BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Yanco BESS

ACLE SERVICES

ABN 66 631 910 659

Level 3, 689 Burke Road, Camberwell, VIC 3124

T - (+61) (03) 9813 2307

Email: hello@acle.com.au

Web: www.acle.com.au

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1 INTRODUCTION

ACEnergy Pty Ltd (ACEnergy), is progressing the development of the Yanco Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a grid-scale energy storage facility designed to enhance grid stability, improve energy reliability, and support the integration of renewable energy into the State's electricity network (herein referred to as 'the project'). With an estimated development cost exceeding $30 million, the project meets the statutory threshold for classification as a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. As an SSD, the project is subject to a comprehensive assessment and approval process administered by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The project received development consent from the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) in October 2025. A modification to the project was approved by the Director Energy Assessments on the 27th of May 2026.

This Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) has been prepared for the project using information contained within the approved Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) prepared by Habitat Environmental Services (April 2025), together with their Development Assessment (DA) modification report (May 2026). The BMP applies to both the construction and operational phases of the BESS and reflects the requirements and updated commitments outlined in the modified Development Application (DA modification footprint found in Appendix D). Any future modification to the Development Application will require a corresponding review of to this BMP, and update as required, to ensure ongoing compliance with approval conditions and environmental management obligations.

1.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This BMP has been developed for the project on behalf of ACEnergy, which addresses Conditions of the Development Consent (Application # SSD-67478479). Condition B13 of this approval includes the requirement to prepare and implement this BMP. This document outlines the project's biodiversity impacts as quantified in the approved BDAR and establishes the measures to manage and mitigate those impacts throughout the construction phase and operational life of the project.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Yanco Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project comprises the design, procurement, construction, testing, and commissioning of a 250MW / 1000MWh grid-scale battery energy storage facility located at 120 Houghton Road, Yanco, New South Wales. The facility will be connected to the National Electricity Market (NEM) via a 132kV connection to Transgrid's existing Yanco 132/33kV substation.

Parameter	Details
Project Name	Yanco Battery Energy Storage System (Yanco BESS)
Site Address	120 Houghton Road, Yanco NSW 2705
BESS Capacity	250MW / 1,000MWh (4-hour duration)
Grid Connection Voltage	132kV AC
Network Service Provider	Transgrid
Connection Point	Transgrid Yanco 132/33kV Substation

Transmission Link	~500m 132kV XLPE underground cable
BESS Technology Supplier	CATL (separate supply contract)
Planning Approval	Approved NSW IPC October 2025, modified May 2026

2.1 ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Parameter	Details
ACLE	ACLE Services – BOP Contractor
ACEnergy	ACEnergy Pty Ltd Applicant
BAM	NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan – This document
BOP	Balance of Plant
CEEC	Critically Endangered Ecological Community
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CPHR	Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation group
CPA	Conservation Planning and Assessment (branch of DCCEEW)
CoA	Condition of Approval, as per Schedule 2 of the Development Consent
Development Footprint	Project boundary as mapped in the EIS including DA modification areas (Appendix C, Appendix D)
DCCEEW (NSW)	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
EDC	Estimated Development Cost
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMS	Environmental Management Strategy
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
FSC	Fauna Spotter Catcher
IPC	Independent Planning Commission of NSW
LSC	Leeton Shire Council
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
PCT	Plant Community Type
POEO Act	*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
SAII	Serious and Irreversible Impacts

SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021
SSD	State Significant Development
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

2.2 DETAILED SCOPE OF WORKS

The Yanco Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project comprises the design, procurement, construction, testing, commissioning and operation of a 250MW / 1000MWh grid-scale battery energy storage facility located at 120 Houghton Road, Yanco, New South Wales. The facility will be connected to the National Electricity Market (NEM) via a 132kV connection to Transgrid's existing Yanco 132/33kV substation.

The development footprint (Appendix C) and DA modification locations within this footprint (Appendix D) are located at 120 Houghton Road, Yanco, New South Wales, within the Yanco Irrigation Area on the rural fringe of Leeton (Lots 516 and 521 DP751745). Regional access to the site is provided via Irrigation Way, with local access from Houghton and Hume (Hulme) Roads.

The project area, layout and surrounding access routes (including the intersection upgrade near Yanco township) are shown in Figure 1.

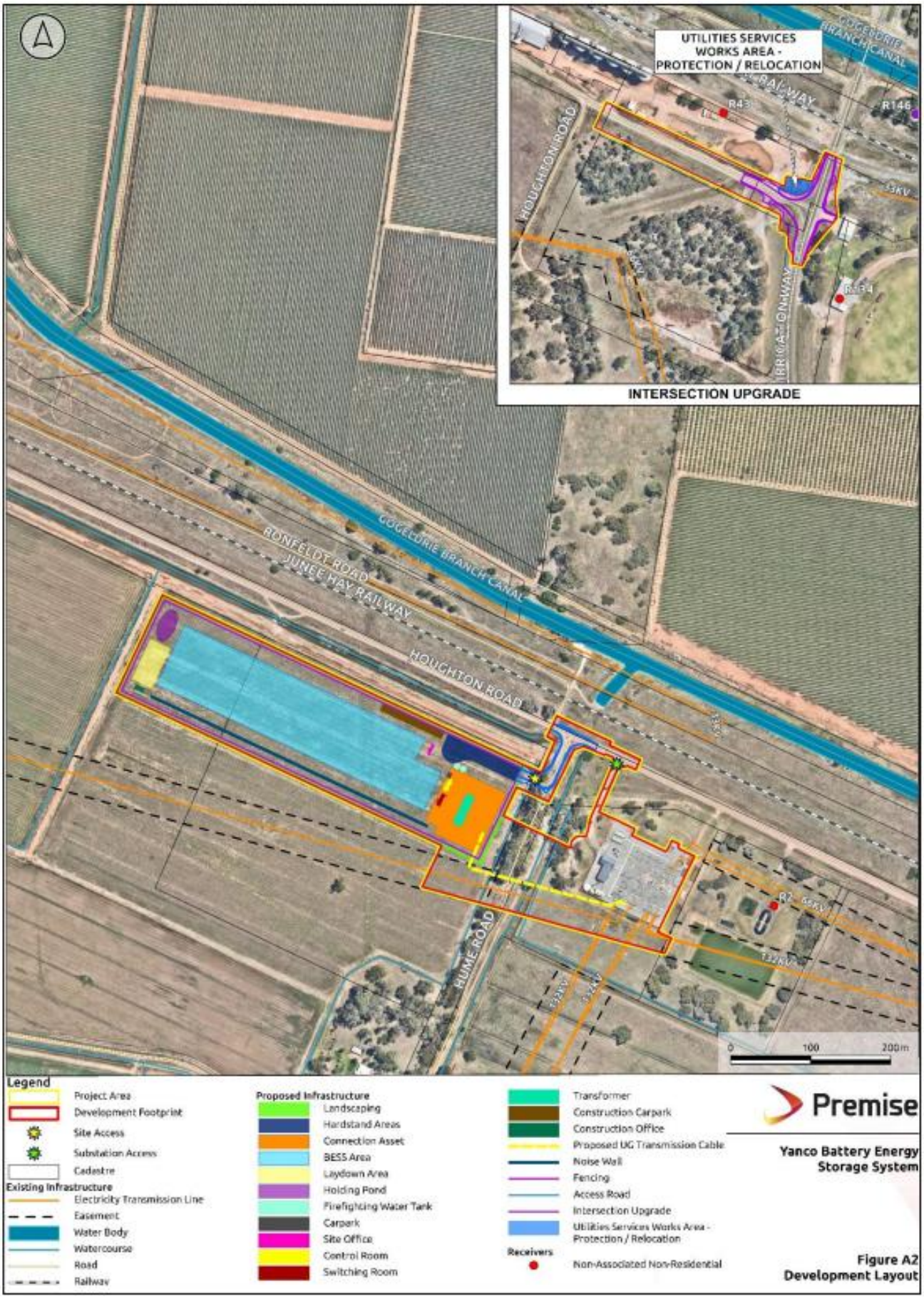


Figure 1: Site Location and Layout

2.3 PLAN APPROVAL

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Plan Prepared by:	M. McDermott	Consultant	M. McDermott	14/08/2026
Plan Reviewed by:	Brad Cook	Project Coordinator	B. Cook	21/08/2026
Plan Approved by:	Matt Keating	Project Delivery Manager	M. Keating	24/08/2026

2.4 PLAN DISTRIBUTION

Entity	Details
Key Contractor Staff	Electronic access
Principal	1 x electronic copy (latest version)
Engaged sub-contractors	Issued at engagement
Other interested parties	Extracts on request or as determined by the Principal Contractor

2.5 REVISION SCHEDULE

Date	Details of Amendment (if any)	Amended By

3 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES

This BMP has been developed considering the following legislation, reports and guidelines:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (Habitat 2025)
- Development Application (DA) modification report to the BDAR (Habitat 2026)
- Appendix E - Biodiversity Memo (February 2026)
- Environmental Impact Statement (Premise 2024)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021
- The Leeton Shire Local Environmental Plan 2014

The BDAR concluded that the project area is unlikely to comprise of important habitat for species listed under the *EPBC Act* and is not expected to result in impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Accordingly, despite the project being classified as State Significant Development (SSD), referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment or the DCCEEW is not required. The DA modification report has been prepared to accommodate minor amendments to the approved development footprint, which include small adjustments to road intersection upgrades, site access arrangements, internal site layout, and the alignment of underground cabling to the Yanco Substation. The project footprint increased by 0.36ha and is illustrated in Appendix D. No new or increased impacts to biodiversity values are expected from the modification.

Additional information was requested by the Conservation Planning and Assessment (CPA) branch of DCCEEW following their review of the documentation outlining the proposed modification. This included further detail to demonstrate that the modification would not impact threatened species identified in the BDAR, as well as vegetation within the western portion of the modification boundary (Appendix D). The swept pathways (grey hatching) illustrated within the red modification boundary shows no tree clearing will occur, however indirect impacts may arise from improper mitigation measures. This BMP will demonstrate the mitigation measures required, however further information may be sought from an Ecologist to ensure no further threats to adjacent TECs.

Any further modification to the project scope, including upgrading or decommissioning activities, requires the relevant strategy, plan or program to be updated to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary prior to implementation. Following an incident, audit report submission, or modification to this consent, the strategy, plan or program must be reviewed and, if necessary, revised to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within one month.

3.2 BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

Conditions of the Development Consent (Application #SSD-67478479) includes the requirement for the development of this BMP for the project in consultation with Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR), and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The following table describes the approval conditions in relation to biodiversity management, and where in this document it is covered.

Development Consent requirement	**Reference within this document**
A12 Compliance	

The Applicant 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 consent relevant to activities they carry out in respect of the development.	Section 7.1 – Training and Awareness
A13 Evidence of Consultation	
Where conditions of this consent require consultation with an identified party, the Applicant must: a) Consult with the relevant party prior to submitting the subject document to the Planning Secretary for approval; and b) Provide details of the consultation undertaken including: i) The outcome of that consultation, matters resolved and unresolved; and ii) Details of any disagreement remaining between the party consulted and the Applicant and how the Applicant has addressed the matters not resolved.	Section 3.3 - Consultation
B10 Vegetation Clearance	
The Applicant must not clear any native vegetation or fauna habitat located outside the approved disturbance areas described in the EIS.	Section 6.2 – Vegetation Management
B11 Biodiversity Offsets	
Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Applicant must retire biodiversity credits of a number and class specified in Table 1 and Table 2 below. The retirement of these credits must be carried out in accordance with the *NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme* and can be achieved by:	Statement confirming payment into Biodiversity Conservation Fund (Appendix I)
(a) Acquiring or retiring 'biodiversity credits' within the meaning of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;	
(b) Making payments into an offset fund that has been developed by the NSW Government; and/or	
(c) Funding a biodiversity conservation action that benefits the entity impacted and is listed in the ancillary rules of the biodiversity offsets scheme	

Table 1 – Ecosystem Credit Requirements

Vegetation Community	PCT ID	Credits Required
White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions.	74	8
Myrall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain, Murray–Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions.	26	1

Table 2 – Species Credit Requirements **Species Credit Species** / **Credits Required** *Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus)* – 8 *Southern Myotis (Myotis macropus)* – 8	
B12 Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Applicant must provide evidence to the Planning Secretary that biodiversity credits have been retired.	Statement confirming payment into Biodiversity Conservation Fund (Appendix I)
B13 Biodiversity Management Plan	
Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Applicant must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the project in consultation with CPHR, and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must:	
(a) Be prepared in accordance with the revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (9 April 2025) and the revised Biodiversity Memo (dated 5 May 2026)	Section 1 - Introduction
(b) Include a description of the measures and timeframes that would be implemented for: (i) Protecting vegetation and fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance areas;	Section 6.2 -.1 Pre-clearance surveys
(ii) Managing and enhancing the remnant vegetation and fauna habitat within the development footprint;	Section 6.2 – Vegetation and Fauna Management
(iii) Minimising clearing and avoiding unnecessary disturbance of vegetation that is associated with the construction and operation of the development;	Section 6.2 – Vegetation and Fauna Management
(iv) Minimising the impacts to fauna on site and implementing fauna management protocols, including the design of temporary fencing;	Section 6.2.3 – Fauna Exclusion
(v) Rehabilitating and revegetating temporary disturbance areas with native species that are appropriate to the site's ecology and conditions within 3 months following the completion of construction or upgrade;	Section 6.4 - Landscaping
(vi) Establishing landscaped areas with native species that are appropriate to the site's ecology and conditions;	Section 6.4 - Landscaping
(vii) Maximising the salvage of vegetative and soil resources within the approved disturbance area for beneficial reuse in the enhancement or the rehabilitation of the site; and	Section 6.4 - Landscaping
(viii) Controlling weeds, feral pests and pathogens.	Section 6.5 – Biosecurity Management Appendix F: Weed Management Protocol
(c) Include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of mitigation measures	Section 7 – Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

(d) Include an incidental threatened species finds protocol to identify the avoid and/or minimise and/or offset options to be implemented if additional threatened species are discovered on site; and	Section 6.3 – Threatened Species Finds Protocol
(e) Include details of who would be responsible for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the plan.	Section 6.1 - Roles and Responsibilities
The Applicant must implement the most recent version of the Biodiversity Management Plan approved by the Planning Secretary.	
Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods	
B28 The quantities of dangerous goods stored and handled at the site must be below the threshold quantities listed in the Department's *Hazardous and Offensive Development Application Guidelines – Applying SEPP 33* at all times.	Section 6.6 – Erosion and Sediment Control and Contamination Management
B29 The Applicant must store and handle all chemicals, fuels and oils used on-site in accordance with: a) The requirements of all relevant Australian Standards; and b) The NSW EPA's *Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection – Participants Handbook,* if the chemicals are liquid. In the event of an inconsistency between the requirements (a) and (b) above, the most stringent requirement must prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.	Section 6.6 – Erosion and Sediment Control and Contamination Management
Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs	
C2 The Applicant must: a) Update the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary prior to carrying out any upgrading or decommissioning activities on site; and b) Review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within 1 month of the: i) Submission of an incident report under condition C10 of schedule 2; ii) Submission of an audit report under condition C13 of Schedule 2; or iii) Any modification to the conditions of this consent.	Section 3.1 – Legislation and Guidelines
Incident Notification	
C10 The Applicant must notify the Department within 24 hours of becoming aware of an incident. The notification must be made via the NSW planning portal (Major Projects) and address details of the incident including: a) Date, time and location; b) A brief description of what occurred and why it has been classified as an incident;	Section 7.3 – Incident Reporting and Response

c) A description of what immediate steps were taken in relation to the incident; and d) Identifying a contact person for further communication regarding the incident.	
C11 The Applicant must provide the Department with a subsequent incident report in accordance with Appendix 5.	Section 7.3 – Incident Reporting and Response
Non-Compliance Notification	
C12 Within seven days of becoming aware of a non-compliance, the Applicant must notify the Department of the non-compliance. The notification must be in writing and must be submitted via the NSW planning portal (Major Projects). The notification must identify the development (including the development application number and name), set out the condition of this consent that the development is non-compliant with, why it does not comply, the reason for the non-compliance (if known), and what actions have been undertaken, or will be undertaken, and when, to address the non-compliance. *Note: A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.*	Section 7.3 – Incident Reporting and Response
C13 Independent Environmental Audit	
Independent Environmental Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out in accordance with the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020)* or as updated from time to time and published on the Department's website.	Section 7.2.1 – Independent Audits
C14 Access to Information The Applicant must: a) Make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development: i) The EIS; ii) The final layout plans for the development; iii) Current statutory approvals for the development; iv) Approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent (other than the Fire Safety Study and Emergency Plan); v) The proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development is to be staged; vi) A comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, which have been reported in accordance with the various plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent; vii) How complaints about the development can be made; viii) Any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit; and ix) Any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and b) Keep this information up to date.	

