



CHAPTER

29 Environmental Management Framework

29 Environmental Management Framework

This chapter presents the Environmental Management Framework proposed for the Western Renewables Link (the Project).

This Environmental Management Framework is proposed to provide a transparent governance framework for the management of environmental effects of the Project during construction, operation and decommissioning. It is one component of the overall governance framework developed for the delivery of the Project to meet statutory requirements, protect environmental values and provide stakeholder confidence.

Following the assessment of the EES by the Minister for Planning, this chapter will be updated to address any matters and recommendations made by the Minister for Planning and converted to a standalone 'Environmental Management Framework' document to take forward through to construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project.

If the proposed planning scheme amendment to facilitate the Project is approved, this standalone Environmental Management Framework will also require approval from the Minister for Planning.

The Environmental Management Framework outlines the roles and responsibilities for environmental management and monitoring of the Project's environmental performance. It provides a framework for governance and implementation of measures to manage environmental performance, including requirements for monitoring, reporting and auditing. It also includes accountabilities for the implementation of, and compliance with, the Environmental Management Framework and Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs).

EPRs define the environmental outcomes as well as other environmental management requirements that must be achieved during the design, construction, and operation stages of the Project. The EPRs intend to avoid and mitigate identified impacts and the risk of harm to human health and the environment so far as reasonably practicable. The EPRs offer opportunity to contractors to explore innovative approaches as to how the required standards are achieved. Measures to reduce the potential impacts have been proposed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, manage, rehabilitate and offset) to inform the development of EPRs. However, alternative mitigation measures could be implemented to comply with the EPRs based on the specific site conditions, available resources, and the contractor's expertise.

Compliance with the Environmental Management Framework and EPRs will be monitored by an Independent Environmental Auditor (IEA) and enforced through the contractual requirements for delivery of the Project. It will also be mandated by the terms of the Incorporated Document requiring the Project to be developed in accordance with the Environmental Management Framework and EPRs approved by the Minister for Planning.

29.1 Purpose of the Environmental Management Framework

The requirement for an Environmental Management Framework is prescribed in the EES scoping requirements and is a condition of the draft Incorporated Document proposed as part of the draft planning scheme amendment. Once approved, it will outline the management arrangements for the Project, including:

- Summary of key statutory approvals obtained and their compliance requirements
- Requirements for community consultation, stakeholder engagement and communications during construction, operation and decommissioning
- Minimum environmental outcomes that must be achieved by the Project as stipulated in the EPRs
- Requirements for identification, assessment and management of environmental risks
- Environmental management documentation (including review and approval requirements) as specified by the Incorporated Document, Environmental Management Framework and EPRs to manage environmental risks and impacts through design, construction, operation and decommissioning
- Approaches to evaluating the Principal Contractor's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and other documents in compliance with the Environmental Management Framework and EPRs, including monitoring, auditing and reporting processes.

The development of this Environmental Management Framework, including the EPRs, has been informed by technical reports completed as part of the EES and reflects the requirements of relevant legislation, policies, and guidelines. Section 29.3 highlights the works covered by the Environmental Management Framework, to which the EPRs are specifically related. The Environmental Management Framework and EPRs will be subject to revision in consideration of submissions made on the EES, during the hearing, in response to the report of the Inquiry and Advisory Committee, and the Minister for Planning's Assessment once they are received.

This chapter responds to section 3.7 of the EES scoping requirements which requires the EES to include an Environmental Management Framework that provides:

"a transparent framework with clear accountabilities for managing and monitoring the environmental effects and risks associated with the construction and operational phases."

29.2 Statutory context and approvals

The statutory basis for the Environmental Management Framework is primarily set by the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) (Planning and Environment Act) and Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic) (Environment Protection Act). This section provides an overview of the principal approvals and secondary approvals required for the Project.

29.2.1 Principal approvals

AusNet is responsible for preparing the EES for the Project under the Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic) (Environment Effects Act) and for seeking the following principal approvals:

- Approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- Approval of a GC Planning Scheme Amendment under the Planning and Environment Act which introduces a Specific Controls Overlay and the Incorporated Document into the Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Ballarat, Hepburn, Moorabool and Melton Planning Schemes to facilitate the use and development of the Project Land for the Project
- Approved Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Aboriginal Heritage Act).

AusNet is required to comply with legislation and the conditions of these principal approvals. Contractors engaged on the Project are also required to comply with legislation, the conditions of these principal approvals and to obtain and comply with all other secondary approvals, licences, permits and consents that may be required. Other approvals that may be required for the Project are discussed in **Chapter 3: Legislative framework and approval requirements**.



Incorporated Document

The use and development of land for the purposes of the Project is proposed to be facilitated by the 'Western Renewables Link – Incorporated Document' introduced into the Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Ballarat, Hepburn, Moorabool and Melton Planning Schemes.

Condition 4.8 of the draft Incorporated Document requires the preparation of an Environmental Management Framework for the Project for approval by the Minister for Planning prior to the commencement of development, excluding Preparatory Buildings and Works (as defined in the draft Incorporated Document) and construction of the temporary workforce accommodation facilities. As required by the draft Incorporated Document, the use and development of the Project must be carried out in accordance with the approved Environmental Management Framework and EPRs. The EPRs are discussed further below. In some circumstances an EPR will require AusNet to prepare a further plan or take an action that may need additional consultation or approval prior to commencement of construction.

The draft Incorporated Document enables the Environmental Management Framework to be prepared and approved by the Minister for Planning in stages or parts and amended from time to time to the satisfaction of the Minister.

29.2.2 Secondary approvals

Table 29.1 provides an overview of the key secondary approvals and consents required for the Project to proceed. Conditions of these statutory approvals would be incorporated into and addressed through measures within the CEMP and other strategies and management plans required by this Environmental Management Framework and EPRs. Compliance with approval conditions will be monitored and evaluated as required by the statutory approval authority and as described in Section 29.7.

