



## Planning

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Mr Denis Novakovic  
Project Manager – Capital Programme Delivery  
TransGrid  
PO Box A1000  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Our ref: S09/0666  
Your ref:

Dear Mr Novakovic

**Dumaresq to Lismore 330 kV Transmission Line – (Application Reference: 09\_0150) – Supplement to the Director-General's Requirements**

I refer to the Director-General's requirements issued for the above project on 11 September 2009.

As you are aware, the project was declared a Controlled Action under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 18 February 2010, for likely impacts on listed threatened species and ecological communities. In accordance with section 75F(3) of the NSW *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*, I have enclosed the Commonwealth's requirements for the assessment.

I also confirm that the interim administrative procedures in relation to the accredited assessment process will apply to the assessment of this project under the EPBC Act, so that the Department can undertake an environmental impact assessment of the project to satisfy the requirements of both NSW and Commonwealth legislation.

You must ensure that the Environmental Assessment adequately addresses the Director-General's requirements issued on 11 September 2009, and the supplementary requirements attached to this letter.

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Anna Timbrell, Environmental Planning Officer, Infrastructure Projects on 02 9228 6345 or via email ([anna.timbrell@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anna.timbrell@planning.nsw.gov.au)).

Yours sincerely



Scott Jeffries  
Director – Infrastructure Projects  
as delegate for the Director-General

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts – requirements for environmental assessment EPBC 2010/5326**

**Section 75F(3) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979***

The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts has declared the TransGrid Dumaresq to Lismore 330kV Transmission Line project (EPBC 2010/5326) to be a controlled action under section 75 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The project encompasses the construction, operation and maintenance of a new 330 kilovolt transmission line and 60 metre-wide easement from Dumaresq substation east to Tenterfield and the upgrade of the existing 132kV transmission line (known as '96L') from Tenterfield substation east to Lismore substation, including widening the current easement to 60 metres.

The controlled action is likely to have a significant impact on the EPBC Act listed critically endangered *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakeley's Red Gum grassy woodlands and derived grasslands ecological community*. Significant impacts are also considered possible for numerous other species and ecological communities protected by the EPBC Act including, but not limited to, those listed in Appendix A.

In accordance with the one-off accredited assessment process for this project, the environmental assessment of the impacts of the controlled action must be assessed under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act). Pursuant to section 75F(3) of part 3A of the EP&A Act the Director-General is required to notify the proponent of these requirements.

The assessment should include enough information about the controlled action and its relevant impacts to allow the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts to make an informed decision whether or not to approve the controlled action under the EPBC Act.

These requirements are to be integrated into the assessment required for Part 3A of the EP&A Act. The following matters in the EPBC Act and schedule 4 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* should be considered.

**1. General information**

The background of the action including:

- a. the title of the action;
- b. the full name and postal address of the designated proponent;
- c. a clear outline of the objective of the action;
- d. the location of the action;
- e. the background to the development of the action;
- f. how the action relates to any other actions (of which the proponent should reasonably be aware) that have been, or are being, taken or that have been approved in the region affected by the action;
- g. the current status of the action; and
- h. the consequences of not proceeding with the action.

## 2. Description of the controlled action

A description of the action, including:

- a. all the components of the action;
- b. the precise location and area in hectares of any works to be undertaken, structures to be built or elements of the action that may have relevant impacts;
- c. how the works are to be undertaken and design parameters for those aspects of the structures or elements of the action that may have relevant impacts;
- d. the timing and duration of the works to be undertaken; and
- e. to the extent reasonably practicable, a description of any feasible alternatives to the controlled action that have been identified through the assessment, and their likely impact, including:
  - i. if relevant, the alternative of taking no action;
  - ii. a comparative description of the impacts of each alternative on the matters protected by the controlling provisions for the action; and
  - iii. sufficient detail to clarify why any alternative is preferred to another.