3.3 CONSULTATION

The applicant has consulted with CPHR in the preparation of this BMP. An initial draft of the BMP was provided to CPHR on the 8 July 2026, seeking comment on the document. Feedback was received on 24 July 2026. A revised version of the document, including with tracked changes, was supplied to CPHR on 8 August 2026. A third version was supplied on the 19 August 2026. Following receipt of this version, CPHR sought correction of two errors and requested one minor change via an email of 21 August 2026. It was confirmed via the final email that a version did not need to be further supplied to CPHR and could be submitted to DPHI for approval.

Details of email consultation with CPHR is outlined in Appendix J.

A short summary of updates to the document as a result of consultation with CPHR is summarised in the following table.

Comment	Response
Comments dated 24/7/26	
1.1. Update the pre-clearance protocol in Section 6.2.2 and 7.2 to specify that surveys will take place on the day of clearing for all native vegetation and are not limited to hollow-bearing trees or specific habitat features.	Sections 6.2.2 and 7.2 updated
1.2. Update the threatened species finds protocol to include all incidents involving threatened species and inclusion of species not considered in the BDAR or modification.	Section 6.3 updated to reference Appendix H
2.1. Map where the weeds were found, in particular the priority weed species.	Map added to Appendix F
2.2. Describe the management of the priority weeds specifically and in detail in the weed management protocol.	Appendix F updated
2.3. Plan for inspection and control of weeds before the topsoil is moved so there is no unintended weed dispersal and outbreak.	Appendix F updated
3.1. Section 6.4 must reference the map in Appendix D to clarify the location of landscaping.	Section 6.4 updated by adding Figure 2 showing landscaping locations
3.2. Update Section 6.4 and 7.2 to clarify the actions and locations proposed for landscaping and rehabilitation, including a watering plan, period of monitoring and indicators for success and adaptive management. Clearly state that landscaping is to be completed prior to commencement of operation	Sections 6.4, 6.8 and 7.2 updated
3.3. Update Section 6.4 of the BMP to specify that plant species to be used for landscaping will be consistent with the vegetation types identified on site.	Section 6.4 updated to add two communities identified in BDAR
4.1. Update the BMP to reference both the development footprint as per the EIS, and the modification locations to ensure mitigation measures are consistent and applied across all locations.	Sections 3.1 and 6.2 updated

4.2. Update Section 6.2 to ensure the entire development footprint is delineated prior to the commencement of construction.	Section 6.2 updated
4.3. Update Appendix A to include plant community type mapping for the eastern section for the subject land.	Appendix A has been updated
4.4. Include threatened species records on threatened species mapping in Appendix B.	Appendix B has been updated and Appendix H added containing a list of threatened flora/fauna in Leeton Shire
5.1. Update the BMP to include a consolidated table of all mitigation measures that specify SMART principles.	This has been added as Section 6.8
Comments dated 11/8/2026	
• Issue 1 o Section 6.2.1 indicates that pre-clearing is valid for one month. This contradicts the previous text and the premise of pre-clearing surveys being within 24 to 48 hours o Section 7.2 should indicate that surveys should be 'within 24 to 48 hours' rather than 'at-least 24 hours' from clearing	o Section 6.2.1 updated to provide consistency o Section 7.2 updated to address this
• Issue 2 o Biosecurity management has been removed from section 7.2, please reinstate this to detail the specific management requirements for weeds in the BMP o Suggest mapping the existing weed species identified in section 4.4 to provide a starting reference point in the BMP and to guide inspections and required management	o Biosecurity reinstated to section 7.2 o A figure has been added to Appendix F
• Issue 5 o It would be preferable for Table 6.8 to be set out according to project stage i.e. pre-construction, construction, operation, so that it is clear which management measures need to be implemented at what stage.	Table 6.8 re-ordered to reflect project stage
Comments dated 21/8/26	
Table 6.8 has some duplicated table rows in the 'construction' section	Duplicate and empty rows deleted
Chilean Needle Grass is referred to as Chilean lovegrass in the added text above the figure in the Weed Management Protocol. Suggest adding a legend to the figure to clarify the weed extent polygon or describing this in the text.	Reference corrected to Needle Grass. Note added to specify that weed locations are identified by a grey box.

4 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

4.1 PLANT COMMUNITIES

Field biodiversity surveys undertaken by Habitat Environmental Services, as documented in the BDAR, confirm that the Yanco BESS Project is located within a landscape that has been extensively cleared for agriculture.

Vegetation across the development footprint is largely modified and is predominantly classified as "not defined" under DCCEEW vegetation mapping. Within this disturbed context, a total of 34 native flora species were recorded. A total of two (2) PCTs listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* are present in the DA modification areas, including:

- **PCT 74** – *Yellow Box – River Red Gum* tall grassy riverine woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes and Riverina Bioregions.
- **PCT 26** – *Weeping Myall open woodland* of the Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregions.

Field surveys within the DA modification areas identified the presence of non-native vegetation and no areas of native vegetation associated with a TEC recorded. Within the project area itself, vegetation diversity is low and has been classified into three vegetation zones in accordance with the BAM assessment method (DPIE 2020a), as illustrated in Appendix A.

4.2 FLORA AND FAUNA SPECIES

4.2.1 Threatened Flora species

There was no threatened flora species identified during the field assessment. Given the project area has been subjected to long-term impacts from intensive land management practices, the likelihood of threatened plant species to occur within the project area is unlikely. Further ecological assessments within the modification areas may be required to assess native grasses or shrub species that may be present alongside access tracks.

4.2.2 Threatened Fauna Species

From the list of candidate threatened species identified through the BAM-C database as requiring further assessment, the following fauna species were assumed present or otherwise detected during the biodiversity survey and detailed below.

4.2.2.1 Superb Parrot

The *Superb Parrot (Polytelis swainsonii)*, listed as *Vulnerable* under the *EPBC Act 1999*, occurs throughout the eastern inland regions of NSW. The species utilises a range of habitats, foraging within mature trees, understorey shrubs and on the ground. Its diet is varied and includes grass seeds, herbaceous plants, fruits, berries, nectar, buds, flowers, insects and agricultural grain. The Superb Parrot was the only threatened fauna species detected during the survey. A small group of Superb Parrots were discovered foraging during the site assessment at the location mapped in Appendix B.

4.2.2.2 Koala

The Koala *(Phascolarctos cinereus*), listed as *Endangered* under both the *EPBC Act 1999* and the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, was not a targeted species during the survey; however, its presence in the locality is considered a possibility due to the availability of preferred feed trees within the region. Recent records support this assumption, with one Koala detected approximately 2.5km from the Project area and an additional four (4) records within a 5km radius. Koalas are known to travel considerable distances across fragmented landscapes, particularly during the breeding season, increasing the likelihood of individuals moving through or near the project area.

4.2.2.3 Southern Myotis (microbat)

The Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*), listed as *Vulnerable* under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, was not a targeted species during the survey. However, its occurrence in the locality remains possible due to the presence of constructed irrigation channels, which provide suitable foraging habitat for groups of individuals. They often roost close to water and forage over streams and pools for insects and small fish.

4.3 FAUNA HABITAT

Within the project area, no hollow-bearing trees were identified across any of the three (3) delineated vegetation zones. Aquatic habitat associated with riparian or aquatic vegetation along the mapped irrigation channels (designated as waterways) was assessed as unlikely to support aquatic or amphibian species due to surrounding agricultural land use. No areas within the project area meet the criteria for Key Fish Habitat under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, and no waterways will be impacted by the proposed construction activities.

The threatened fauna species considered in this assessment (the Superb Parrot, Koala and Southern Myotis) are all highly mobile and are therefore more likely to utilise a broader network of habitats within the locality for foraging rather than rely on habitat features within the project area itself.

4.4 WEEDS

A total of one (1) Weed of National Significance (WoNS) listed under the *EPBC Act 1999* and two (2) priority weed species identified under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and Leeton Local Government Area requirements were recorded within the project area. These species are summarised in the below table:

Name	WoNs	Priority Weed
Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*)	Y	Y
African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)	N	Y

African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) and Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*) are both classified as priority weeds for the Leeton Local Government Area, requiring landholders to undertake appropriate management to limit their spread. Chilean Needle Grass is also listed as a WoNS. Refer to the site-specific Weed Management Protocol in Appendix F.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 DIRECT IMPACTS

As a result of habitat clearing, the Project will remove approximately 0.51 ha of native vegetation, predominantly comprising roadside vegetation, with a minor component (0.01 ha) of native woodland regrowth. While vegetation integrity will be reduced, the impact represents only a marginal loss of suitable foraging habitat for the Superb Parrot, Southern Myotis, and Koala.

In addition, more than 11 ha of non-native vegetation will be cleared, consisting of exotic grassland, agricultural cropland, and previously cleared or developed areas.

5.2 INDIRECT IMPACTS

The Project may result in the following residual indirect impacts on local biodiversity:

- Edge effects from the site and access roads / tracks,
- Spread of invasive species such as weeds, pests and pathogens (increased predation pressures and competition of non-endemic flora),
- Altered surface water flows and hydrology from hardstand areas,
- Dust, noise and light pollution to surrounding ecosystem,
- Increased human presence and activity,

- Fauna entrapment in open excavations or within equipment or machinery,
- Vehicle movements to and from the construction site resulting in fauna strikes.

6 BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

This section includes all management measures required by the approved EIS and DA modification report.

6.1 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Detailed below are the responsibilities of various roles for the project. Individuals nominated to these roles are required to sign Responsibility Statements acknowledging and accepting these responsibilities are part of the Site Induction and Training process.

Role	Responsibilities
ACEnergy (Client)	• Hold overall accountability for ensuring this BMP is fully implemented and that biodiversity commitments are met across the entirety of the project. • Ensure the Contractor and all subcontractors maintain full compliance with this BMP and all biodiversity -related requirements. • Confirm that all primary approvals, licences and insurances relevant to biodiversity and environmental protection are secured prior to commencement of works. • Undertake audits against statutory approvals and verify the effectiveness and appropriateness of biodiversity mitigation measures outlined in this BMP. • Allocate sufficient resources within the ACLE Services team to support the effective implementation of biodiversity management plans, policies and mitigation measures.
ACLE's Project Manager	• Ensure all levels of management actively promote a consistent commitment, attitude and culture that supports the effective implementation of this BMP. • Implement and maintain the CEMP and this BMP to ensure biodiversity mitigation measures are applied across all project activities. • Allocate sufficient resources within the ACLE Services team to enable effective delivery of biodiversity management measures, plans and policies. • Assess subcontractors to confirm their systems appropriately address biodiversity impacts and incorporate suitable mitigation measures within their work practices. • Identify workforce training needs and ensure appropriate environmental and biodiversity -related training and development programs are delivered.
ACLE's Construction Manager / Site Supervisor	• Undertake regular visual inspections of subcontractor activities to confirm that biodiversity mitigation measures are correctly implemented and functioning as intended.

	• Ensure full compliance with all permits, local council requirements and regulatory obligations relevant to biodiversity protection as outlined in this BMP. • Promote and maintain a strong culture of environmental responsibility across the site team to support effective implementation of the CEMP and this BMP. • Provide the guidance, motivation and resources necessary for the site team to achieve biodiversity objectives and meet the environmental targets established for the project. • Ensure all site management and supervisory personnel are fulfilling their environmental roles and responsibilities in relation to biodiversity commitments. • Report biodiversity -related environmental performance, issues and trends to the Project Manager. • Ensure the most current drawings and project documents are used at all times to prevent unauthorised vegetation clearing or habitat disturbance. • Participate in the reporting and investigation of actual or potential environmental incidents that may affect biodiversity values.
	NOTE: Where a Site Manager has not been appointed for the project the Site Supervisor will be responsible for the above responsibilities.
All personnel / employees	• Follow all requirements of the Environmental Management System and implement the biodiversity mitigation measures outlined in this BMP. • Carry out all works in a manner that avoids harm to native flora and fauna and prevents disturbance to sensitive habitat areas. • Minimise unnecessary environmental nuisances, including dust, noise, vibration and construction lighting, to reduce indirect impacts on surrounding biodiversity. • Report any environmental hazards, near misses or incidents immediately to the Construction Manager or Environmental Representative. • Maintain high standards of housekeeping to reduce residual impacts on the local environment and protect adjacent biodiversity values. • Attend all required environmental training and awareness programs, including the site induction, to ensure understanding of biodiversity values, risks and required protection measures.
ACLE's Environmental Representative	• Ensures ACLE's Environmental Management System is fully established, implemented and maintained to support biodiversity outcomes. • Conducts regular environmental audits and inspections to verify that biodiversity mitigation measures are effective and functioning as intended. • Provides ongoing support to the site team to ensure all biodiversity -related commitments and environmental obligations are met.

	• Delivers environmental awareness training to site personnel, including site -specific biodiversity values, risks and required protection measures. • Oversees the allocation, resolution and timely close-out of corrective actions arising from environmental hazards, incidents or non -compliances affecting biodiversity.
Project Ecologist / Fauna Spotter Catcher (FSC)	• Management of clearing operations and fauna handling where required. • Hold appropriate equipment for the rescue and care of fauna and transport fauna to suitable care where necessary. • Have knowledge and experience in humane techniques for emergency fauna euthanasia when necessary. • Have knowledge and experience in fauna handling for the safety of the animal, surrounding personnel and individual performing the role. *An Ecologist can act in this role if suitable permits/licences are held by the individual and they are adequately experienced.*

6.2 VEGETATION AND FAUNA MANAGEMENT

Vegetation clearing and fauna management will be undertaken in accordance with the conditions of approval, the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR), and relevant NSW legislation, including the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Clearing activities will be staged, minimised to the approved disturbance footprint as per the EIS (Appendix C) and DA modification locations (Appendix D), and undertaken under ecological supervision to avoid or minimise impacts to native vegetation, fauna, and habitat features. Where practicable, the extent of clearing will be further reduced in temporary areas such as laydowns and access tracks where sufficient space is available. Other mitigation measures to protect neighbouring vegetation include:

- Implementation of Tree Protection Zones (TPZs) in accordance with AS4970:2025 for retained trees surrounding the project area.
- No stockpiling to occur within 5m of native vegetation to be retained.
- No parking vehicles or temporarily stockpiling materials and/or equipment within retained vegetative areas.
- Clear delineation of the development footprint including DA modification locations (Appendix C, Appendix D) and no-go zones using flagging, fencing and/or signage, and communicate these areas to site personnel in the mandatory project induction, prior to the commencement of construction.

6.2.1 Pre-clearance surveys

Pre-clearance surveys will be undertaken prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearing or ground disturbance within areas identified as containing native vegetation or potential fauna habitat. Pre-clearance surveys will be conducted by a suitably qualified and experienced Ecologist or Fauna Spotter Catcher (FSC) and occur within 24–48 hours prior to clearing (or as otherwise specified by approval conditions). The purpose of the pre-clearance survey is to identify any of the following:

- Confirm boundary and appropriate visual delineation of approved clearing areas and no-go zones,
- Active breeding places (nests, burrows, roosting sites),
- Hollow-bearing trees or logs as ground habitat,
- Threatened flora species within the disturbance footprint,

- Evidence of threatened fauna species or habitat use,
- Mark out any identified habitat features to be retained or inspected during clearing,
- Identify and clearly delineate any unexpected weed species encountered on site for management and treatment in accordance with the Weed Management Protocol (Appendix F).

A pre-clearance inspection report shall be completed and provided to the Construction Manager and Environmental Representative prior to clearing.