Legislation	Statutory approval authority	Statutory approval
Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic) (FFG Act)	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)	A permit to take is required to remove threatened flora, threatened flora communities and other protected flora from public land (defined as Crown land or land owned by, or vested in, a public authority). A range of FFG Act-listed flora species are present within the Project Area.
Heavy Vehicle National Law Application Act 2013 (Vic)	National Heavy Vehicle Regulator	Oversize Overmass (OSOM) transport vehicles used to carry large items for the construction of the Project will require an OSOM Permit (for travel on Victorian roads).
Heritage Act 2017 (Vic) (Heritage Act)	Heritage Victoria	A permit is required to interfere with a heritage place or object listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). There are no VHR places or objects identified that will be directly impacted by the Project. A consent is required to interfere with a site listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI) or an 'archaeological site' not listed on the VHI. A small number of VHI places and unlisted archaeological sites may be directly impacted by the Project and will require consent from Heritage Victoria should they not be able to be avoided through micro-siting.

Table 29.1 Summary of key secondary approvals and consents

Legislation	Statutory approval authority	Statutory approval
Rail Management Act 1996 (Vic)	VicTrack	If works to install and/or maintain the transmission line are required within five metres of VicTrack assets, a permit to work will be required.
Road Management Act 2004 (Vic) (Road Management Act)	Transport for Victoria, Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Councils	Consents or agreements are required for any construction or operation activities for the Project that involve works being undertaken in, on, under, or over a road reserve.
Water Act 1989 (Vic) (Water Act)	North Central, Corangamite and Wimmera Catchment Management Authorities	A licence is required to construct, alter, operate, remove or decommission any works on a designated waterway.
Wildlife Act 1975 (Vic) (Wildlife Act)	DEECA	Fauna species indigenous to Victoria are listed as protected under the Wildlife Act. Potential impacts to these species, including needing to relocate species temporarily or permanently, would require authorisation from DEECA.

29.2.3 Environment Protection Act

The Environment Protection Act is the regulatory mechanism within Victoria for protecting human health and the environment from pollution and waste. Responsible authorities are required, under the Planning and Environment Act, to consider environmental protection in decisions, refer certain applications to the EPA Victoria and consider associated orders and regulations, including the Environment Reference Standard.

The Environment Protection Act includes duties relevant to the Project, as detailed in Table 29.2. AusNet and its contractors are responsible for compliance with these duties during each stage of the Project.

Table 29.2 Environment Protection Act duties and obligat
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Legal Requirement	Action
General environmental duty (GED) (s25)	A person who is engaging in an activity that may give rise to risks of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste must minimise those risks, so far as reasonably practicable.
Duty to respond to harm (s31)	If a pollution incident occurs (e.g., leak, spill or other unintended or unauthorised deposit or escape of a substance) and causes or is likely to cause harm to human health or the environment, the person engaging in the activity must, so far as reasonably practicable, restore the environment to its pre-incident state.
Duty to notify of an event (s32-33)	Contact EPA as soon as practicable if a pollution incident occurs and causes or threatens or is likely to cause harm to human health or the environment.
Duty to manage contamination (s39)	The person in management or control of contaminated land (vacant or occupied), including groundwater, must minimise risks of harm to human health and the environment from the contaminated land so far as reasonably practicable.
Duty to notify of certain contamination (s40)	Contact EPA as soon as practicable if the land, including groundwater, is contaminated by notifiable contamination (which includes any of the circumstances set out in the regulations).
Duties relating to industrial waste (s133-137 and Regulation 60-64)	The waste producer must appropriately classify the waste in accordance with the regulations, ensure that the transporter has sufficient information regarding the waste and ensure that the waste is going to a lawful place (a place legally authorised to receive the waste).

Legal Requirement	Action
Duties and controls relating to priority waste (s138-141 and Regulation 65-70)	In addition to the duties applicable to industrial waste, the waste producer must also contain the waste to prevent escape or contamination, isolate the waste to ensure resource recovery remains practicable and provide sufficient information about the waste to the next person in the supply chain so they can meet their duties. All reasonable steps to identify and assess alternatives to waste disposal must be taken. The priority waste must not be mixed, blended or diluted with other wastes to change the classification.
Duties and controls relating to reportable priority waste (s142-143 and Regulation 71- 77)	In addition to the industrial waste and priority waste duties, the waste producer must record and notify transaction details relating to reportable priority waste through EPA's Waste Tracker. The waste producer must also ensure the transporter has appropriate EPA permission to transport the waste.

A systems and risk-based approach was adopted for the EES to assess the impacts of the Project. This approach considered the potential risk and impacts to the environment and human health through detailed assessments of the Project which have informed the development of EPRs to address those impacts through design, construction, operation and decommissioning. The EPRs require AusNet and its contractors to develop an Environmental Management System (EMS) for the construction stage and for AusNet to implement its existing Health, Safety, Environment and Quality (HSEQ) Management System (described in Section 29.7) during construction, operations and decommissioning to monitor and evaluate compliance. Both the construction EMS and EMS within the HSEQ Management System would be certified to AS/NZ ISO 14001. The EMS requires the establishment of systems and processes to identify, assess and control risks of harm to human health and the environment, and environmental duties are continually monitored for compliance, including assessment by an IEA.

The Environmental Management Framework requires that both AusNet and its contractors comply with all their environmental duties under the Environment Protection Act. Compliance with this Environmental Management Framework and the EPRs will form a key component of AusNet and contractor compliance with the General Environmental Duty (GED). The GED is an obligation under the Environment Protection Act that requires anyone engaging in activities that could result in a risk to human health and the environment to undertake actions to avoid or reduce the risk as far as reasonably practicable.