## 3. Description of the existing environment

A description of the existing environment of the proposal location and the surrounding areas that may be affected by the action, including:

- a. surveys using accepted methodology for targeting listed threatened species, ecological communities and their respective habitat, including but not limited to DECC's *Survey and assessment guidelines* (2009), available at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/surveymethodsfauna.htm>

In addition to the requirements outlined in DECCW's *Survey and assessment guidelines* (2009), the following must also be included:

- c. a description of the distribution and abundance of threatened species and ecological communities, as well as suitable habitat (including breeding, foraging, roosting habitat, habitat critical to the survival of threatened species) within the site and in surrounding areas that may be impacted by the proposal; and
- d. the regional distribution and abundance of suitable and potential habitat surrounding the site.

## 4. A description of the relevant impacts of the controlled action

- a. An assessment of all relevant impacts with reference to the *EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines Matters of National Environmental Significance* (2009) that the controlled action has, will have or is likely to have on:
  - i. threatened species and threatened ecological communities potentially present and listed under sections 18 and 18A of the EPBC Act, including, but not limited to, the EPBC listed species outlined on page one and Appendix A of these requirements; and
  - ii. the composition, extent and location of vegetation and suitable habitat on site and in adjacent areas potentially impacted.

- b. Information on impacts must include:
  - i. a description and detailed assessment of the nature, location and extent of the likely short-term and long-term impacts of the action on matters of national environmental significance. This must include a description of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, for both the construction and operation phase of the project;
  - ii. a statement whether any impacts are likely to be uncertain or irreversible;
  - iii. analysis of the scale of the impacts; and
  - iv. any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts.

## 5. Proposed safeguards, mitigation and offset measures

### Safeguards and Mitigation

- a. any changes to the controlled action which prevent or minimise relevant impacts on listed threatened species and communities;
- b. a description of the mitigation measures that will be undertaken to prevent or minimise the relevant impacts of the action. These mitigation measure should be substantiated and based on best available practices;
- c. an assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness of the mitigation measures including the effect on abundance and condition of species, suitable habitat and ecological communities;
- d. any statutory or policy basis for the mitigation measures;
- e. the cost of the mitigation measures;
- f. an environmental management plan that sets out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs (including any relevant thresholds for corrective actions) for the relevant impacts of the action. Include the person or agency responsible for implementing these programs and the effectiveness of all mitigation measures, including any provisions for independent environmental auditing;
- g. the name of the agency responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program;
- h. identification of mitigation measures proposed to be undertaken by State governments, local governments or the proponent;

### Offsets

- i. In the event that impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated, describe any offsets to compensate for any predicted or potential residual impacts on threatened species and ecological communities (ie. the direct removal of suitable habitat). Reference should be made to the Department's draft policy statement at : <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/draft-environmental-offsets.html>
- j. the description of any offset package should include how the offset compensates for the residual impacts, when the offset will be delivered and how the offset will be managed;
- k. an assessment of the impact of the offsets on other matters of environmental, economic, or social significance; and
- l. analysis of cost, both financial and other, related to offsets.

## **6. Other approvals and conditions**

Any other requirements for approval or conditions that apply, or that the proponent reasonably believes are likely to apply, to the proposed action. Information must include:

- a. details of any local or State government planning scheme, system or policy that covers the proposed action, including:
  - i. what environmental assessment of the proposed action has been, is being, or will be carried out under the scheme, plan or policy; and
  - ii. how the scheme provides for the prevention, minimisation and management of any relevant impacts;
- b. a description of any approval that has been obtained from a State, Territory or Commonwealth agency or authority (other than an approval under the EPBC Act), including any associated conditions that apply to the action;
- c. a statement identifying any additional approval that is required; and
- d. a description of the monitoring, enforcement and review procedures that apply, or are proposed to apply, to the action.

## **7. Economic and social matters**

A description of long-term and short-term economic and social considerations regarding the project.

## **8. Environmental record of person proposing to take the action**

- a. Details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against:
  - i. the proponent; and
  - ii. for an action for which a person has applied for a permit, the person making the application.
- b. Details of the proponent's environmental policy and planning framework.