6.2.2 Fauna Spotter Catcher / Ecologist

A licensed FSC or qualified Ecologist will be engaged during vegetation clearing activities where habitat has been identified during the pre-clearance survey. They will be responsible for:

- Conduct an additional pre-clearance survey on the day clearing activities are scheduled to commence.
- Being present on site to supervise clearing of all vegetation, with particular attention given to hollow-bearing trees and other habitat features that may support fauna.
- Checking for fauna within hollow-bearing trees, logs, nests or other habitat features prior to clearing.
- Directs machine operator to tap hollow-bearing trees or logs at least five (5) times, to encourage any fauna to vacate prior to controlled felling or movement.
- Directs machine operator to soft fell vegetation in a manner that may direct fauna to self-disperse, limiting injury and to avoid impacts to neighbouring vegetation or habitat.
- Determine appropriate locations for the placement of salvaged habitat materials (e.g. relocating logs outside the clearing boundary for reuse as habitat).
- Implement staged clearing techniques, including segmental removal of branches in case of undetected small hollows.
- Capture, handle, and relocate fauna encountered during clearing to suitable nearby habitat.
- Maintain fauna handling and relocation records.

All fauna handling will be undertaken in accordance with accepted animal welfare standards and licence conditions.

6.2.3 Fauna Exclusion

Where there is a risk of fauna entering or becoming trapped within the project work area, appropriate exclusion and protective measures shall be implemented. This includes the installation of temporary fencing around open excavations left overnight. Additional protection shall be implemented from smaller fauna entering, by installing silt fencing at ground level. If this is not practical, excavations shall be covered or fitted with fauna egress provisions such as exit ramps or escape devices to allow any trapped fauna to exit safely.

Any wildlife found trapped within the work area that is not in immediate danger or endangering personnel in the vicinity, shall not be immediately handled or interacted with unless by a licenced and experienced FSC.

6.2.4 Traffic management

Increased light and heavy vehicle movements during the construction phase elevate the risk of wildlife impacts. To minimise this risk, a reduced speed limit of 40 km/hr will be enforced within the site, and all posted speed limits will be strictly adhered to. Speed limits shall be clearly signed at all entry points to the site. Vehicle movements will be planned to avoid unnecessary travel during peak fauna activity periods (dawn and dusk). Drivers will always remain vigilant for wildlife, and any fauna incidents will be reported.
The proposed modification, including the grey-hatched access track to the Yanco BESS site (Appendix D), will be clearly delineated with flagging and signage along its boundaries to ensure that all vehicle and machinery movements remain within the designated pathway. This approach will minimise potential edge effects on any native grasses or shrubs located adjacent to the access track. If further ecological surveys identify protected species or communities adjacent to the access, additional no-go zone signage will be implemented.

6.3 THREATENED SPECIES FINDS PROTOCOL

The purpose of this incidental threatened species finds protocol is to outline the actions required in the event that a threatened species is unexpectedly encountered during construction activities.

A comprehensive list of threatened flora and fauna species recorded within the broader locality (Leeton Shire) is provided in Appendix H, based on a review of the DCCEEW Environment and Heritage Department's BioNet Atlas. While the BDAR did not identify the presence of additional threatened species within the impact area during the field survey, the potential for previously unrecorded species to occur during site mobilisation, construction or operation of the BESS facility cannot be excluded. This protocol applies in the event of any suspected or unconfirmed threatened species sighting, interaction or detection and provides a framework for appropriate management and notification requirements.

Where threatened flora or fauna is identified and is likely to be impacted by construction works, the following steps will be implemented:

1. **Stop work immediately**
   - All construction activities must cease in the immediate vicinity of the sighting.
   - The worker must notify the Site Supervisor or Construction Manager and all personnel in the immediate area.
   - The Construction Manager is to notify the Project Manager and the BOP Environmental Representative.
   - The Project Manager will notify the Client and the Project Ecologist accordingly.

2. **Secure and isolate the area**
   - The Construction Manager will demarcate the exclusion zone (minimum 20–50m buffer) and prevent access.
   - Works will be redirected to an alternate area (at least until the next day to give time for an investigation).
   - For Koalas and Superb Parrots, particular care will be taken to avoid disturbance to feed trees or nesting habitat.
   - For Southern Myotis, water bodies and riparian zones will be protected from disturbance.

3. **Record and document the find**
   - Following the identification of any threatened species during construction activities, the Project Ecologist or Fauna Spotter Catcher will record the following in an incident report:
     - Species (or suspected species);
     - number of individuals;
     - behaviour and condition (e.g., healthy, injured or deceased);
     - precise location (GPS coordinates);
     - habitat type (e.g., tree hollow, riparian vegetation);
     - photographic evidence where possible.

If an animal is determined to be injured, a local wildlife carer or vet must be contacted. If a threatened species dies in the process, the Client must be notified as soon as practicable, and no later than 12 hours after the incident. The Client will then coordinate notification to DCCEEW via the Major Projects Portal, which must occur within 24 hours of the incident (Condition C10 of Development Approval Conditions).

4. **Delay works to allow natural dispersal**
   - Clearance or disturbance works within the immediate vicinity will be postponed (minimum until the following day, or longer if required) to allow the species to naturally vacate the area, especially for Koalas.
   - For nocturnal species such as the Southern Myotis, delays may extend to ensure appropriate assessment during active periods.

5. **Assessment and consultation**
   - The Construction Manager and Project Manager will consult with the Project Ecologist or Fauna Spotter Catcher to:
     - assess the significance of the sighting and potential impacts;
     - determine appropriate management and mitigation measures;
     - The Project Ecologist will advise on species-specific buffers and controls;
     - Where required, ACEnergy will consult with NSW DCCEEW or other relevant authorities to engage with specialist fauna / ecology experts.
   - If an impact cannot be avoided, ACEnergy will obtain all necessary licences, permits or approvals prior to proceeding with intervention.

6. **Implement management measures**
   - All mitigation measures will be implemented as recommended by the Project Ecologist and in accordance with any approvals, permits or licence conditions.
   - Measures may include:
     - adjusted exclusion zones;
     - timing restrictions (e.g., breeding seasons);
     - habitat protection or augmentation;
     - installation and transfer of breeding places into nest boxes and/or outside of the disturbance footprint into suitable habitat, then monitored (eggs or young);
     - ongoing supervision by fauna spotter during works.

7. **Clearance to recommence work**
   - Works must not recommence within the exclusion zone until:
     - the Project Ecologist or FSC confirms the area is no longer at risk of impacting threatened species;
     - all required controls have been implemented;
     - the Construction Manager and/or Project Manager will formally release the hold on works.

8. **Post-incident actions**
   - Maintain increased monitoring and regular environmental inspections in the area.
   - Update inductions to include information on the identified species and relevant management measures.
   - Conduct a toolbox talk to communicate the incident, outcomes, and required behaviours.
   - Record the interaction / incident in environmental reporting systems.
   - Where applicable, ACEnergy, in consultation with DCCEEW, will determine whether additional biodiversity offsets are required for any significant residual impact.

Given the specialist expertise required to accurately identify many threatened flora and fauna species, any species encountered during construction that is suspected to be threatened, or whose identification remains uncertain, must be treated as a threatened species until otherwise determined by a suitably qualified Ecologist or FSC. A precautionary approach is to be adopted at all times to avoid inadvertent impacts to threatened biodiversity values.

6.4 LANDSCAPING

Where practicable, vegetation identified for habitat retention will be segregated from timber designated for mulching. Mulched timber will be reused for erosion and sediment control measures or incorporated into permanent landscaping as per the design.

Following grubbing and grading activities, topsoil will be separated from subsoil to preserve microbial integrity and support successful revegetation when used within landscaped areas. Where temporary stockpiling of topsoil is required, stockpiles will be maintained at an appropriate height (no more than 2m high) to minimise pressure on soil microbes and stabilised to minimise erosion. The stockpiled topsoil will be inspected weekly for weed establishment, with any emerging weeds promptly managed by a licensed weed contractor. The topsoil must be weed free prior to use in permanent landscape design.
The Development Consent conditions include landscaping and rehabilitation requirements to support and maintain ongoing biodiversity values. Accordingly, rehabilitation must be completed within three (3) months of works completion and prior to operations. This will involve the establishment of landscaped areas using native species suited to the site's ecological context and local conditions, promoting long-term habitat recovery and stability. Vegetative and soil resources within the approved disturbance footprint will be salvaged for beneficial reuse, including topsoil, mulch, and hollow timber to enhance revegetation outcomes and reduce the introduction of external materials. This approach minimises biosecurity risk by limiting the potential importation and spread of weeds, pests, and pathogens associated with off-site sources. Salvage and reuse will occur during clearing and grubbing activities and will include the separation and stockpiling of topsoil and subsoil for later use, retention of mulched vegetation for landscaping, and the careful relocation of hollows or large timber outside the construction footprint to create future habitat features.

Specifically, and as detailed in the Project's Landscape Concept Plan (CUSP 23119 Rev E), landscaped areas will be established using plant species endemic to the region, consistent with Riverina Plain Woodland and Floodplain Transition Woodland vegetation classes and flora species occurring within a 1km radius of Yanco. The planting arrangement will comprise a mix of native trees and shrubs selected for their longevity, rapid growth, and compact growth form. The species selection includes a combination of long-lived species and fast-growing pioneer species, such as *Acacia* and *Dodonaea*. Pioneer species will establish quickly to provide an effective short-term visual screen. While some of these species are relatively short-lived, they will regenerate through seed dispersal, supporting the development of a self-sustaining vegetation screen over time. In addition, pioneer species will assist with weed suppression, improve soil conditions through nitrogen fixation, and facilitate the ongoing establishment and growth of longer-lived species, including *Eucalyptus*. The vegetation screen must be designed and maintained in accordance with NSW Rural Fire Services' *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* (or equivalent). Upon completion of landscape planting, a 12-week establishment period will be implemented to support plant survival and growth, incorporating the inspection and maintenance requirements detailed in the rehabilitation monitoring regime in Section 7.2. Refer to Figure 2 below, for a closer view of indicative landscaping locations surrounding the site.

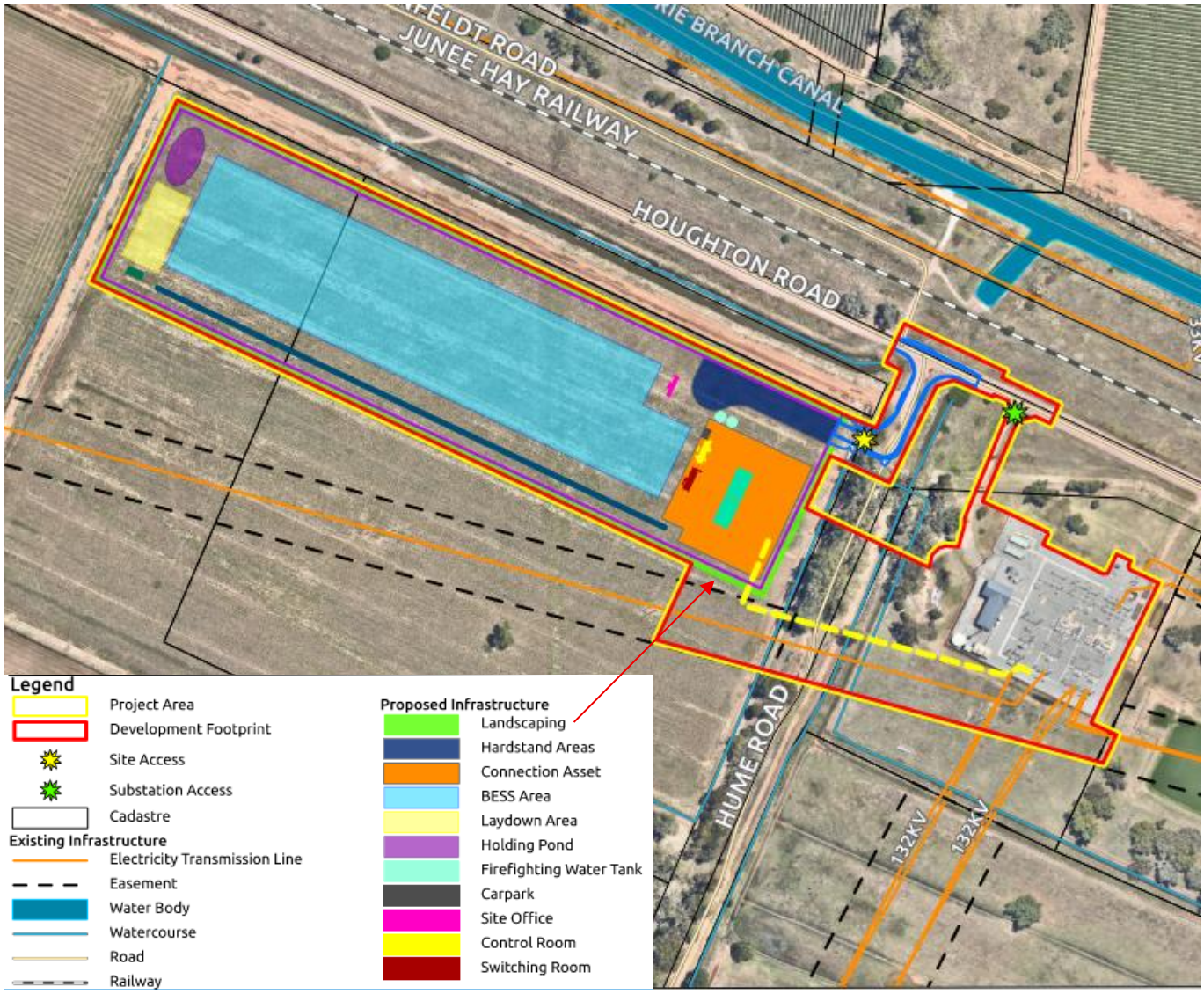


Figure 2: Project Site (Figure A2 – Modification report - Premise), zoomed in to landscaping locations

6.5 BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, all persons are subject to a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO), which requires that any activities with the potential to interact with organic materials, such as soil and vegetation, that may harbour weeds, pests, pathogens or disease, are managed in a manner that is reasonably practicable to minimise biosecurity risks.

This includes taking proactive steps to prevent the introduction, spread, and establishment of invasive species and contaminants. Control measures may involve maintaining clean equipment, managing the movement of materials, implementing hygiene protocols, and ensuring that any potentially contaminated organic matter is handled, treated, or disposed of appropriately. Failure to take such reasonable and practicable measures may result in non-compliance with legislative obligations.

A Weed Management Protocol is included in Appendix F. This procedure outlines the practical measures to be implemented to prevent the introduction and spread of priority weeds, in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. This includes hygiene protocols for personnel, vehicles, and machinery (e.g. inspection and cleaning requirements), controls on the import and movement of soils and materials, delineation of weed-infested and weed-free areas, and procedures for managing identified infestations.

Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is a significant pathogen capable of causing severe impacts to native plant communities if not appropriately managed. While it may occur within the project area, no current records have been identified. Awareness of this pathogen will be addressed within the biosecurity section of the site induction to ensure personnel are aware of its appearance and to notify the Environmental Representative if discovered.

Vegetation clearing will be minimised to only that which is necessary, and environmental protection zones will be clearly delineated to restrict personnel and vehicle access to designated areas. Any externally sourced landscaping materials must be accompanied by appropriate certification verifying that they are free from weeds and disease.

Pest fauna are most effectively managed through strong housekeeping practices. This includes the use of covered waste receptacles to prevent access by pests and dispersal by wind, maintaining clean work areas, and regularly removing waste to minimise attractants and discourage wildlife from frequenting the site. Personnel must not feed, handle, or otherwise interact with pest fauna. Such actions may constitute a breach of the *Biosecurity Act 2015,* with non-compliance potentially resulting in regulatory action, including enforcement notices, penalties, or prosecution.

6.6 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL AND CONTAMINATION MANAGEMENT

Poorly managed erosion and sediment controls (ESCs) can result in the loss of soil resources, degradation of surface and groundwater quality, and the discharge of contaminants into adjacent waterways. Consequently, biodiversity values may be adversely affected through increased sedimentation, as well as mobilisation of heavy metals and chemicals arising from inadequate site containment and protection measures.