29.2.4 Energy safety

Energy Safe Victoria (Energy Safe) is a statutory body established by the *Energy Safe Victoria Act 2005*, and is Victoria's safety regulator for electricity, gas and renewable energy. Energy Safe monitors and enforces compliance with Victoria's energy safety legislative framework.

The operation of the Project will be governed under the *Electricity Safety Act 1998* (Electricity Safety Act) and subordinate regulations, and as approved by Energy Safe. AusNet has an existing Electrical Safety Management Scheme (ESMS), the scope of which meets the requirements of the Electricity Safety Act, subordinate regulations and the Australian Standard for Electricity Network Safety Management Systems (AS 5577:2013). The ESMS provides an overview of how assets are to be managed over their life cycle to ensure the safety of consumers, the public, AusNet staff and contractors. The Bushfire Mitigation and Vegetation Management plans are key documents and integral to AusNet's ESMS. The ESMS was initially established by AusNet and approved by Energy Safe in 2011. Legislation requires AusNet to submit the ESMS, together with the Bushfire Mitigation and Vegetation Management plans to Energy Safe for review and acceptance every five years. Submissions of revised plans may occur more frequently to reflect changes in the regulations or company practices or when required by Energy Safe. The ESMS and Bushfire Mitigation Plan are due for resubmission in 2029 and the Vegetation Management Plan in 2026.

Another key component of the ESMS is emergency preparedness and response. AusNet has a Strategic Plan for Integrated Response and Contingency System (SPIRACS) to address emergencies. This system provides for effective and timely response to emergency events such as natural events (e.g., bushfires, floods or high winds) leading to the failure of transmission lines, which may affect the operation of the network and the health and safety of personnel or the public.

Further details of the ESMS and associated plans is provided in Section 29.7.2.

29.3 Works covered by the Environmental Management Framework

This Environmental Management Framework covers the delivery of infrastructure for the Project within the Project Land, specifically relating to the construction, operation and decommissioning of the transmission line and terminal stations assessed in the EES. This includes:

- Construction and operation of the 500kV transmission line
- Construction and operation of the new terminal station near the existing Bulgana Terminal Station
- Expansion of the existing Bulgana Terminal Station and connection to the proposed new terminal station via a single circuit 220kV transmission line connection
- Connection works at the Sydenham Terminal Station
- Upgrade of Elaine Terminal Station through the diversion of an existing transmission line
- Protection system upgrades at connected terminal station sites
- Decommissioning of the transmission line and terminal stations.

Further description of the Project and its components to which this Environmental Management Framework applies is provided in **Chapter 6: Project description**.

29.4 Works excluded from the Environmental Management Framework

This Environmental Management Framework and associated EPRs do not apply to the construction the temporary workforce accommodation facilities and Preparatory Buildings and Works as defined in **Chapter 6: Project description**.

The construction of the temporary workforce accommodation facilities is instead managed through conditions of the draft Incorporated Document (Table 29.10). The conditions have been informed by the EES technical reports and include requirements to avoid, minimise and manage impacts through management plans to be approved by the Minister for Planning and implemented by the Principal Contractor.

Preparatory Buildings and Works are not covered by the Environmental Management Framework as these activities do not typically require planning approval and are able to be managed with standard environmental controls. Management plans will however be developed for these works to avoid and minimise environmental impacts from these works. Preparatory Buildings and Works include:

- Site investigations, testing and surveys to determine the suitability of land and inform design
- Establishment of environment and traffic controls, 'no-go' zones and temporary laydown areas
- Management of utility service assets or infrastructure required to facilitate the Project
- Power distribution line crossovers
- Removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation to the minimum extent necessary to enable Preparatory Buildings and Works
- Demolition to the minimum extent necessary to enable Preparatory Buildings and Works
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic heritage management actions required to be undertaken in compliance with the relevant approvals.

Information about the native vegetation clearance associated with Preparatory Buildings and Works and the temporary workforce accommodation facilities in accordance with the relevant application requirements of the Guidelines for removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP, 2017a) must be provided to the satisfaction of the Secretary to DEECA and biodiversity impacts must be offset.

29.5 Roles and responsibilities

This section outlines the roles and responsibilities for environmental management during Project delivery. Roles and responsibilities for preparing, approving and auditing specific management plans and other required documents are set out in Sections 29.7.1 and 29.7.2.

AusNet is responsible for the design, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project, and for obtaining the principal approvals. During construction and decommissioning, there will be multiple principal contractors and sub-contractors involved in the delivery of the different Project components. This EES refers to Principal Contractor as a catch all term for the contractor responsible for the works. AusNet will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Project. AusNet is accountable for delivering the Project and ensuring compliance with the Project's statutory approvals, including compliance with this Environmental Management Framework. In addition, AusNet is responsible for overseeing and engaging contractors and consultants for all aspects of the Project, including site investigations, stakeholder engagement, preparing the EES, procurement, and for the construction and operation stages.

Legally binding contracts between AusNet and the Principal Contractor will require compliance with relevant aspects of the statutory approvals and consents including this Environmental Management Framework and the EPRs. AusNet will engage an Independent Environmental Auditor to review documentation to confirm compliance with the requirements of this Environmental Management Framework, the EPRs and relevant approvals prior to construction, and to undertake audits of construction activities to assess compliance with the CEMP and relevant EPRs. During operation, network safety audits will be completed annually by Energy Safe, and ISO certification audits will be completed regularly by a third-party independent auditor.

The governance framework for the construction and operation of the Project is presented in Figure 29.1 and Figure 29.2 respectively.



Figure 29.1 Governance framework for construction

Electricity Safety Act 1999



Figure 29.2 Governance framework for operation

Further detail on the key roles and responsibilities for environmental management are shown in Table 29.3.

