

**LISMORE TO MULLUMBIMBY ELECTRICITY NETWORK UPGRADE, BALLINA, BYRON AND
LISMORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER PART 3A OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979**

Project	<p>Concept Plan Application: Upgrade of the Lismore to Mullumbimby electricity network, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction of two new substations; • upgrade of six existing substations; • construction of five new transmission lines; and • upgrade of two existing transmission lines. <p>Project Application: Phase 1 of the above works including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction of four new transmission lines; • upgrade of five existing substations; and • upgrade of two existing transmission lines.
Site	Transmission easements and properties between Lismore and Mullumbimby, via Ballina
Proponent	Country Energy
Date of Issue	4 April 2008
Date of Expiration	4 April 2010
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment must be prepared to a high technical and scientific standard¹ and must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive summary. • a detailed description of Phase 1 of the proposal, including construction, operation, and staging. Sufficient information must be provided on the remaining phases to enable a clear understanding of these components. • an assessment of the environmental impacts of the project, with particular focus on the key assessment requirements specified below. • consideration of relevant guidelines including the Department's draft <i>Network Electricity Systems and Facilities Guidelines</i> (2002). • justification for undertaking the project with consideration of the benefits and impacts of the proposal. • a draft Statement of Commitments detailing measures for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project. • certification by the author of the Environmental Assessment that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading.
Key Assessment	<p>The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include assessment of the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning – the Environmental Assessment must provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → a strategic assessment for the project, including justification of the need, scale, scope and location of the project in relation to predicted electricity demand, predicted transmission constraints, alternative strategies, and the strategic direction of the region and the State regarding the State electricity supply and demand and electricity generation technologies; → a strategic planning consideration of the project and an analysis of the suitability of the proposed transmission route with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses including urban growth areas (eg Cumbalum area), agricultural uses and highway upgrades. Reference should be made to the Far North Coast Regional Strategy; → an assessment of the potential impacts of the project to influence changes to future land use character in proximity of the site; • Flora and Fauna Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of impacts of the project on flora and fauna, prepared in

¹ 'a high technical and scientific standard' means a standard that accords with valid and accepted technical and scientific methods, and that enables the Minister for Planning, public authorities, and the community to be adequately informed of the likely environmental impacts of the Project.

	<p>accordance with <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (DEC/ DPI, July 2005). The Environmental Assessment must specifically consider threatened species and communities listed under both State and Commonwealth legislation that have been recorded in the vicinity on the site and surrounding land, and SEPP 14 wetlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of impacts on Aboriginal heritage, in accordance with draft <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (DEC, 2005). The Environmental Assessment must also include an assessment of the potential for the project to impact on known items of non-Aboriginal heritage significance, particularly the former Lismore and Mullumbimby Power Stations, and include a management framework for management of any additional heritage items that may be uncovered during construction of the project. • Hazards and Risk Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include a screening of potential hazards on site to determine the potential for off site impacts, particularly at the substations, and any requirement for a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA). The Environmental Assessment must include an identification of any contaminated land affected by the proposal. The Environmental Assessment must also include an assessment of the risk to human health from Electric and Magnetic Fields associated with the project, with reference to Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency standards. • Noise Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of the noise impacts of new and upgraded substations, in accordance with the <i>NSW Industrial Noise Policy</i> (EPA, 2000). • Visual Amenity Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of the visual impacts associated with the proposal, including the impact on local and regional views by transmission lines and substations. • Construction-relation Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include details of construction-related impacts associated with the proposal, including noise impacts (against the criteria provided in Chapter 171 of the <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (EPA, 2004), water quality impacts and soil and erosion implications. The Environmental Assessment must also indicate how these impacts would be mitigate and managed, consistent with best environmental practice. • General Environmental Risk Analysis – notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the EA must include an environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project (construction and operation), proposed mitigation measures and potentially significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of this additional key environmental impact must be included in the EA.
Consultation Requirements	<p>You must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the EA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change; • NSW Department of Water and Energy; • NSW Health; • Ballina Shire Council; • Byron Shire Council; • Lismore City Council; • each landowner and land occupier adjacent to the boundary of the proposed development sites and transmission route; and • the local community. <p>The Environmental Assessment must clearly indicate issues raised by stakeholders during consultation, and how those matters have been addressed in the Environmental Assessment.</p>