The following mitigation strategies will be implemented for ESC, consistent with BDAR measures, to minimise impacts on biodiversity values:

- Erosion and sediment controls will be installed in accordance with CPESC-certified Erosion and Sediment Control Plans (ESCPs), consistent with IECA Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines (2025).In addition, erosion and sediment controls will be implemented for the development prior to the commencement of construction, in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom, 2004).
- The area and duration of exposed soils will be kept to the minimum necessary for construction activities. ESCs identified for each disturbance stage in the approved ESCP shall be installed, inspected and confirmed operational before exposed soils are subject to rainfall runoff.
- Weather forecasts will be monitored daily and communicated to construction personnel. During vegetation clearing and other high-risk ground disturbance activities, particularly during the wet season, ESCs identified in the approved ESCP shall be installed and operational prior to forecast rainfall events.

Mitigation measures for land contamination during construction shall focus on preventing and promptly managing spills and emissions associated with vehicles, plant and equipment. All machinery should be regularly inspected and maintained to minimise the risk of fuel or oil spills, and appropriately sized spill kits must be readily available on-site, particularly in high-risk areas such as refuelling zones and plant storage areas (refer location on general site layout – Appendix G). Self-bunded fuel and chemical storage areas and battery storage units shall be adopted to prevent potential hazardous material spills. The storage and handling of dangerous goods shall be undertaken in accordance with NSW EPA's *Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection – Participants Handbook,* if the chemicals are liquid. Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) will accompany all stored chemicals on site and will be strictly followed to safeguard both human health and biodiversity values. Personnel shall adhere to spill response procedures, with clear protocols in place to ensure immediate

containment, clean-up, and disposal of contaminated materials in accordance with regulatory requirements. Storage and handling of chemicals on site will comply with the *Hazardous and Offensive Development Application Guidelines – Applying SEPP 33*, ensuring that risks to human health, property and the environment are appropriately identified and controlled.
Adherence to *SEPP 33* demonstrates that hazardous materials, such as fire suppression agent, electrical components and other chemicals associated with the construction of the facility, have been assessed and managed in line with a recognised risk-based framework, which supports safe design and operations.

The use of stabilised site access points (rocks entrances, rumble grids), dust suppression techniques (water carts, soil polymers), and progressive rehabilitation will limit dust and potential sediment runoff outside of the construction footprint. Collectively, these measures reduce the risk of contaminant migration via surface runoff or wind dispersion, thereby protecting surrounding soils and water resources.

6.7 NOISE, VIBRATION, LIGHT AND AIR POLLUTION MANAGEMENT

Dust, noise, vibration and light pollution generated during construction activities can adversely affect neighbouring vegetation and fauna. The following mitigation strategies will be implemented to prevent any impacts to flora and fauna from emissions:

- Dust suppression techniques as detailed in section 6.6;
- Avoid unnecessary idling of vehicles, plant or machinery when not in use to minimise emissions;
- Outdoor lighting will be directed away from retained vegetation areas and will be designed, sited, installed, and tested to comply with Tables 2.1 and 2.2 of Australian Standard 4282-1997 - *Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting, using a Control Level of 1*.
- Operational lighting will be adopting principles from Appendix A of the *National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (DEE 2020)*.

6.8 BIODIVERSITY MITIGATION STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The following table summarises mitigation strategies applicable to the identified biodiversity values and is intended to guide their effective implementation throughout the construction phase.

Objective	Performance Criteria	Performance Indicators	Completion Criteria	Responsibility
Pre-construction				
Identify ecological constraints and protected fauna prior to vegetation clearing and ground disturbance activities.	Undertake pre-clearance surveys by a suitably qualified and experienced Ecologist/Fauna Spotter Catcher (FSC) to identify ecological constraints, fauna habitat and the presence of native fauna prior to disturbance; Surveys must be completed	Pre-clearance surveys completed by a qualified Ecologist/FSC before each clearing stage; Surveys undertaken within the required timeframe prior to clearing activities; Inspection reports prepared and issued prior to	Inspection report issued to the Construction Manager or Environmental Representative prior to commencement of clearing activities;	Ecologist/FSC

	within 24 to 48 hours of clearing where practicable and no more than one (1) month prior to the commencement of the relevant clearing stage; an inspection report shall be prepared and provided to the Construction Manager or Environmental Representative prior to works commencing.	commencement of clearing; Identified management measures communicated to site personnel before works commence.	Ecological constraints and biodiversity risks identified and incorporated into construction planning; No clearing undertaken without a current pre-clearance survey and associated inspection report.	
Protect active fauna habitat and threatened biodiversity.	Inspect hollows, nests, logs, burrows and habitat features; identify threatened flora/fauna; mark habitat to be retained.	Biodiversity management requirements incorporated into construction planning and site controls; Retained habitat features protected by exclusion measures where required.	All identified habitat features assessed and marked before clearing; Threatened flora and fauna records incorporated into construction planning and management measures; No disturbance of retained habitat features outside approved impact areas; Biodiversity protection measures implemented and maintained throughout the relevant clearing stage.	Ecologist/FSC
Prevent weed spread during construction.	Identify, map and delineate unexpected weed infestations and implement Weed Management Protocol; ensure mapped weeds are marked out and managed prior to clearing.	All weed infestations recorded and managed in accordance with Appendix F.	Compliance with the Weed Management Protocol is demonstrated throughout the construction period.	Environmental Representative
Minimise edge effects from access track usage.	Delineate access tracks using signage and flagging; implement additional no-go zones where ecological surveys identify sensitive receptors.	All vehicle movements remain within designated access corridor.	No measurable increase in edge effects attributable to vehicle movements outside approved access areas.	Construction Manager

Correct site establishment to prevent unauthorised disturbance to habitat or other biodiversity values	Establish no-go zones and TPZs; install boundary fencing, flagging and signage; prohibit stockpiling within 5m of retained vegetation.	Approved disturbance footprint, no-go zones and TPZs are clearly delineated on site; Boundary fencing, flagging and signage are installed before works commence and maintained in good condition; No stockpiling, or material storage to occur within 5 m of retained vegetation unless otherwise approved; Workers are inducted on environmental constraints, no-go zones and biodiversity protection requirements.	No unauthorised clearing, vegetation damage or encroachment beyond the approved disturbance footprint has occurred; Retained vegetation and habitat areas are protected from construction-related impacts; Inspection records demonstrate compliance with site establishment and biodiversity protection requirements.	Construction Manager
Construction				
Ensure immediate protection of any suspected threatened species encountered during works.	Stop work immediately and notify site management and Project Ecologist; Follow the Threatened Species Finds Protocol.	Works cease immediately upon detection; protocol adhered to; notifications completed.	Threatened Species Finds Protocol is fully implemented and adhered to; Appropriate management actions are undertaken before works recommence; No unauthorised disturbance to threatened species or associated habitat occurs following identification.	All Personnel
Safely manage fauna during vegetation clearing.	FSC present during habitat clearing; supervise soft felling; inspect habitat features; relocate fauna where required; retain relocation records.	FSC attendance records maintained; fauna relocations documented; no fauna handled by unlicensed personnel.	No avoidable fauna injury or mortality attributable to non-compliance with fauna management requirements.	FSC / Ecologist

Reduce fauna entrapment and vehicle strike risk.	Install fauna exclusion measures around excavations; provide escape ramps; install traffic signage; enforce 40 km/hr site speed limit; minimise dawn/dusk travel unless necessary.	No open excavation left unprotected overnight; 100% compliance with site speed limits.	Fauna protection measures maintained throughout the construction period; No avoidable fauna injury, mortality or vehicle strike incidents resulting from non-compliance with project controls.	Construction Manager, Site Personnel
Minimise impacts to native vegetation, fauna and habitat features during construction.	Restrict clearing to approved disturbance footprint; establish no-go zones and TPZs; install boundary fencing, flagging and signage; prohibit stockpiling within 5m of retained vegetation.	All clearing activities remains within approved disturbance footprint; no incidents involving unauthorised vegetation clearing; TPZs and no-go zones established prior to works.	All clearing activities remain within the approved disturbance footprint; No incidents of unauthorised vegetation clearing or disturbance recorded; TPZs and no-go zones maintained for the duration of construction; Retained vegetation, habitat features and adjacent environmental values remain intact and undamaged by construction activities; Biodiversity protection measures implemented and complied with throughout the works.	Construction Manager / Environmental Representative
Prevent introduction and spread of weeds, pests and pathogens.	Implement Weed Management Protocol and hygiene controls for personnel, vehicles and machinery.	100% compliance with site hygiene requirements.	Compliance with General Biosecurity Obligations and Weed Management Protocol (Appendix F) maintained for the duration of the works.	All Personnel
Minimise pest fauna attraction.	Maintain housekeeping standards, covered bins and routine waste removal.	No persistent waste accumulation on-site.	Pest fauna risks associated with construction activities are effectively managed.	Site Personnel
Prevent sediment discharge and soil loss.	Install ESC measures in accordance with approved CPESC-certified ESCPs and IECA guidelines.	ESC measures installed before disturbance and maintained operational.	Disturbed areas stabilised progressively and environmental impacts from erosion and sedimentation effectively controlled.	Construction Manager

Maintain ESC effectiveness during rainfall events.	Monitor weather forecasts and ensure controls are operational before rainfall.	Daily forecast monitoring undertaken; ESC inspections completed.	ESC measures remain operational and effective during rainfall events.	Site Supervisor, Environmental Representative
Prevent pollution from fuels and chemicals.	Maintain plant and equipment; provide spill kits in high-risk areas.	Spill kits available and stocked; maintenance records available.	Compliance with site chemical and hazardous substance management requirements is maintained throughout the works.	Construction Manager
Prevent hazardous material releases.	Use self-bunded storage and comply with chemical storage requirements, SDSs and SEPP 33 requirements.	No uncontrolled release of fuels or chemicals.	No contamination of soil, groundwater, surface water or surrounding environmental values attributable to hazardous material storage or handling activities.	Site Personnel
Ensure effective spill response.	Implement spill response procedures and dispose of contaminated material appropriately.	All spills contained, reported and cleaned immediately.	Environmental impacts resulting from spills are effectively mitigated and closed out in accordance with project procedures.	All Personnel
Prevent sediment discharge and soil loss.	Install ESC measures in accordance with approved CPESC-certified ESCPs and IECA guidelines.	ESC measures installed before disturbance and maintained operational.	Disturbed areas stabilised progressively and environmental impacts from erosion and sedimentation effectively controlled.	Construction Manager
Maintain ESC effectiveness during rainfall events.	Monitor weather forecasts and ensure controls are operational before rainfall.	Daily forecast monitoring undertaken; ESC inspections completed.	ESC measures remain operational and effective during rainfall events.	Site Supervisor, Environmental Representative
Reduce dust and contaminant migration.	Install stabilised access points; use water carts and progressive rehabilitation.	No significant off-site dust or sediment impacts.	Dust suppression and progressive rehabilitation measures are implemented and maintained as required.	Construction Contractor

Reduce air emissions from plant and equipment.	Eliminate unnecessary vehicle and machinery idling.	Operators comply with idle reduction requirements.	Construction activities are undertaken without significant air quality impacts attributable to plant and equipment emissions.	All Personnel
Minimise impacts from artificial lighting.	Direct lighting away from retained vegetation and habitat areas.	Lighting installed in accordance with AS4282-1997 Control Level 1.	Construction lighting is managed in accordance with project environmental requirements and relevant standards.	Electrical Contractor / Site Manager
Post-construction / Operations				
Restore biodiversity values following construction.	Complete landscaping and rehabilitation using endemic native species.	Rehabilitation completed within 3 months of construction completion and prior to operation.	Rehabilitation objectives achieved in accordance with project landscaping and biodiversity requirements.	Construction Manager / Landscape Contractor
Establish self-sustaining vegetation communities.	Plant native trees and shrubs endemic to the Riverina Plain Woodland and Floodplain Transition Woodland vegetation classes.	Planting completed in accordance with Landscape Concept Plan.	Rehabilitation objectives achieved and biodiversity values enhanced relative to post-construction conditions.	Construction Manager / Landscape Contractor
Achieve successful plant establishment.	Implement 12-week establishment and maintenance period with inspections.	Survival and condition monitored under rehabilitation monitoring program.	Rehabilitation areas demonstrate successful vegetation establishment and growth.	Environmental Representative
Maximise reuse of site-derived habitat resources.	Salvage and reuse topsoil, mulch, hollows and large timber within rehabilitation areas.	Suitable vegetation and soil resources reused where practical.	Habitat resource reuse objectives have been implemented in accordance with rehabilitation and landscaping requirements.	Construction Manager; Environmental Representative

7 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

7.1 TRAINING AND AWARENESS

All personnel undertaking activities including staff, contractor and their sub-contractors that have the potential to impact biodiversity values on site will undertake any available awareness training packages as well as mandatory site inductions prior to commencing work. During site inductions, employees, contractors and sub-contractors will be informed of their legal obligations under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Visitors will be escorted around the site by an inducted person. Ongoing communication, including at least one (1) toolbox talk per month, will be used to reinforce the objectives and requirements of this plan and other relevant management plans. Awareness posters will be made available onsite noticeboards in prestart or common areas. Training content will be regularly updated to reflect current work activities, and records of all training will be maintained within the site database.

7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS AND AUDITS

For each phase of the project including pre-construction and operations, monitoring will be undertaken incorporating SMART principles as per the table below:

Aspect	Performance Criteria	Performance Indicators	Completion Criteria	Responsibilities
Pre-construction				
Pre-clearance survey	• Pre-clearance inspections of native vegetation and/or habitat proposed for disturbance will be undertaken to confirm the absence or presence of fauna, threatened flora or fauna species. • Following the implementation of pre-clearance and clearing protocols, a report will be provided to the Construction Manager outlining any fauna, breeding habitat, or evidence of threatened species identified during the inspection.	• Survey and report submitted prior to each clearing stage with survey completed within 24-48hrs prior to clearing. Any threatened species, breeding habitat or fauna recorded and managed in accordance with this BMP. • Pre-clearance report provided to the Construction Manager to clear the hold point.	• Pre-clearance surveys completed for all clearing stages. • All identified ecological constraints managed in accordance with this BMP. • Pre-clearance reports submitted and accepted by the Construction Manager. • Ecological hold points finalised prior to commencement of clearing. • No unauthorised clearing of vegetation or habitat occurs without a completed pre-	Site Construction Manager, Project Ecologist, Fauna Spotter Catcher (FSC)

			clearance survey.	
Construction				
Fauna Spotter Inspections	• Participate in pre-clearance surveys and be present during all vegetation clearing where habitat features, breeding places, or evidence of threatened flora or fauna have been identified. • Undertake inspections of open excavations across the site to identify and manage any fauna risks. • Conduct nocturnal surveys where microbats or other nocturnal species are detected or where recommended by the Project Ecologist. • Facilitate rehabilitation of an injured native animal and deliver to vet or carer. • Euthanasia of fauna when fatally injured.	• FSC present during all vegetation clearing, particularly during the removal of habitat features, breeding sites or identified fauna habitat. • Excavations inspected daily while open. • Injured fauna managed by licensed personnel and transferred to wildlife carers or veterinarians • No unauthorised harm to native fauna attributable to construction activities.	• FSC attendance documented for all relevant vegetation clearing activities. • All open excavations inspected daily and fauna management actions implemented where required. • All injured fauna managed in accordance with wildlife care and rehabilitation requirements. • All fauna encounters, relocations, injuries and euthanasia events recorded and reported. • No unauthorised injury, mortality, or harm to native fauna resulting from construction activities. • All fauna management obligations under the BMP completed by the end of construction.	Fauna Spotter Catcher, Project Ecologist
General Site Inspections	• • Routine site inspections are undertaken to verify biodiversity protection measures are implemented and maintained in accordance with this BMP.	• All scheduled site inspections completed. • No unauthorised disturbances within No-Go Zones or outside the disturbance footprint.	• No-Go Zones remain protected and free from unauthorised disturbance for the duration of construction. • All biodiversity protection	Site Construction Manager, Environmental Representative