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Organisation	Role	Responsibility
Minister for Planning	Regulator	 Review and approve the Project's Environmental Management Framework (including EPRs), Development Plans and Micro-siting Plans, and any amendments of these documents, as required by the Western Renewables Link draft Incorporated Document Receive six-monthly summary construction audit reports Administer and enforce conditions within the Western Renewables Link draft Incorporated Document.
Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), EPA, councils, Registered Aboriginal Parties, Heritage Victoria, Catchment Management Authorities, water authorities	Regulator	 Administer and enforce statutory approvals and consents Review, comment, engage in development of relevant plans and documents as required by the draft Incorporated Document including the development plans, Environmental Management Framework, and EPRs.

Organisation	Role	Responsibility	
AusNet	Project Proponent	 Fulfill responsibilities and maintain compliance with contractual arrangements with AEMO Obtain and comply with principal approvals including: Planning scheme amendment to the Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Ballarat, Hepburn, Moorabool and Melton Planning Schemes Cultural Heritage Management Plans EPBC Act approval. Finalise the Environmental Management Framework (including EPRs) in response to the relevant matters and recommendations made by the Minister for Planning in relation to the ES Prepare amendments to the Development Plans (if required) for submission to the Minister for Planning for endorsement Review and accept Micro-siting Plans prepared by the Principal Contractor prior to their submission to the Minister for Planning for endorsement Review, accept or approve environmental management documentation, including the CEMP and other plans required by the EPRs Implement and maintain the existing HSEQ Management System that is certified to AS/NZS ISO 14001 for the life of Project Apply and integrate the requirements of the Environmental Management Framework into design drawings, plans and environmental management documentation and systems as necessary Monitor and audit contractors' adherence to contractual requirements Require Corrective and preventative actions to be taken to address non-conformances and audit findings Provide a Project approvals and decommissioning Develop and implement operational Auditor for the design and construction, stages Establish and maintain an environmental Auditor for the design and construction, stages Engage an Independent Environmental Auditor for the EPA in accordance with the Environmental Auditor of the EPA in accordance with the Environmental Auditor of the EPA in accordance with the Environmental	
Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	Independent Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	 Receive and refer complaints from concerned community residents about wind farms, large-scale solar, energy storage facilities and new major transmission projects Promote best practices for industry and government to adopt in regard to the planning and operation of the Project. 	
Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)	Australian Energy Regulator	 Manage the engagement of AusNet to deliver the Project Operate the power system so it remains in a secure operating state and provides a secure, cost-efficient and reliable supply of energy for consumers. 	

Organisation	Role	Responsibility
Energy Safe Victoria (Energy Safe)	Electrical Safety Regulator	 Monitor and enforce compliance with the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and Regulations (and other energy safety legislation including the Gas Safety Act 1997 and Pipelines Act 2005, and supporting Regulations) Conduct annual safety performance audits on AusNet's distribution and transmission business and identify compliance issues. Issues identified through these audits to be provided to AusNet to address and rectify Issue Safety Performance Reports annually and publish on the Energy Safe Victoria website Approve the electrical safety management scheme and safety management plans for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project Oversee bushfire management and vegetation management.
Powercor	Manager of electricity distribution network across the Project Area	• Design and manage works associated with their assets (utility service relocations) for the integration of the Project. These works are classed as Preparatory Buildings and Works (as defined in the draft Incorporated Document).
Principal Contractor	Development, design and construction (as relevant to the scope of the respective Project contract)	 Comply with legislative and approval requirements, including the approved Environmental Management Framework and EPRs Prepare Micro-siting Plans for endorsement by the Minister for Planning Obtain additional permits and approvals required to construct the Project (other than the approvals obtained by AusNet) Develop and implement an EMS, certified to AS/NZS ISO 14001 Arrange for all Project personnel to attend an AusNet Project induction Provide training to Project personnel to address training requirements as specified in EPRs, and about compliance with documents and plans required by Incorporated Document, Environmental Management Framework the EPRs Develop and implement a CEMP in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Management Framework and EPRs Establish and maintain an environmental risk register Undertake regular internal audits to assess compliance with environmental documentation, including the approved CEMP and other documental incident, report to the EPRs Assess and report on compliance with environmental obligations to AusNet and take corrective and preventative action. In the event of an environmental incident, report to the EPA in accordance with the Environmental incident, report to the EPA in accordance with the Environmental incident preventative action. In the event of an environmental incident preventative action. In the event of an environmental incident preventative action and the Environmental management Framework, EPRs, CEMP and other plans required by the EPRs. Review sub-contractors' performance against these plans and take or require corrective action Work with the Independent Environmental Auditor to enable auditing functions to be undertaken and address issues identified by audits in a timely fashion.

Organisation		Responsibility
Independent Environmental Auditor	Independent review, verification and auditing of compliance during construction	 Review the adequacy of and verify that the contractors' environmental management documentation, including the CEMP and other documents comply with the Project contract, including the Environmental Management Framework and EPRs, and conditions of Project approvals Develop an audit plan, including a schedule, and audit scopes to the satisfaction of AusNet Conduct audits of contractors' construction works at agreed intervals to assess compliance with the relevant legislation including Project approvals, Environmental Management Framework, relevant EPRs, CEMP and other plans as required by the EPRs Prepare audit reports containing the results of each audit and provide to AusNet and the contractor Audits must occur prior to and during construction, and for one year after commissioning of the Project or until the Minister for Planning is satisfied the audits by the Independent Environmental Auditor are no longer required Review complaints where they are relevant to potential noncompliance with EPRs Prepare six-monthly summary construction audit reports for the Minister for Planning, including status of non-conformances raised.

29.6 Risk assessment

A preliminary environmental risk register was developed for the Project to serve as a risk screening tool, guiding the scopes of the technical reports for the EES and the development of the EPRs. AusNet and the Principal Contractor will conduct a risk assessment for the Project, based on the EES technical reports and tailored to address the Principal Contractor's design and construction methods. This risk assessment will aid in managing environmental risks and to inform the development of construction and operational environmental management requirements to comply with this Environmental Management Framework. The development of management and mitigation measures to address the risks identified and meet the EPRs will minimise risks to human health and the environment.



