sup>	$\boxtimes$	
Habitat for Yellow Swainson-pea <sup>2</sup>	$\boxtimes$	
Habitat for Plains Wanderer 12	$\boxtimes$	
Habitat for Regent Parrot (eastern subspecies) 12	$\boxtimes$	
Habitat for Superb Parrot 12	$\boxtimes$	
Notes:  1 Protected matter listed within the Notification 2 Protected matter listed within the Revised Bir		

#### Management measures required to avoid or minimise impacts to Protected Matters:

- Approximately 0.2 ha of endangered BC Act-listed Threatened Ecological Community 'Inland Grey Box Woodland in the Riverina NSW South Western Slopes, Cobar Peneplain, Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions' mapped within the impact area.
- Exclusion Zones not required due to the existing fencing within the property and the disturbance caused by prior clearing.
- No additional mitigation measures required. Clearing works to be completed in accordance with the approved Biodiversity Management Plan.

Hollow Bearing / Habitat Trees			
Habitat trees and habitat features identified & marked?	Yes □	No ⊠	Comments:
GPS coordinates and habitat trees recorded?	Yes □	No ⊠	Comments:
Nest boxes required?	Yes □	No ⊠	Comments:
Fauna spotter required to be present during clearing activities?	Yes □	No ⊠	Comments:
Weeds			
Were any Weeds of National Significance or Priority Weeds identified?	Yes □	No ⊠	Details:
Environmental Exclusion Zones			
Threatened Species Identified within Disturbance Area B?	Yes □	No ⊠	Details:
Environmental exclusion zones required?	Yes □	No ⊠	Details: Not required due to existing fencing within the property and ground disturbance caused by prior clearing.
Unexpected Finds			

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Were any Unexpected Finds identified?	Yes □	No ⊠	Details:
If yes, has the Environmental Manager been notified?	Yes □	No ⊠	Details:

#### **Additional Comments**

- Exclusion zones to be installed prior to construction works commencing.
- Ecologist not required for clearing activities.
- Weeds to be managed in accordance with the Biosecurity Management Plan.
- Additional weed species: Wild Oat (*Avena* sp.), Rye Grass (*Lolium* sp.), Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), Small-flowered Mallow (*Malva parviflora*), Small Nettle (*Urtica urens*), Patterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*), *Bromus* sp., Barley Grass (*Hordeum* sp.), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Sow Thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), Flaxleaf Fleabane (*Erigeron bonariensis*), Prickly Lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), Square-stem St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), *Heliotropium* sp., Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Onion-grass (*Romulea rosea*), Hare's-foot Clover (*Trifolium arvense*), Paddy Melon (*Cucumis myriocarpus*), Sheep Sorrel (*Acetosella vulgaris*), Common Peppercress (*Lepidium africanum*), Bathurst Burr (*Xanthium spinosum*), Black Nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*), *Brassica* sp., *Vulpia* sp. And various pasture grasses.
- Additional weed list created based off of initial surveys conducted in December 2023.

#### Table 3 - Pre-Clearance Approval

Ecologist		
Pre-clearance Assessment Timeframe for Nominated Works	3 months	
Name	Madeleine Cicchelli	
Signature		
Date	09/10/2024	
SecureEnergy		
Name	Daniel Statham	
Position	Environment Advisor	
Signature		
Date	14/10/2024	