	• All designated No-Go Zones and project site boundary flagging and/or fencing remain clearly demarcated, communicated to personnel, and protected from unauthorised disturbance. • Biodiversity protection controls, including fauna exclusion fencing, erosion and sediment controls, spill response equipment, waste and hazardous chemical storage measures are installed, maintained and functioning as intended. • Environmental non-conformances and hazards are identified, recorded and provided to relevant site personnel as an action to be rectified within nominated timeframes.	• Minimal environmental non-conformances identified during construction. • All corrective actions closed within required timeframes. • Nil reportable incidents of off-site sediment releases, vegetation disturbances, chemical spills or biodiversity impacts attributable to construction activities. •	measures remain operational and effective throughout the project. • All environmental non-conformances are addressed and closed out. • No unauthorised vegetation clearing, habitat disturbance, or off-site biodiversity impacts occur as a result of project activities. • All biodiversity management requirements of the BMP have been implemented and maintained through to completion of construction.	
Biosecurity Inspections	• Biosecurity inspections will be undertaken by a suitably qualified person prior to commencement of each construction stage to identify and assess biosecurity risks within and adjacent to the disturbance footprint. • Inspections will identify and map declared weeds, restricted matter,	• All declared weeds, pest species and other biosecurity risks identified during inspections are mapped and recorded. • Biosecurity controls implemented in accordance with the Weed Management Protocol and legislative requirements. • Weed infestations and other biosecurity	• Biosecurity inspections as part of general environmental inspections completed for all construction stages involving new disturbance areas and ongoing construction monitoring. • All identified biosecurity risks managed in accordance with the Weed	Ecologist, Environmental Representative, Licenced Weed contactor

	pest animal activity, diseased vegetation, contaminated soil or plant material, and any other biosecurity risks that may be spread by construction activities. • Biosecurity risks will be assessed and appropriate controls implemented prior to disturbance, including weed treatment, exclusion zones, hygiene measures, clean-down requirements, material movement controls, and ongoing monitoring requirements – refer to APPENDIX F: Weed Management Protocol. • Areas containing weed infestations or other biosecurity risks will be clearly delineated and communicated to personnel during site inductions and pre-start briefings.	risk areas clearly marked in the field where required. • Personnel informed of biosecurity constraints and hygiene requirements. • Biosecurity inspection report provided to the Construction Manager prior to disturbance works.	Management Protocol and this document. • Inspection reports submitted and accepted by the Construction Manager. • Required biosecurity controls implemented prior to commencement of works. • No unauthorised movement of contaminated soil, weeds, plant material or other regulated matter occurs. • Biosecurity hold points cleared prior to disturbance.	
Post-construction / Operations				
Rehabilitation	• Disturbed areas are progressively rehabilitated as soon as practicable following completion of construction activities. • Planted and seeded vegetation is maintained to promote establishment and growth, including	• • Percentage of rehabilitation area achieving target vegetation cover. • Percentage survival of installed tubestock, planted	• Prior to handover to operations and completion of the 24-month monitoring period: • ≥80% survival of installed native trees and shrubs across monitored	Environmental Representative / Landscape implementation contractor

	watering, weed control, replacement planting, mulching and maintenance of tree guards and stakes where required. • Rehabilitation areas are monitored to assess vegetation establishment, plant health, weed invasion and habitat restoration outcomes. • Corrective actions are implemented where monitoring identifies performance deficiencies. • Adaptive management measures are applied where monitoring demonstrates objectives are not being achieved, including supplementary planting, replacement of failed vegetation, additional watering, erosion repairs, additional soil amelioration and/or revised weed control programs. • Monitoring is undertaken for a total period of 24 months comprising a 3-month establishment period followed by a 21-month rehabilitation monitoring program.	species and seed strike. • Number of replacement plantings undertaken. • Percentage cover of declared and environmental weeds within rehabilitation areas. • Number of inspections completed in accordance with the monitoring program. • Number of corrective actions identified and closed out. • Evidence of habitat establishment, including vegetation structure and fauna activity within the rehabilitated areas. • Annual BMP review completed, with adaptive management actions implemented where required. •	rehabilitation areas. • Native vegetation cover achieves ≥70% of the rehabilitated area (excluding access tracks and approved hardstand areas). • Weed cover does not exceed >10% of the total rehabilitation area and no Priority Weeds or WoNs are evident or actively seeding. • A minimum native species richness equivalent to 80% of the approved rehabilitation planting schedule is present. • No evidence of significant erosion, sedimentation, instability, or ongoing disturbance within rehabilitated areas. • Habitat features (e.g. logs, rock habitat, nest boxes, retained habitat structures) remain in place and functional where required by the rehabilitation design.	

			• All corrective actions have been completed, and rehabilitation objectives are demonstrated through monitoring records. • A final rehabilitation assessment confirms the area is self-sustaining and suitable for handover to operations.	
Independent Audits	• • Independent environmental audits are undertaken in accordance with the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (IAPAR) (2020)* and relevant approval conditions. • Audits are undertaken by an independent auditor approved by the Planning Secretary and possessing the required qualifications and experience. • Technical specialists are engaged where the expertise is required to adequately assess compliance or environmental performance. • Audit findings, observations, non-conformances and opportunities for improvement are documented and	• Independent audits completed in accordance with the approved audit schedule. • Audit findings, observations, opportunities for improvement, and non-conformances identified and addressed. • Audit actions assigned to responsible personnel within nominated timeframes. • Corrective actions completed and closed within agreed timeframes. • No repeated non-conformances identified across consecutive audits. • Technical specialists engaged where specialist review is required.	• All independent audits have been completed in accordance with the approved audit program. • Audit reports have been submitted and accepted by the relevant approval authority where required. • All audit findings, non-conformances and corrective actions have been addressed and formally closed out. • No high-risk or significant audit non-conformances remain outstanding at the completion of construction. • Environmental compliance has been independently verified and documented prior	Environmental Representative, Construction Manager, Independent Auditor

	communicated to relevant project personnel. • Corrective actions arising from audits are implemented within specified timeframes and tracked to completion.		to project handover. • Audit records demonstrate continual improvement in environmental performance throughout the construction phase.	

7.3 INCIDENT REPORTING AND RESPONSE

The Incident Management process details the systematic approach developed and implemented by ACLE Services to ensure that all incidents and non-compliances are reported and investigated.

It ensures that investigations:

- Are carried out by a competent person(s);
- Identify factors that led to the environmental hazard (aspect), incident or other system failure;
- Recommend appropriate corrective actions to be taken;
- Involve Direct Managers / Supervisors and Senior Management (as appropriate); and
- Prompts a review of ACLE Services' processes and documents where required.

Appendix E details the written incident notification and reporting requirements for the project extracted from the IPC Development Consent (Appendix 5).

7.4 CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An approved Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be prepared prior to the commencement of construction works. The CEMP will incorporate all relevant measures and recommendations outlined in this BMP.

8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – PLANT COMMUNITY TYPES MAPPING

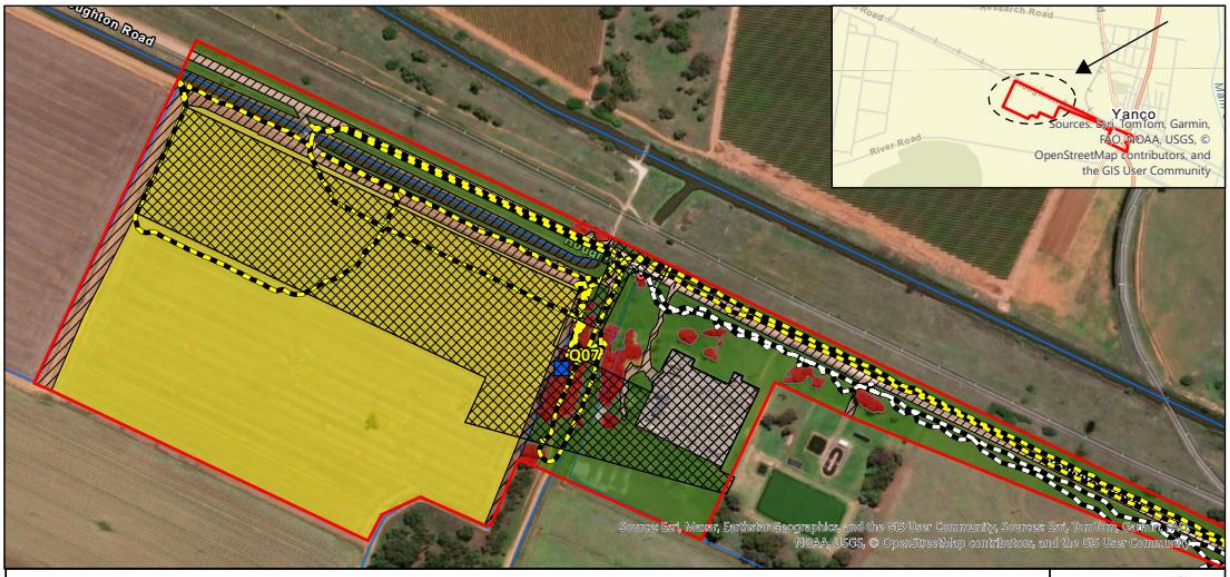


Figure 6 - Plant Community Types (BESS)

Study Area (Investigation Area)
Subject Land (Development Footprint)
Contours (10m)
Mapped Waterway (SiXMaps 2023)
BAM Plot
Survey Track (09-10/11/23)
Survey Track (07-08/01/24)

Vegetation Zones (VZ) - Plant Community Type (PCT) - Condition Class
VZ 01 - PCT 74 - Woodland Regrowth
VZ 02 - PCT 74 - Planted Roadside Native Vegetation
VZ 03 - PCT 26 - Woodland Regrowth
Non-native Vegetation (Agricultral Crops)
Non-native Vegetation (Exotic Grassland)
Cleared/ Developed

0 130 260 Meters



Figure 7 - Plant Community Types (Intersection Upgrades)

Study Area (Investigation Area)
Subject Land (Development Footprint)
Contours (10m)
Mapped Waterway (SiXMaps 2023)
BAM Plot
Survey Track (09-10/11/23)
Survey Track (07-08/01/24)

Vegetation Zones (VZ) - Plant Community Type (PCT) - Condition Class
VZ 01 - PCT 74 - Woodland Regrowth
VZ 02 - PCT 74 - Planted Roadside Native Vegetation
VZ 03 - PCT 26 - Woodland Regrowth
Non-native Vegetation (Agricultral Crops)
Non-native Vegetation (Exotic Grassland)
Cleared/ Developed

0 100 200 Meters

APPENDIX B – THREATENED SPECIES MAPPING



Figure 8 - Threatened Species Detected (Superb Parrot)

Study Area (Investigation Area)
Subject Land (Development Footprint)
Contours (10m)
Mapped Waterway (SiXMaps 2023)
Superb Parrot Detection

Vegetation Zones (VZ) - Plant Community Type (PCT) - Condition Class
VZ 01 - PCT 74 - Woodland Regrowth
VZ 02 - PCT 74 - Planted Roadside Native Vegetation
VZ 03 - PCT 26 - Woodland Regrowth
Non-native Vegetation (Agricultral Crops)
Non-native Vegetation (Exotic Grassland)
Cleared/ Developed

0 100 200 Meters



Figure 9 - Threatened Species Polygon - Koala

Study Area (Investigation Area)
Subject Land (Development Footprint)
Contours (10m)
Mapped Waterway (SiXMaps 2023)
Species Polygon - Koala

Vegetation Zones (VZ) - Plant Community Type (PCT) - Condition Class
VZ 02 - PCT 74 - Planted Roadside Native Vegetation
VZ 03 - PCT 26 - Woodland Regrowth
Non-native Vegetation (Agricultral Crops)
Non-native Vegetation (Exotic Grassland)
Cleared/ Developed

0 250 500 Meters

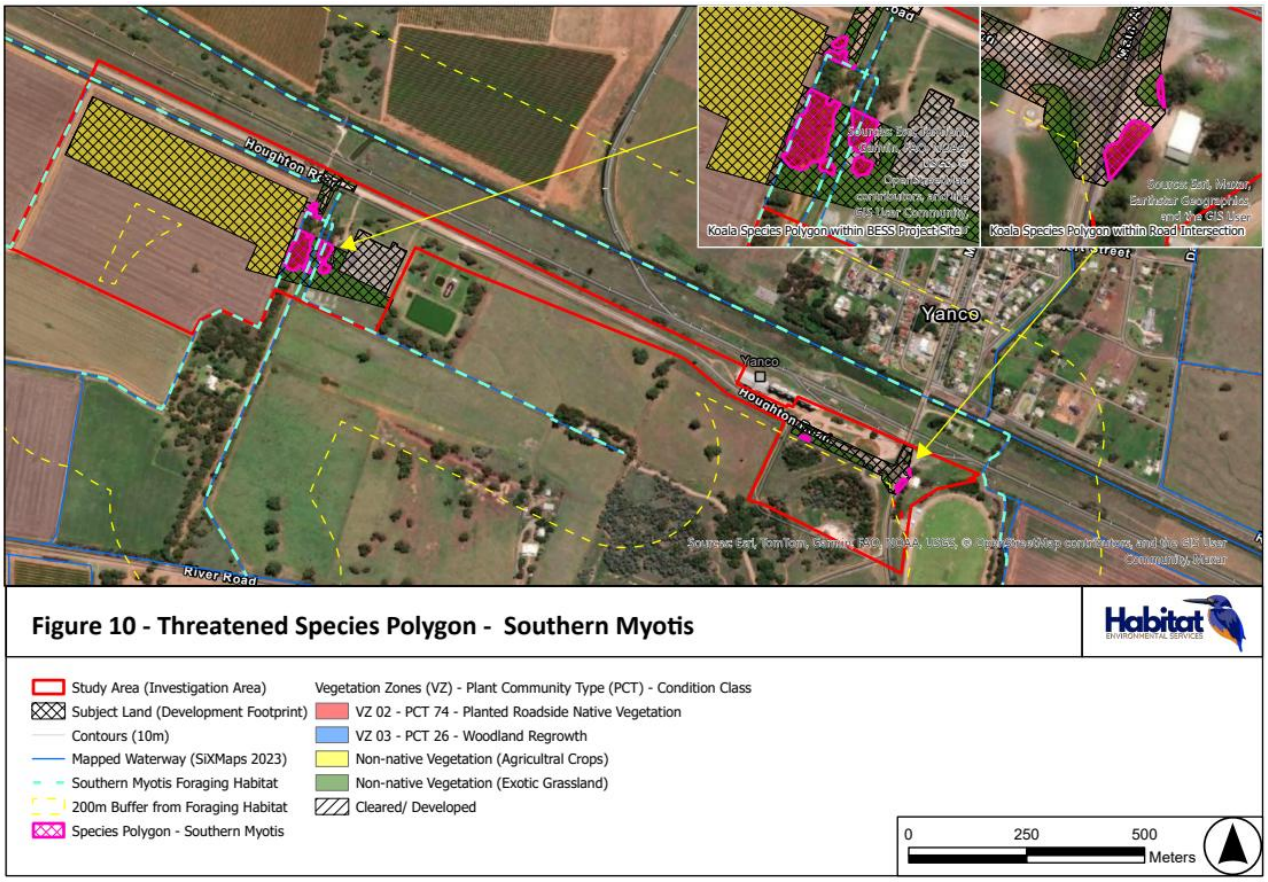
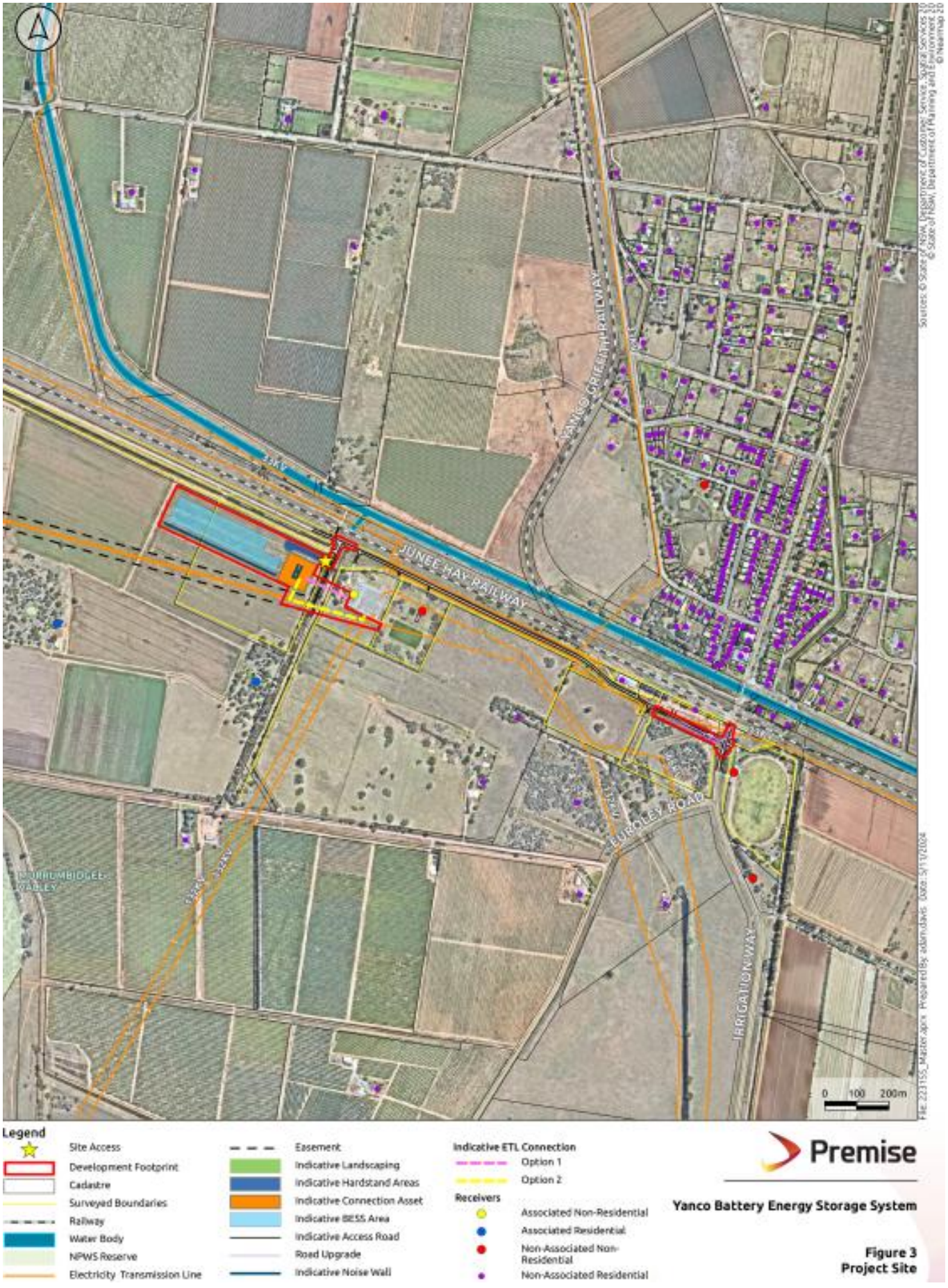