Managing environmental risk

Managing environmental risks will be an ongoing process for both AusNet and the Principal Contractor.

A Project environmental risk register will be maintained and reviewed on a regular basis to respond to changes in legislation, design, construction or operational activities, work methods, new technology, or incidents or complaints. The reviews will also seek to confirm effectiveness of management measures throughout Project implementation. The environmental risk register will link risks to relevant EPRs that define the management standards for those risks.

During Project delivery, AusNet will actively review and track environmental risks through its Environmental Aspects and Impacts Register, which is regularly updated and maintained as part of its HSEQ Management System. AusNet's Risk Management Framework complies with the international standard for risk management (AS/NZS ISO11 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines).

29.7 Environmental management documentation

This section provides an overview of the environmental management systems and plans required under this Environmental Management Framework and methods of documentation. It summarises the processes for preparing the systems and plans and who is responsible for preparation and approval.

An overview of the key environmental documentation and their relationships is provided in Figure 29.3.

29.7.1 Environmental Management System

An EMS certified to AS/NZS ISO 14001 will be implemented by AusNet and the Principal Contractor for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project. An EMS for construction will be established before construction activities begin by the Principal Contractor. The construction EMS will include systems and processes to identify, assess and control risks of harm to human health and the environment, comply with obligations and monitor environmental performance. The construction EMS will address organisational level policies, plans, procedures and activities for managing the Project's environmental aspects within each organisation's control or influence. The EMS will also enable AusNet and its Principal contractors to demonstrate compliance with the GED.

Additionally, AusNet has a HSEQ Management System in place, which will apply for all stages of the Project life. The HSEQ Management System covers the management (and all works associated) of energy delivery for AusNet's gas and electricity transmission and distribution networks. It provides a framework for AusNet's Health, Safety, Environment and Quality Policy and supporting processes, certified to Australian and international standards, including ISO45001:2018 - Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems, ISO9001:2015 – Quality Management Systems, and ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems. AusNet continuously review and improve the HSEQ Management System.

The HSEQ Management System includes contractor requirements which must be complied with and implemented for the effective control of hazards and risks. All contractors have a contractual obligation to adhere to all HSEQ legislative requirements and industry codes/standards in addition to AusNet's requirements. AusNet requires that all contractors are inducted on AusNet HSEQ requirements and monitors and assessed contractor performance through regular performance reviews.

29.7.2 Environmental management documents

In addition to the EMS, environmental management documents must be prepared to describe the specific processes, procedures and management and mitigation measures that will be implemented to manage the environmental effects of the Project and comply with Project approvals. The three levels of environmental management documents required for the Project are described in Table 29.4. Table 29.5 provides a summary of the Project's key environmental management documents and the review and approval requirements. The IEA will be engaged to review all management plans and strategies required by the EPRs to verify compliance with the EPRs prior to their implementation.

In addition to the environmental management documentation listed in Table 29.5, AusNet will be responsible for meeting the Project's offset requirements in accordance with the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP, 2017a) as required by the draft Incorporated Document. The Project's EPBC Act offset requirements will be achieved in accordance with the EPBC Act approval (if granted) and DCCEEW policy. The required management of each offset site will be detailed in a site-specific offset management plan. The offset related documentation will require review by and consultation with DEECA and/or DCCEEW.

Table 29.4 Overview of environmental management	documentation requirements
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Level	Owner	Purpose	Key Documentation
Strategic	AusNet	To set the strategic direction and governance of the Project that must be followed through construction, operation and decommissioning	 Environmental Management Framework with EPRs Development Plans
Management of Project-wide impacts (construction and decommissioning)	Contractors	To guide specific programs or works to manage potential impacts on the wider community and environment	 Construction Environmental Management Plan Micro-siting Plans Construction emergency management plan Decommissioning Management Plan Plans to comply with EPRs
Management of Project wide impacts (operation)	AusNet	To guide specific programs or works to manage potential impacts on the wider community and environment	 AusNet's Electrical Safety Management Scheme (ESMS) AusNet's HSEQ Management System



Figure 29.3 Key environmental management documentation

Table 29.5 Environmental management documentation - review and approval requirements

Documentation	Description	Prepare	Review/Verify	Type of Approval
Environmental Management Framework Environmental Performance Requirements	This Environmental Management Framework and the EPRs provide the governance framework and required environmental outcomes for design, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project. The Environmental Management Framework and EPRs will be updated in response to the relevant matters and recommendations contained in the Minister for Planning's Assessment of the EES and be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.	AusNet	Review: DTP	Minister for Planning (approve)
Development Plans	AusNet will be required to prepare and obtain approval of Development Plans for specified Project works, as required by the draft Incorporated Document. The Principal Contractor will input to the Development Plans.	AusNet with input from Principal Contractor	Review and verify: AusNet	Minister for Planning (approve)
Micro-siting Plans	The Principal Contractor may be required to prepare and obtain approval of Micro- siting Plans identifying the footprint at ground level of any transmission tower and stringing pad that requires micro-siting.	Principal Contractor	Review and verify: AusNet, Independent Environmental Auditor	Minister for Planning (approve)
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	Contractors must prepare a CEMP(s) in accordance with the draft Incorporated Document and applicable EPRs. The CEMP(s), and any sub-plans as required by the EPRs, must outline the requirements to manage the environmental impacts associated with construction in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy. The scope and consultation requirements for the CEMP(s) are captured in the applicable EPRs (see Table 29.9). Relevant works must not start until the CEMP and any sub-plans have been reviewed and verified by the Independent Environmental Auditor and accepted by AusNet. The CEMP must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Management Framework, EPRs and the draft Incorporated Document, with reference to best practice and EPA Publication 1834.1, Civil construction, building and demolition guide. The CEMP must include details as required by EPR EM2.	Principal Contractor	Review: AusNet Review and verify: Independent Environmental Auditor	AusNet (accept)
Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan (CSEMP)	A CSEMP must be developed in accordance with EPR EM5 to guide communication and engagement activities during construction to facilitate the timely and accurate provision of information. The CSEMP will address matters required by other EPRs, such as a process and procedure for recording, managing, and resolving complaints received regarding the Project. The CSEMP will be developed in accordance with the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), discussed in Chapter 7: Community and stakeholder engagement .	AusNet	Review and verify: Independent Environmental Auditor	AusNet