## **9. Information sources**

For information given in the environment assessment for this project, the document must state:

- a. the source of the information;
- b. how recent the information is;
- c. how the reliability of the information was tested; and
- d. what uncertainties (if any) are in the information.

**10. Consultation**

- a. Any consultation undertaken in relation to the action, including:
  - i. any consultation that has already taken place;
  - ii. proposed consultation about relevant impacts of the action; and
  - iii. if there has been consultation about the proposed action — any documented response to, or result of, the consultation.
- b. identification of affected parties, including a statement describing any communities that may be affected and their views on the proposed action.

## **Appendix A**

### **Threatened Ecological Communities**

- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodlands and derived grasslands
- Natural grasslands on basalt and fine-textured alluvial plains of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland

### **Threatened Flora**

- *Callitris oblonga* (Pigmy Cypress-pine)
- *Eucalyptus caleyi* subsp. *ovendenii* (Ovenden's Ironbark)
- *Rapanea* sp. Richmond River (Purple-leaf Muttonwood)
- *Acacia macnuttiana* (McNutt's Wattle)
- *Acacia pubifolia*
- *Allocasuarina defungens* (Dwarf Heath Casuarina)
- *Astrotricha roddii*
- *Boronia granitica* (Granite Boronia)
- *Cadellia pentastylis* (Ooline)
- *Callistemon pungens*
- *Clematis fawcettii* (Stream Clematis)
- *Corchorus cunninghamii* (Native Jute)
- *Cryptostylis hunteriana* (Leafless Tongue-orchid)
- *Desmodium acanthocladum* (Thorny Pea)
- *Digitaria porrecta* (Finger Panic Grass)
- *Diuris pedunculata* (Small Snake Orchid)
- *Diuris sheaffiana* (Tricolour Diuris)
- *Eucalyptus glaucina* (Slaty Red Gum)
- *Eucalyptus mckieana* (McKie's Stringybark)
- *Eucalyptus nicholii* (Narrow-leaved Peppermint)
- *Gossia fragrantissima* (Sweet Myrtle)
- *Grevillea quadricauda*
- *Homopholis belsonii*
- *Lepidium peregrinum* (Wandering Pepper-cress)
- *Marsdenia longiloba* (Clear Milkvine)
- *Ochrosia moorei* (Southern Ochrosia)
- *Owenia cepiodora* (Onionwood)
- *Persicaria elatior* (Knotweed)
- *Pultenaea stuartiana*
- *Rutidosis heterogama* (Heath Wrinklewort)
- *Syzygium hodgkinsoniae* (Smooth-bark Rose Apple)
- *Taeniophyllum muelleri* (Minute Orchid)
- *Thesium australe* (Austral Toadflax)
- *Tinospora tinosporoides* (Arrow-head Vine)
- *Triplarina imbricata*
- *Tylophora linearis*
- *Tylophora woollsii*

### **Threatened Fauna**

- *Anthochaera phrygia* (Regent Honeyeater)
- *Mixophyes fleayi* (Fleay's Frog)
- *Potorous tridactylus tridactylus* (Long-nosed Potoroo)
- *Pseudomys oralis* (Hastings River Mouse)
- *Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni* (Coxen's Fig-Parrot)
- *Dasyornis brachypterus* (Eastern Bristlebird)
- *Lathamus discolor* (Swift Parrot)
- *Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda* (Star Finch)

- *Rostratula australis* (Australian Painted Snipe)
- *Mixophyes balbus* (Stuttering Frog)
- *Mixophyes iteratus* (Southern Barred Frog)
- *Chalinolobus dwyeri* (Large-eared Pied Bat)
- *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* (Spot-tailed Quoll)
- *Nyctophilus timoriensis* (Greater Long-eared Bat)
- *Petrogale penicillata* (Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby)
- *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Grey-headed Flying-fox)
- *Coeranoscincus reticulatus* (Three-toed Snake-tooth Skink)
- *Underwoodisaurus sphyrurus* (Border Thick-tailed Gecko)