Figure 10 - Threatened Species Polygon - Southern Myotis

APPENDIX C – EIS MAPPED DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT



APPENDIX D – DA MODIFICATION LOCATIONS (RED)

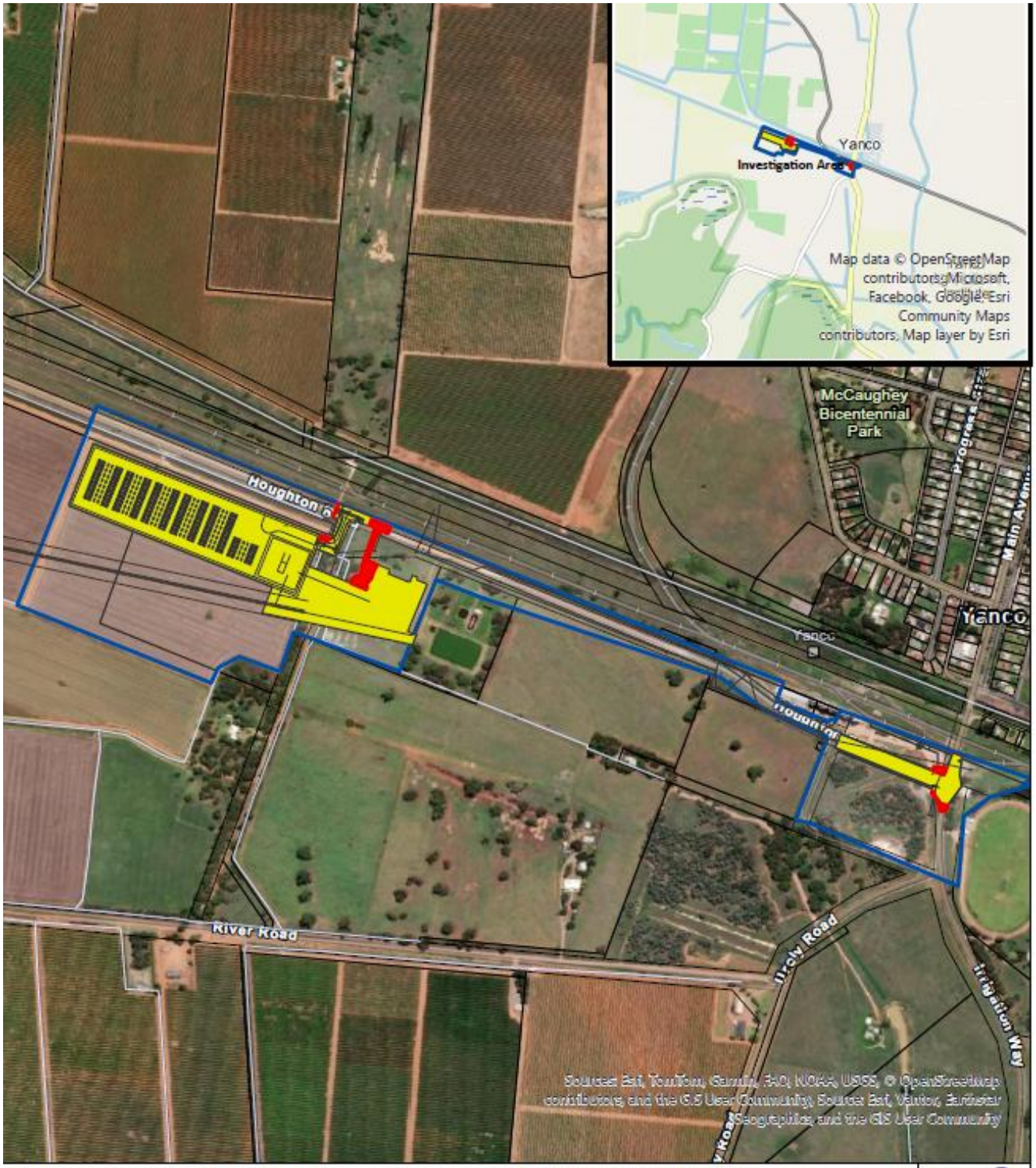


Figure 1 - DA Modification - Yanco BESS (SSD-67478479)

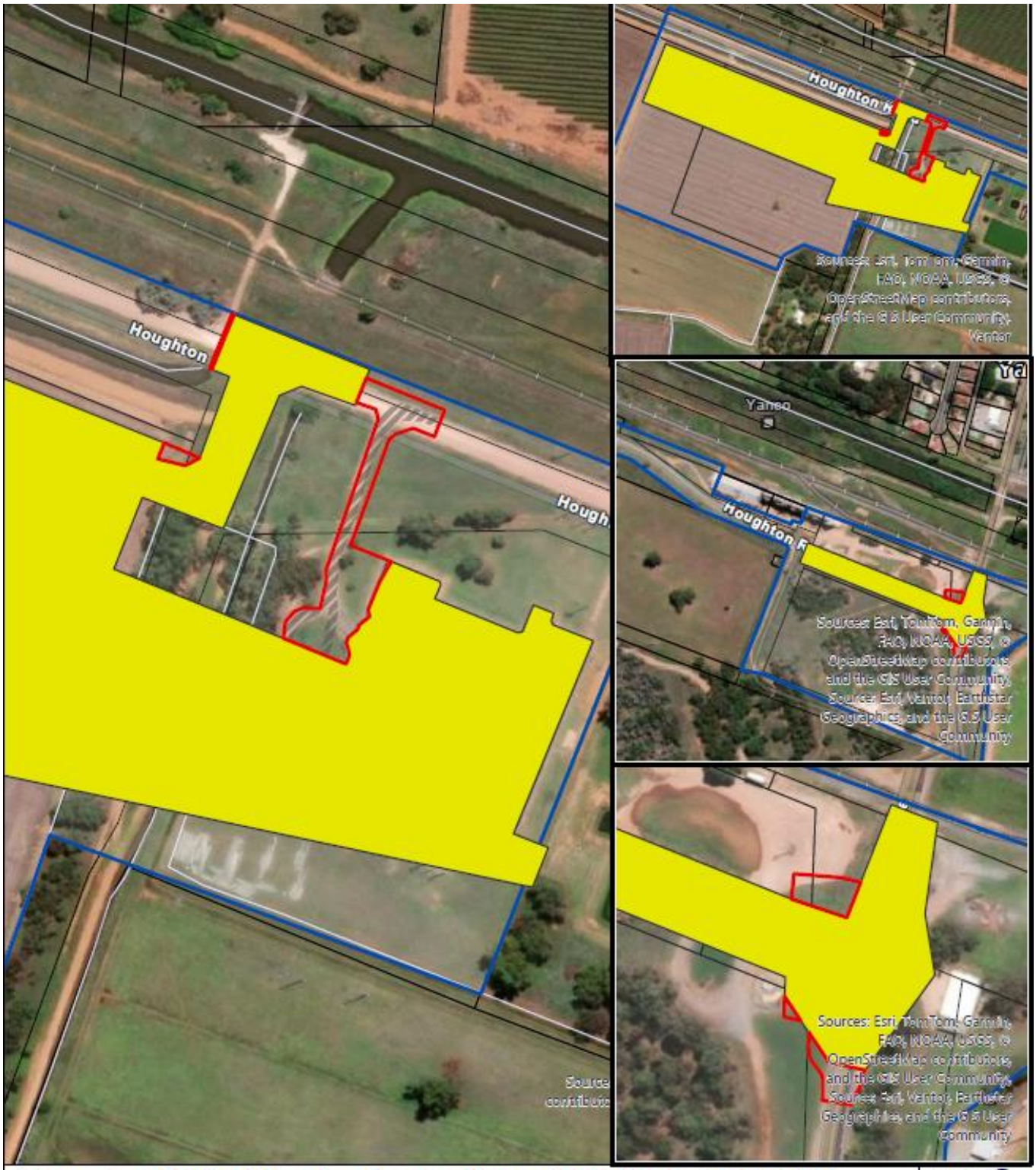


Figure 2 - DA Modification Areas - Yanco BESS (SSD-67478479)

APPENDIX E - INCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

APPENDIX 5 WRITTEN INCIDENT NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. All incident notifications and reports must be submitted via the NSW planning portal (Major Projects).
2. The Applicant must provide notification as required under these requirements, even if the Applicant fails to give the notification required under condition C10 or, having given such notification, subsequently forms the view that an incident has not occurred.
3. Within **7 days** (or as otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary) of the Applicant making the immediate incident notification (in accordance with condition C10), the Applicant is required to submit a subsequent incident report that:
   a) identifies how the incident was detected;
   b) identifies when the Applicant became aware of the incident;
   c) identifies any actual or potential non-compliance with conditions of consent;
   d) identifies further action(s) that will be taken in relation to the incident; and
   e) a summary of the incident;
   f) outcomes of an incident investigation, including identification of the cause of the incident;
   g) details of the corrective and preventative actions that have been, or will be, implemented to address the incident and prevent recurrence, including the period for implementing any corrective and/or preventative actions; and
   h) details of any communication with other stakeholders regarding the incident.
4. The Applicant must submit any further reports as directed by the Planning Secretary.

APPENDIX F - WEED MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

1. Purpose

This Weed Management Protocol (WMP) outlines procedures to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds, control existing infestations, and minimise impacts on native biodiversity during construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Yanco BESS project. It supports the overall objectives of the Biodiversity Management Plan by protecting native vegetation, threatened species habitats, and ecological communities in the Riverina region.

Effective weed management helps maintain or improve vegetation integrity scores and reduces competition with native flora.

2. Scope

The WMP applies to all project phases:

- Pre-construction (site preparation)
- Construction
- Operation and maintenance
- Decommissioning and rehabilitation

Covers the project site, access tracks, laydown areas, and adjacent buffer zones.

3. Legislative and Policy Context

- Conditions of Approval for SSD-67478479 (Yanco BESS)
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)* – obligations for Priority Weeds
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy and Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans (Riverina)
- NSW Weed Control Handbook (latest edition)
- Best practice guidelines from DCCEEW / BCD

4. Roles and Responsibilities

- Project Environmental Representative: Overall responsibility for implementation, monitoring, and reporting.
- Site Supervisor / Foreman: Day-to-day enforcement of hygiene protocols.
- Qualified Ecologist / Weed Contractor: Pre-clearing surveys, treatment, and monitoring.
- All Personnel: Report new weeds and adhere to vehicle/plant hygiene.

5. Weed Risk Assessment and Priority Species

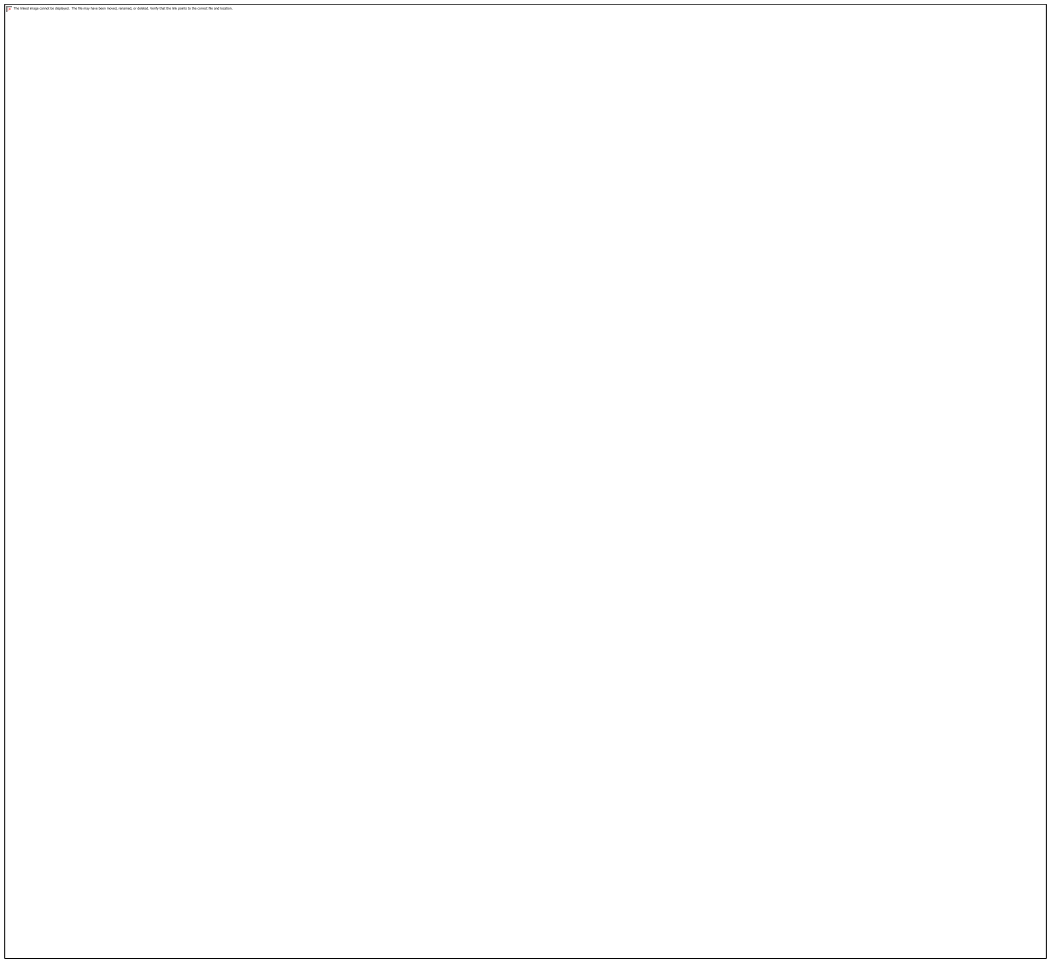
Conduct a baseline / preclearance weed survey at least 24-48 hours prior to clearing works (by a qualified ecologist) to identify and flag off infestations that require treatment.