Documentation	Description	Prepare	Review/Verify	Type of Approval
Property Access and Management Plan (PAMP)	An overarching PAMP must be developed detailing the process and procedures to be followed to access landholder's property for investigations and construction. The PAMP must include details as required by EPR EM3.	Principal Contractor	Review and verify: Independent Environmental Auditor	AusNet
ESMS	As the operator of Western Renewables Link, AusNet will operate the transmission assets under the existing ESMS. The ESMS is an integration of enterprise-wide policies, procedures, systems and standards that comply with the requirements of Division 2 of the Electricity Safety Act 1998, subordinate regulations and the Australian Standard for Electricity Network Safety Management Systems (AS 5577:2013). The purpose of the ESMS is to describe the assets forming AusNet's electricity transmission network, their location and the associated planning, design, construction, commissioning, operation, augmentation, inspection, testing, maintenance, refurbishment, replacement and decommissioning processes necessary to provide for the safety of consumers, the public, AusNet staff and contractors. It explains how AusNet protects: • The public and persons working on or near the network • Property and network assets • The community from bushfires ignited by the electricity network • The community from safety aspects arising from the loss of electricity supply. AusNet are required by Energy Safe Victoria to deliver a safety risk assessment as part of the ESMS to apply to any new transmission line, ensuring safety management systems are appropriate. The assessment must confirm the proposed safety management system mitigates bushfire risk as far as practicable and is appropriate for the design of the new transmission line.	AusNet	Review: AusNet, Energy Safe Victoria	Energy Safe Victoria (accept)
Bushfire Mitigation Plan – Electricity Transmission Network (BFM 10-02)	The Bushfire Mitigation Plan describes AusNet's preventative strategies, procedures and processes used to monitor, investigate, report, analyse and implement programs to mitigate the risk of fire ignition associated with its supply networks. As the owner and operator of electrical assets, AusNet is required under the <i>Electricity</i> <i>Safety Act</i> to provide a Plan (five-yearly), including requirements set out in the Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations (2023), for review and acceptance by Energy Safe Victoria. AusNet reviews the Bushfire Mitigation Plan internally on an annual basis to provide an objective and robust framework for its continued development, including the adoption of emerging technologies and innovative ideas. AusNet recently resubmitted its Bushfire Mitigation Plan to Energy Safe Victoria for review and acceptance in September 2024. AusNet will be required to review and update the existing Plan to reflect the extension of the transmission network due to the Project and confirm the proposed safety management system mitigates the risk of bushfire as far as practicable.	AusNet	Review: Energy Safe Victoria	Energy Safe Victoria (accept)

Documentation	Description	Prepare	Review/Verify	Type of Approval
Vegetation Management Plan – Transmission (BFM10- 06)	The Vegetation Management Plan guides transmission line and easement vegetation management practices in conformance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 and the Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance. It also addresses monitoring and auditing of implementation and training requirements for personnel involved in vegetation management. The Plan is reviewed internally and submitted to Energy Safe Victoria for review and acceptance. The existing Plan (for the period 2021 to 2026) was approved by Energy Safe Victoria in 2021 and is therefore due for resubmission in 2026. AusNet will be required to review and update the existing Plan to reflect the extension of the transmission network due to the Project.	AusNet	Review: AusNet, Energy Safe Victoria	Energy Safe Victoria (accept)
Other plans required by the EPRs (for construction)	The EPRs (Section 29.9) set out requirements for AusNet and contractors to prepare relevant management plans to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts. Assessments and plans required under these EPRs must be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced personnel and verified as adequate and compliant with the EPRs by the Independent Environmental Auditor (for construction). The management plans required by these EPRs may be included as part of the CEMP rather than as standalone plans.	AusNet and Principal Contractor	Review: AusNet Review and verify: Independent Environmental Auditor	AusNet (accept)
Other plans required by the EPRs (for operation and decommissioning)	The EPRs (Section 29.9) set out requirements for AusNet and contractors to prepare relevant management plans to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts. This includes a Decommissioning Management Plan (EPR EM11). The management plans required by these EPRs will be included as part of AusNet's Transmission ESMS, and HSEQ Management System that is certified to AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016. Assessment and plans required under these EPRs must be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced personnel and verified as adequate and compliant with the EPRs by AusNet.	AusNet and Principal Contractor	Review: AusNet	AusNet (accept)

29.7.3 Timing for the preparation of environmental documents

Documents and plans required by the EPRs may:

- Be prepared, verified and accepted in stages
- Be developed for individual locations at which works or activities are proposed
- Be developed for individual locations at which works or activities are proposed in accordance with relevant approval conditions.

EPRs specify the stage of the Project and the specific location or Project component at which documents and plans are required to be implemented. This requires that the documents and plans be accepted or approved prior to the commencement of the stage of works (e.g., design, construction, operation or decommissioning) for the nominated locations or Project components. Where these documents and plans require review by the relevant Regulator as detailed in the EPRs, they may be provided in a staged approach with consolidation of edits and proposed changes where practicable to maximise efficiency.