High-priority weeds (examples relevant to Riverina; update with site-specific data):

- Chilean Needle Grass *Nassella neesiana* – recorded at site

- African Lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula* – recorded at site
- African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum)*
- Prickly Pear *(Opuntia spp.)*
- Paterson's Curse *(Echium plantagineum)*
- Blackberry *(Rubus fruticosus aggregate)*
- Coolatai Grass *(Hyparrhenia hirta)*
- Other regional priorities per Riverina Local Land Services.

African Lovegrass wasn't recorded via the sampling of plots but was observed to commonly occur along roadsides, including Houghton Road and Main Avenue. The existing extent of Chilean Needle Grass, as determined through BDAR surveys, is reflected in the below figure. Instances of Needle Grass are depicted by grey squares.



Prior to construction commencing, high priority weeds should be mapped and locations communicated to site staff. Mapping should include species and extent to provide a baseline point of reference to be monitored during project implementation.

6. Prevention and Hygiene Protocols

Vehicle and Plant Hygiene:

- All vehicles, plant, and equipment must be inspected and cleaned (brushed or wash-down) before entering the site and when moving between weed-infested and clean areas.
- Use designated clean-down bays with sediment control.
- Record inspections in a Weed Hygiene Log.

Material Importation:

- Source fill, mulch, and topsoil from certified weed-free suppliers who hold valid certification.
- Inspect all imported materials before use.
- Inspect all stockpiled materials on a weekly basis to identify and manage any emerging weeds.

Personnel Awareness:

- Induction training on weed identification and hygiene.
- Toolbox talks before high-risk activities (e.g., earthworks).

7. Control Methods (Integrated Weed Management)

Use a combination of methods prioritising non-chemical where feasible:

Method	Preferred Use	Examples / Notes	Applicable weed species
Manual Removal	Small infestations, sensitive areas where herbicide use is not appropriate	Hand pulling, ensuring root system, seed head and all vegetative material is removed, then placing in plastic bags and disposal in general waste.	All species, if physically possible.
Mechanical	Larger stands (pre-seeding)	Undertake slashing, mowing or mechanical removal (grubbing) at appropriate times to minimise seed dispersal. Collect and stockpile weed material in a designated area and cover with black plastic to prevent regrowth and destroy viable plant material. Segregate weed-contaminated topsoil (minimum 100mm depth) from clean soil, cover stockpiles where practicable, and dispose of or bury beneath at least 100 mm of clean fill. Avoid the spread of rhizomes, roots and seed-bearing material during handling and transport. Implement machinery and equipment hygiene procedures before leaving weed-affected areas to prevent weed spread.	Mechanical control methods should be selected based on the target weed species. Slashing is generally not effective for grass species; however, chipping out individual plants prior to flowering may be effective for controlling African lovegrass or other grass species. Mechanical removal is suitable for dense infestations of prickly pear, with removed plant material to be buried at least 1m below ground level to prevent regrowth. Weed-contaminated topsoil from high-priority weed infestations should be segregated from clean material and treated through burial or other approved disposal methods. Where contaminated soil or plant material is stockpiled, soil binders and/or appropriate covering should be used to minimise wind dispersal of seeds and propagules.

Method	Preferred Use	Examples / Notes	Applicable weed species
Chemical	Targeted treatment of priority weeds	Follow NSW Weed Control Handbook and use registered herbicides by licensed applicators.	Application rates and chemicals differ per weed species. Consult with licenced applicator.
Grazing / Mulching	Rehabilitation areas	Weed material may only be reused as mulch for rehabilitation once all viable weeds, seeds, rhizomes and other reproductive plant material have been destroyed through approved chemical and/or mechanical treatment methods. Prior to reuse, a suitably qualified or licensed herbicide applicator must verify that the material is free of viable weed propagules and poses no risk of weed spread.	All weed species that are not high-priority or WoNs.

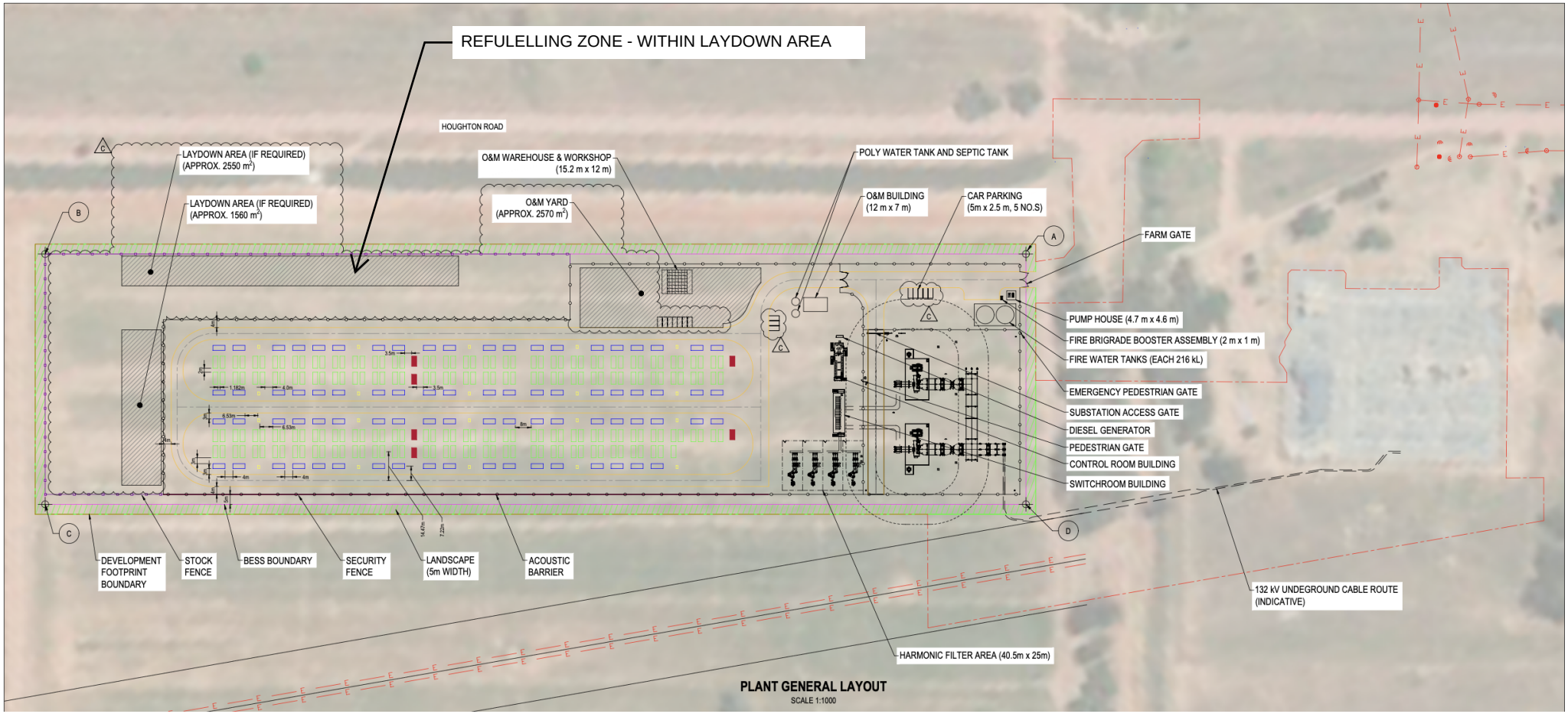
8. Monitoring and Reporting

- Pre-construction: Baseline and preclearance survey and mapping 24-48hrs prior to clearing
- During Construction: Weekly inspections of disturbed areas, stockpiles, and boundaries. Weed mapping updated as necessary.
- Operation: Quarterly inspections for first 2 years, then annually. Weed mapping updated as necessary.

Key Performance Indicators:

- No new high-priority weed introductions.
- Reduction in cover/abundance of priority weeds over time.
- Compliance with completion criteria for rehabilitation areas.

APPENDIX G- GENERAL SITE LAYOUT


REFULELLING ZONE - WITHIN LAYDOWN AREA
HOUGHTON ROAD
LAYDOWN AREA (IF REQUIRED) (APPROX. 2550 m²)
LAYDOWN AREA (IF REQUIRED) (APPROX. 1560 m²)
O&M WAREHOUSE & WORKSHOP (15.2 m x 12 m)
O&M YARD (APPROX. 2570 m²)
POLY WATER TANK AND SEPTIC TANK
O&M BUILDING (12 m x 7 m)
CAR PARKING (5m x 2.5 m, 5 NO.S)
FARM GATE
PUMP HOUSE (4.7 m x 4.6 m)
FIRE BRIGRADE BOOSTER ASSEMBLY (2 m x 1 m)
FIRE WATER TANKS (EACH 216 kL)
EMERGENCY PEDESTRIAN GATE
SUBSTATION ACCESS GATE
DIESEL GENERATOR
PEDESTRIAN GATE
CONTROL ROOM BUILDING
SWITCHROOM BUILDING
DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT BOUNDARY
STOCK FENCE
BESS BOUNDARY
SECURITY FENCE
LANDSCAPE (5m WIDTH)
ACOUSTIC BARRIER
HARMONIC FILTER AREA (40.5m x 25m)
132 kV UNDEGROUND CABLE ROUTE (INDICATIVE)
PLANT GENERAL LAYOUT
SCALE 1:1000

APPENDIX H – CURRENT THREATENED FAUNA AND FLORA SPECIES LIST (BIONET ATLAS – LEETON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

FAUNA

Current Scientific Name	Current Vernacular Name	Is Current	General Type	State Conservation	Protected In NSW	Sensitivity Class	Country Conservation
Anseranas semipalmata	Magpie Goose	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Anthochaera phrygia	Regent Honeyeater	TRUE	Birds	Critically Endangered	TRUE	Category 2	Critically Endangered
Antigone rubicunda	Brolga	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Arenaria interpres	Ruddy Turnstone	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Vulnerable
Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus	Dusky Woodswallow	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern	TRUE	Birds	Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Endangered
Burhinus grallarius	Bush Stone-curlew	TRUE	Birds	Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Vulnerable
Calidris canutus	Red Knot	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Endangered
Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper	TRUE	Birds	Critically Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Critically Endangered
Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo	TRUE	Birds	Endangered	TRUE	Category 3	Endangered
Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Category 2	Vulnerable
Circus assimilis	Spotted Harrier	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Cisticola exilis	Golden-headed Cisticola	TRUE	Birds	Not Listed	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies)	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Vulnerable
Daphoenositta chrysoptera	Varied Sittella	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed

Epthianura albifrons	White-fronted Chat	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Category 2	Vulnerable
Falco subniger	Black Falcon	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Vulnerable
Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Vulnerable
Haliaeetus leucogaster	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Hemiaspis damelii	Grey Snake	TRUE	Reptiles	Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Endangered
Hieraaetus morphnoides	Little Eagle	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Vulnerable
Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit	TRUE	Birds	Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Endangered
Litoria raniformis	Southern Bell Frog	TRUE	Amphibians	Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Vulnerable
Lophochroa leadbeateri	Pink Cockatoo	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Category 2	Endangered
Lophoictinia isura	Square-tailed Kite	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Category 3	Not Listed
Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin	TRUE	Birds	Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Endangered
Myotis macropus	Southern Myotis	TRUE	Bats	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Vulnerable
Neophema pulchella	Turquoise Parrot	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Category 3	Not Listed
Ninox connivens	Barking Owl	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Category 3	Not Listed
Oxyura australis	Blue-billed Duck	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Petauroides volans	Southern Greater Glider	TRUE	Marsupials	Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Endangered
Petroica boodang	Scarlet Robin	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Petroica phoenicea	Flame Robin	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed

Phascolarctos cinereus	Koala	TRUE	Marsupials	Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Endangered
Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides	Regent Parrot (eastern subspecies)	TRUE	Birds	Endangered	TRUE	Category 3	Vulnerable
Polytelis swainsonii	Superb Parrot	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Category 3	Vulnerable
Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis	Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox	TRUE	Bats	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Vulnerable
Pyrrholaemus sagittatus	Speckled Warbler	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe	TRUE	Birds	Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Endangered
Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Vulnerable
Stictonetta naevosa	Freckled Duck	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Todiramphus chloris	Collared Kingfisher	TRUE	Birds	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed
Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank	TRUE	Birds	Endangered	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Endangered
Vespadelus baverstocki	Inland Forest Bat	TRUE	Bats	Vulnerable	TRUE	Not Sensitive	Not Listed

FLORA

Scientific Name	Vernacular Name	Country Conservation	State Conservation	Protected In NSW	Sensitivity Class	Occurrence Status
Brachyscome papillosa	Mossgiel Daisy	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	no	Not Sensitive	Present
Cullen parvum	Small Scurf-pea	Not Listed	Endangered	no	Not Sensitive	Present
Diuris tricolor	Pine Donkey Orchid	Not Listed	Vulnerable	yes	Category 2	Present
Diuris tricolor	Pine Donkey Orchid	Not Listed	Vulnerable	yes	Category 2	Present
Persicaria elatior	Tall Knotweed	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	no	Not Sensitive	Present

APPENDIX I – OFFSET OBLIGATION AND PAYMENT

NSW GOVERNMENT | Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Statement confirming payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund for an offset obligation

Pursuant to section 6.33 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust confirms that the following payments have been made into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund under section 6.30(1) of the Act to satisfy an obligation to retire biodiversity credits.

Payment made by	Energy Storage Project No 9 Pty Ltd
Date received	24 June 2026
NSW statutory obligation reference[1]	SSD-67478479
Commonwealth EPBC Act controlled action reference (if applicable)[2]	N/A
BCT Reference	BCF01136

Biodiversity credit retirement obligations satisfied by payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund:

Biodiversity credit type (Credit ID and name)	Offset trading group	EPBC Act Controlled Action offset obligation (Y / N)	Number of credits	Cost per credit (Exc. GST)	Total payment per credit type (Exc. GST)
74 - Yellow Box - River Red Gum tall grassy riverine woodland of NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and Riverina Bioregion	White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions	N	8	$8,731.34	$69,850.74
26 - Weeping Myall open woodland of the Riverina Bioregion and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	Myall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain, Murray-Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions	N	1	$5,578.36	$5,578.36
10616 - *Phascolarctos cinereus* (Koala)	*Phascolarctos cinereus* (Koala)	N	8	$1,319.88	$10,559.08
10549 - *Myotis macropus* (Southern Myotis)	*Myotis macropus* (Southern Myotis)	N	8	$1,319.88	$10,559.08
Total (Exc. GST)					**$96,547.26**
GST					**$9,654.73**
Total (Inc. GST)					**$106,201.99**

Teresa Myat Berg
Chief Financial Officer 29/06/2026

[1] This refers to either; a development application number for a development consent under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (**EP&A Act**), a State significant infrastructure approval under the previous Part 5.1 (now Part 5, Division 5.2) of the EP&A Act, a decision of a determining authority to carry out or approve the carrying out of an activity under Part 5 of the EP&A Act, or a biobank statement number or biodiversity certification number.

[2] This refers to a controlled action under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for which a biodiversity offset obligation has been met through payment into the BCF.

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust
Postal address: Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124 | ABN 37 151 321 702 | bct.nsw.gov.au

APPENDIX J – CONSULTATION

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Your ref: SSD 67478479
Our ref: DOC26/360306

David Walker
Senior General Manager - Central
Amey Australia

Via Major Projects Portal: SSD-67478479

Dear David

Subject: Yanco BESS (SSD-67478479) – Draft Biodiversity Management Plan

Thank you for your email dated 8 July 2026 seeking advice from the Conservation Planning and Assessment (CPA) Branch of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on the Draft Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for this project.