29.7.4 Change management

This section outlines the process for managing changes to Project design and the environmental management documentation following receipt of approvals from the Minister for Planning.

Design change management

The EES technical reports assessed the impacts of a proposed Project design and proposed construction methods within the Project Area and considered potential measures to avoid and minimise environmental impacts so far as reasonably practicable. Each technical report used these potential measures to inform the development of EPRs. As discussed in Section 29.9, EPRs set out the environmental outcomes to be achieved through the implementation of mitigation measures and do not prescribe the manner in which the EPRs must be achieved. This performance-based approach seeks to encourage innovation from the Principal Contractor in Project delivery. Some EPRs also include more prescriptive measures that must be implemented.

The Principal Contractor will develop a design to comply with the Project's functional requirements and approvals. The Principal Contractor will be responsible for determining the specific measures to be implemented to comply with the EPRs and deliver the Project generally in accordance with the endorsed Development Plans and, if required, Micro-siting Plans.

The final design, construction areas, access tracks and construction method adopted by the Principal Contractor must comply with EPRs developed through the EES process and be located within the Project Land identified in the Incorporated Document within the Specific Controls Overlay (SCO). The final design will be shown in Development Plans and, where required, Micro-siting Plans to be endorsed by the Minister for Planning in accordance with the Incorporated Document.

Project design or construction method changes may arise following receipt of Project approvals due to matters such as:

- Findings of pre-construction surveys required by the EPRs (e.g., geotechnical investigations (EPR GSL1), targeted flora surveys (EPR BD1)) and any additional survey completed for land parcels or areas not previously surveyed
- Outcomes of ongoing landholder engagement
- Identification of opportunities to avoid or minimise impacts in accordance with the EPRs
- Unexpected finds during construction.

AusNet and the Principal Contractor will assess all proposed changes for compliance with the EPRs and to confirm the change does not introduce additional or greater environmental, social or cultural heritage impacts to that considered in the EES. To be compliant with the EPRs, the proposed change must meet the performance outcome and any more prescriptive measures of the EPR which together intend to avoid and mitigate identified impacts and the risk of harm to human health and the environment so far as reasonably practicable. If a change is proposed in an area not previously surveyed, then additional investigation would be undertaken to inform an investigation of potential impacts. This may involve technical specialist advice and/or investigation as required depending on the level of complexity and risk.

Table 29.6 summarises the change management process which varies depending on the nature of the change to the design. Changes that are generally in accordance with the endorsed Development Plan, compliant with the EPRs and do not introduce any new or greater impacts than assessed in the EES can be implemented. If the change does not meet these criteria, approval must be sought from the Minister for Planning. Where the change meets the definition of micro-siting a Micro-siting Plan will be prepared and submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval. If the change does not meet the definition of micro-siting, a Development Plan amendment will be prepared and submitted to the Minister for Planna to the submission of Micro-siting Plans and Development Plan amendments may be staged, where practicable. A report will be prepared and submitted with the Micro-siting Plans and Development Plan amendments may be staged, where practicable. A report will detail the reason for the design change, how EPRs will be complied with and how the change aligns with the EES impact assessments.

Relevant approvals will be sought if a change is proposed outside of the SCO. A flow chart summary of the design change management process is provided in Figure 29.4.

As part of the Environmental Management Framework, the Independent Environmental Auditor will review and verify the process for design change management and will audit the associated documentation during its compliance audits (see Section 29.8.5).

Table 29.6 Change management process summary

Type of change	Process
 Change within the Project Land that is: Generally in accordance with the endorsed Development Plan Does not introduce additional or greater impacts compared to that considered in the EES Compliant with the EPRs 	 Change assessed for compliance with the EPRs and alignment with the EES impact assessments Change can be implemented
 Change within the Project Land that is: Not generally in accordance with the endorsed Development Plan Considered micro-siting of towers and stringing pads as defined by the Incorporated Document 	 Change assessed for compliance with the EPRs and alignment with the EES impact assessments Additional investigation if the change is proposed in an area not previously surveyed Change incorporated in a Micro-siting Plan Approval of the Micro-siting Plan to be sought from the Minister for Planning. If provided, the change can then be implemented
 Change within the Project Land that is: Not generally in accordance with the endorsed Development Plan Not considered micro-siting as defined by the Incorporated Document 	 Change assessed for compliance with the EPRs and alignment with the EES impact assessments Additional investigation if the change is proposed in an area not previously surveyed Consultation with relevant landholders, councils and government agencies where such consultation is considered relevant and necessary Change incorporated into amended Development Plan Approval of the amended Plan to be sought from the Minister for Planning. If provided, the change can then be implemented
Change outside the SCO	Relevant approvals will be sought

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Figure 29.4 Change management process flow chart

Document change management

Revisions to the Environmental Management Framework, EPRs and associated environmental management documents may be required during the delivery of the Project. The changes could be due to changes in design and work practices, monitoring results, legislation, risks, or to facilitate continual improvement driven by audit results, incidents, complaints and other compliance obligations. Table 29.5 provides the review and approval requirements for the key environmental management documents.

Proposed revisions to the Environmental Management Framework and EPRs will be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Proposed revisions to the CEMP and other plans required by the EPRs for construction will be subject to review, verification and acceptance by AusNet prior to the relevant works commencing. The Independent Environmental Auditor will also review and verify major revisions to these documents prior to works commencing. Review or approval of these documents by regulators will only be required where expressly stated in Project approvals or required by law.

Where a major revision is proposed to a document which was produced following consultation in accordance with an EPR, further consultation may be required prior to verification or acceptance. Environmental management documentation for the operational stage follows revision processes set out in those documents and as required by the relevant approving authority.