CPA has reviewed the Draft BMP, with consideration of the requirements set out in Schedule 2 Condition B13 of the Development Consent, the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) version 7.0 and the modification additional biodiversity information (March 2026).

A summary of recommendations is included in **Attachment A**, and detailed advice is provided in **Attachment B.**

The BMP requires updating to ensure protection measures included are adequate, management activities are detailed to determine effectiveness, and the development footprint, including biodiversity features, is appropriately defined.

To be confident that the BMP will be effective in managing biodiversity impacts of the development, we would appreciate the opportunity to review a final version before acceptance by the NSW Planning Group.

If you have any questions about this advice, please contact Mel Cotterill, Principal Conservation Planning Officer, via planning.southwest@environment.nsw.gov.au or 02 6022 0614.

Yours sincerely



Tyrie Starrs
24 July 2026

Senior Manager South
Conservation Planning and Assessment
Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

ATTACHMENT A – Summary of CPA recommendations for the Yanco BESS Biodiversity Management Plan (SSD 67478479)
ATTACHMENT B – Detailed advice for the Yanco BESS Biodiversity Management Plan (SSD 67478479)

ATTACHMENT A Summary of CPA recommendations for the Yanco BESS Biodiversity Management Plan (SSD 67478479)

In preparing this advice CPA have reviewed the following documents:

- Biodiversity Management Plan Yanco BESS, ACLE Services Pty Ltd V.4 6 July 2026 (BMP)
- Proposed development application modification to the Yanco Battery Energy Storage System (biodiversity information), Habitat Environmental Services 19 March 2026.
- Biodiversity Development Assessment Report Yanco BESS Version 7.0, Habitat Environmental Services 9 April 2025.

List of acronyms and terms used in this response:

BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
CoA	Condition of Approval, as per Schedule 2 of the Development Consent
Development footprint	Area within the site on which the components of the project will be constructed (Appendix 1 of development consent)
Development site	Lots listed in Appendix 2 of the development consent and mapped in Appendix 1.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement for Yanco BESS project dated 8 November 2024, the associated response to submissions dated 21 February 2025 and the Modification report dated 19 March 2026
SMART	Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound

Summary of recommendations:

1.1. Update the pre-clearance protocol in Section 6.2.2 and 7.2 to specify that surveys will take place on the day of clearing for all native vegetation and are not limited to hollow-bearing trees or specific habitat features.

1.2. Update the threatened species finds protocol to include all incidents involving threatened species and inclusion of species not considered in the BDAR or modification.

2.1. Map where the weeds were found, in particular the priority weed species.

2.2. Describe the management of the priority weeds specifically and in detail in the weed management protocol.

2.3. Plan for inspection and control of weeds before the topsoil is moved so there is no unintended weed dispersal and outbreak.

3.1. Section 6.4 must reference the map in Appendix D to clarify the location of landscaping.

3.2. Update Section 6.4 and 7.2 to clarify the actions and locations proposed for landscaping and rehabilitation, including a watering plan, period of monitoring and indicators for success

and adaptive management. Clearly state that landscaping is to be completed prior to commencement of operation

3.3. Update Section 6.4 of the BMP to specify that plant species to be used for landscaping will be consistent with the vegetation types identified on site.

4.1. Update the BMP to reference both the development footprint as per the EIS, and the modification locations to ensure mitigation measures are consistent and applied across all locations.

4.2. Update Section 6.2 to ensure the entire development footprint is delineated prior to the commencement of construction.

4.3. Update Appendix A to include plant community type mapping for the eastern section for the subject land.

4.4. Include threatened species records on threatened species mapping in Appendix B.

5.1. Update the BMP to include a consolidated table of all mitigation measures that specify SMART principles.

ATTACHMENT B Detailed advice for the Yanco BESS Biodiversity Management Plan (SSD 67478479)

1. The fauna management protocols must include appropriate protection measures

Section 6.2.2 and the table in Section 7.2 of the draft BMP describes the fauna spotter catcher protocol. The protocol states that a spotter catcher will be present on site for clearing of hollow-bearing trees or other habitat features. Koalas may use trees not identified as potential habitat features. There will need to be a survey conducted in all native vegetation to be cleared on the day that clearing is planned to ensure that no koalas are present.

The threatened species finds protocol in Section 6.3 includes incident reporting, which should include all incidents involving a threatened species, not just death. This protocol should also include consideration of species not considered in the BDAR or modification.

Recommendations:

1.1. Update the pre-clearance protocol in Section 6.2.2 and 7.2 to specify that surveys will take place on the day of clearing for all native vegetation and are not limited to hollow-bearing trees or specific habitat features.

1.2. Update the threatened species finds protocol to include all incidents involving threatened species and inclusion of species not considered in the BDAR or modification.

2. The weed management protocol must specifically detail all management activities

Although weeds have been located on site there is no mapping of the extent of the priority weeds, Chilean Needle Grass and African Lovegrass. Appendix F: Weed Management Protocol discusses the proposed management of weeds on site but does not indicate where the weeds were found. This is critical information if the Weed Management Protocol is to be effective. Topsoil is intended to be collected and moved so that it can be re-used in rehabilitation and landscaping. However, there is no mention of inspecting the site where the topsoil is taken for priority weeds. This should be done so that they can be treated before the topsoil is moved to minimise risk of spreading the weeds to the stockpile site.

Recommendations:

2.1. Map where the weeds were found, in particular the priority weed species.

2.2. Describe the management of the priority weeds specifically and in detail in the weed management protocol.

2.3. Plan for inspection and control of weeds before the topsoil is moved so there is no unintended weed dispersal and outbreak.

3. Clearly describe and distinguish the actions required for landscaping and rehabilitation

Landscaping using local species is discussed in the draft BMP. However, there is no detail on how this will occur and be successful. For example, a procedure for regular watering over the first few years may be required, especially if planting is conducted in the summer months. While some of this detail may be proposed for the Project's Landscape Concept Plan, it would be advantageous to set out the basics of the procedure in this plan as well.

Section 6.4 indicates the landscaped areas are proposed to be established with plants consistent with Riverina Plain Grassland. The BDAR identified two plant community types occurring on the subject land, both of which are woodland communities within the Riverina Plain Woodland and Floodplain Transition Woodland vegetation classes. We recommend using plant species consistent with those vegetation types. Additionally, CoA B9 indicates that landscape screening must be completed prior to commencing operation.

The BMP should distinguish actions and locations proposed for landscaping and rehabilitation and define the monitoring period and measure of success for both.

Recommendations:

3.1. Section 6.4 must reference the map in Appendix D to clarify the location of landscaping.

3.2. Update Section 6.4 and 7.2 to clarify the actions and locations proposed for landscaping and rehabilitation, including a watering plan, period of monitoring and indicators for success and adaptive management. Clearly state that landscaping is to be completed prior to commencement of operation

3.3. Update Section 6.4 of the BMP to specify that plant species to be used for landscaping will be consistent with the vegetation types identified on site.

4. Use consistent language and correctly delineate the development footprint and key biodiversity features

The BMP must consistently reference both the development footprint as per the EIS, shown in Appendix C, and the modification locations shown in Appendix D to ensure mitigation measures are completed across the combined development. Section 6.2 must specify that delineation of the project boundary is specific to the development footprint as identified in Appendix B, and as modified and shown in Appendix D. This must occur prior to the commencement of construction.

The plant community type mapping in Appendix A needs to include the eastern section of the subject land to ensure appropriate protections are applied. Threatened species mapping in Appendix B must also include threatened species records such as the Superb Parrot.

Recommendations:

4.1. Update the BMP to reference both the development footprint as per the EIS, and the modification locations to ensure mitigation measures are consistent and applied across all locations.

4.2. Update Section 6.2 to ensure the entire development footprint is delineated prior to the commencement of construction.

4.3. Update Appendix A to include plant community type mapping for the eastern section for the subject land.

4.4. Include threatened species records on threatened species mapping in Appendix B.

5. Mitigation measures must be clear and follow the SMART principles

The BMP currently includes mitigation measures throughout Section 6 and 7. To ensure all mitigation measures are implemented, it would be beneficial to include all measures in Table 7.2, including pre-construction mitigation , specifying SMART principles and responsible parties, as per the BDAR.

Recommendations:

5.1. Update the BMP to include a consolidated table of all mitigation measures that specify SMART principles.

David Walker

From: Mel Cotterill <mel.cotterill@dcceew.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of South West Planning Mailbox <planning.southwest@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2026 11:55 AM
To: David Walker
Subject: RE: [#P005161] CPA Response RE: Yanco BESS - BMP submission

Hi David,

Thanks for the update. In the case that you don't have mapping of weed locations, if you can make it clear in the BMP that a weed survey and associated mapping will be completed prior to construction commencing that would be suitable. The weed mapping should be updated as appropriate and communicated to site staff.

Please feel free to reach out if you'd like to discuss further.

Regards

Mel Cotterill
Principal Conservation Planning Officer
Conservation Planning and Assessment

Conservation Planning and Offsets | Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
T 02 6022 0614 | **M** 0457 158 731 | **E** mel.cotterill@dcceew.nsw.gov.au
193 -195 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

dcceew.nsw.gov.au



The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

From: David Walker <David.walker@amey.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 14 August 2026 4:35 PM
To: South West Planning Mailbox <planning.southwest@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: [#P005161] CPA Response RE: Yanco BESS - BMP submission

Thanks Mel

We will resolve issues 1 and 3. In relation to issue 2, we will re-insert the biosecurity management section. We don't have mapping of all weed locations, only what was advised to us by the project

ecologist (who is no longer involved in the project and hasn't responded to queries). Can you suggest some alternative ways that we might resolve your concerns with this element?

Happy to discuss by phone if easier.

Kind regards

David Walker
Senior General Manager – Central | Principal Town Planner | Consulting | Amey Australia



0437 621 057 | 02 6393 5000 | david.walker@amey.com.au
Level 1, 60-62 McNamara Street, Orange NSW, 2800, Australia

From: Mel Cotterill <mel.cotterill@dcceew.nsw.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** South West Planning Mailbox
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2026 4:03 PM
To: David Walker <David.walker@amey.com.au>
Subject: RE: [#P005161] CPA Response RE: Yanco BESS - BMP submission

Hi David,

Thanks for providing the updated version of the BMP for the Yanco BESS project. CPA has reviewed the tracked changes and have the following comments, based on the issues in our previous response (dated 24 July 2026:

- Issue 1
  - Section 6.2.1 indicates that pre-clearing is valid for one month. This contradicts the previous text and the premise of pre-clearing surveys being within 24 to 48 hours
  - Section 7.2 should indicate that surveys should be 'within 24 to 48 hours' rather than 'at-least 24 hours' from clearing
- Issue 2
  - Biosecurity management has been removed from section 7.2, please reinstate this to detail the specific management requirements for weeds in the BMP
  - Suggest mapping the existing weed species identified in section 4.4 to provide a starting reference point in the BMP and to guide inspections and required management
- Issue 5
  - It would be preferable for Table 6.8 to be set out according to project stage i.e. pre-construction, construction, operation, so that it is clear which management measures need to be implemented at what stage.

If these can be addressed through straightforward amendments, we're happy for you to do so and send us a finalised version to review and confirm prior to issue to DPHI.

If you have any questions with the above, please feel free to get in touch.

Regards

Mel Cotterill
Principal Conservation Planning Officer
Conservation Planning and Assessment

Conservation Planning and Offsets | Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
T 02 6022 0614 | **M** 0457 158 731 | **E** mel.cotterill@dcceew.nsw.gov.au
193 -195 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

dcceew.nsw.gov.au

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

From: David Walker <David.walker@amey.com.au>
Sent: Saturday, 8 August 2026 9:14 AM
To: South West Planning Mailbox <planning.southwest@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Mel Cotterill <mel.cotterill@dcceew.nsw.gov.au>; Michael Todd <Michael.Todd@dcceew.nsw.gov.au>; Bradley Cook <bradley.cook@acle.com.au>
Subject: RE: [#P005161] CPA Response RE: Yanco BESS - BMP submission

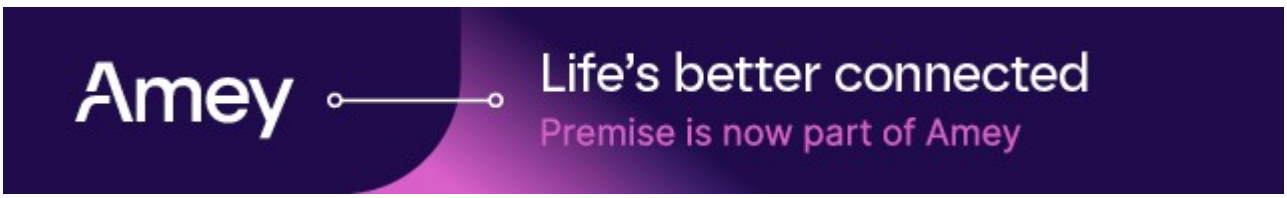
Hi Andrew

Further to the below, please see attached an updated version of the BMP with tracked changes for your review and acceptance (together with a clean pdf version). Subject to your comments, we will finalise and issue to DPHI.

Happy to discuss if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

David Walker
Senior General Manager – Central | Principal Town Planner | Consulting | Amey Australia



0437 621 057 | 02 6393 5000 | david.walker@amey.com.au
Level 1, 60-62 McNamara Street, Orange NSW, 2800, Australia

From: South West Planning Mailbox <planning.southwest@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 24 July 2026 3:26 PM
To: David Walker <David.walker@amey.com.au>
Cc: Mel Cotterill <mel.cotterill@dcceew.nsw.gov.au>; Michael Todd <Michael.Todd@dcceew.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: [#P005161] CPA Response RE: Yanco BESS - BMP submission

Hi David,

A revised version please.

DPHI will want to see that you have consulted with us and will ask us if we are happy with it (as per CoA B13).

Thanks
Andrew

From: David Walker <David.walker@amey.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 24 July 2026 2:38 PM
To: South West Planning Mailbox <planning.southwest@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Mel Cotterill <mel.cotterill@dcceew.nsw.gov.au>; Michael Todd <Michael.Todd@dcceew.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: [#P005161] CPA Response RE: Yanco BESS - BMP submission

Thanks team

We will review and let you know if we have any questions.

Would you like to see another version of this with the changes, or happy for us to issue straight through to DPHI?

Kind regards,

David Walker
Senior General Manager – Central | Principal Town Planner | Consulting | Amey Australia



0437 621 057 | 02 6393 5000 | david.walker@amey.com.au
Level 1, 60-62 McNamara Street, Orange NSW, 2800, Australia

From: South West Planning Mailbox <planning.southwest@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 24 July 2026 1:36 PM
To: David Walker <David.walker@amey.com.au>
Cc: Mel Cotterill <mel.cotterill@dcceew.nsw.gov.au>; Michael Todd <Michael.Todd@dcceew.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: [#P005161] CPA Response RE: Yanco BESS - BMP submission

Hi David,

Attached is feedback on the draft BMP for the Yanco BESS.

If you have any questions please contact Mel Cotterill via planning.southwest@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Regards

Andrew Fisher
Senior Team Leader, South West

Conservation Planning and Assessment | Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

T 02 6022 0623 **M** 0427 562 844 **E** andrew.fisher@dcceew.nsw.gov.au
dcceew.nsw.gov.au

From: David Walker
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2026 9:29 AM
To: Mel Cotterill
Cc: Michael Todd
Subject: [#P005161] Yanco BESS - BMP submission

Good morning Mel

Thanks for your time last week to discuss the BMP for the Yanco BESS.

Please find attached the finalised BMP for your review and comment.

We met with DPHI post consent team last week and briefed them on status, including our chat with yourselves. They seemed comfortable with us consulting outside of the portal, provided we clearly outlined our efforts and how any feedback had been addressed.

We would welcome your feedback and are happy to catch up directly to talk to any areas you feel may require additional clarification.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

David Walker
Senior General Manager – Central | Principal Town Planner | Consulting | Amey Australia



0437 621 057 | 02 6393 5000 | David.walker@amey.com.au
Level 1, 60-62 McNamara Street, Orange NSW, 2800, Australia

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