AusNet's HSEQ Management System and the Principal Contractor's construction EMS will also require that plans are regularly reviewed and updated, as required by ISO14001. The CEMP and other plans (as listed in Table 29.5 or required by EPRs) will specify minimum review periods and outline the process for managing, reviewing, and seeking approval of revisions. This revision process is to be to the satisfaction of the approver or accepting authority identified in Table 29.5.

29.8 Evaluating environmental compliance



Minor revision:

- Changes to clarify or improve environmental management practices, to add new obligations and associated controls, or minor change of work practices onsite
- No increase in, or introduction of, new environmental risks or reduction of obligations.

Major revision:

- Changes to role and responsibilities
- Significant changes to environmental management practices on site, work methods or scope that result in increased or new environmental risks
- Changes to the location of native vegetation or listed species or communities impacted by the Project
- Changes to approved monitoring programs.

This section outlines the requirements for monitoring, contingency measures to respond to unexpected but foreseeable environmental risks, responding to environmental incidents and emergencies, management of complaints, auditing and reporting compliance with the Environmental Management Framework and EPRs. AusNet, contractors (the Principal Contractor and any sub-contractors that may be engaged) and the Independent Environmental Auditor each have responsibilities for evaluating environmental compliance.

29.8.1 Monitoring

A range of monitoring and inspection requirements are specified in the draft Incorporated Document and EPRs for construction and operation stages. The parameters and indicators to be monitored, frequency of monitoring and triggers for corrective actions will be developed as part of the CEMP and other management plans outlined in the Environmental Management Framework and EPRs. The monitoring programs will reflect regulatory requirements and the level of potential risk to the environment. Monitoring will include periodic inspections of construction works areas and assets constructed. Reviews of monitoring requirements will be undertaken as part of management plan reviews or as required by EPRs. The plans will specify minimum review periods and seek to verify that:

- The monitoring frequency is sufficient to identify any significant non-conformances with the EPRs, Incorporated Document or plans that have occurred
- The range of parameters being monitored is adequate (this is particularly when an activity has led to an incident or complaint)
- Any changes to programmed construction activities are adequately covered by the monitoring programs
- Any proposed modifications to monitoring programs will be submitted to AusNet for approval prior to being implemented.

The Principal Contractor will be responsible for the ongoing management of baseline and monitoring data to provide transparency and accountability of environmental management. AusNet will be responsible for checking that baseline and other monitoring data meets requirements, including storing of monitoring datasets electronically.

Monitoring and inspection requirements are captured as EPRs and have been summarised in Table 29.7. These requirements and nominated reporting mechanisms will be further defined in the CEMP and other management plans, including post construction monitoring timeframes.

Monitoring and inspection requirements for the operation of the Project are set out in existing operational managements systems and plans for example the ESMS, Bushfire Mitigation Plan and Vegetation Management Plan. Additional Project-specific monitoring requirements from the EPRs and approval conditions will be set out in the HSEQ Management System.

AusNet and the contractors will monitor the effectiveness of the Environmental Management Framework to identify opportunities for continuous improvement. AusNet will contact relevant statutory authorities to report incidents identified during monitoring as required by legislation.

EPR	Monitoring	Project stage(s)	Assigned responsibility	Objective(s)
EM2	Monitor performance against the CEMP and other plans required by the EPRs	Construction	Principal Contractor	To monitor compliance with the requirements and mitigations included in the CEMP and other management plans
EM5	Monitor the effectiveness and responsiveness of communications and engagement as required by the CSEMP	Construction	AusNet	To provide a measure of the effectiveness of communication and engagement activities as outlined by the CSEMP To verify community complaints are appropriately captured and responded to
EM6	Monitor fire weather conditions and bushfire emergency warnings as required by the CEMP	Construction	Principal Contractor	To provide early warning of severe weather conditions and allow contingency measures to be put in place
EM8	Monitor the presence of high-threat pest species within the Project Area as required by the Biosecurity Management Plan	Design, Construction, Operation	Principal Contractor, AusNet	To identify areas where control measures are required to control populations of high-threat pest species
EM8	Monitor performance against the policies and/or procedures for biosecurity breach detection as required by the Biosecurity Management Plan	Construction Operation	Principal Contractor	To monitor compliance with the requirements and mitigations included in the biosecurity breach detection policies and/or procedures
EM9	Review and audit the implementation of the CEMP, CSEMP, other plans required by the EPRs, duties under the EP Act, and relevant environmental approvals and permits	Construction	Independent Environmental Auditor	To provide the Minister for Planning an independent review of Project performance against the EPRs and other environmental requirements. Summary reports will be provided on a six-monthly basis prior to and during construction and for one year after commissioning of the Project, or until the Minister for Planning is satisfied that they are no longer required
ACH1	Implement any required monitoring programs, as required by the CHMPs (once approved)	Construction, Operation	Principal Contractor, AusNet	To verify compliance with the requirements and mitigations included within each CHMP
AQ1	Monitor the emission of dust, exhaust emissions, fumes, odour and other pollution, as required by the Air Quality Management Plan	Construction	Principal Contractor	To provide a measure of the effectiveness of control measures
BD2	Post construction monitoring of native vegetation and threatened flora, works associated with revegetation and remediation and weed management, as required by the Vegetation Management Plan	Construction	Principal Contractor	To minimise impacts to threatened flora, threatened ecological communities, and native vegetation To verify appropriate measures are implemented to manage the risk and spread of weeds

Table 29.7 Proposed monitoring (including inspection) programs as required by EPRs

EPR	Monitoring	Project stage(s)	Assigned responsibility	Objective(s)
BD4	Post construction monitoring as required by the Threatened Fauna Management Plan	Construction	Principal Contractor	To confirm compliance with management plans to demonstrate impacts have been managed To determine the effectiveness of installed habitat (e.g., salvaged hollows, artificial hollows, nest boxes) and connectivity measures (e.g., glider poles and rope-bridges)
BD5	Post construction monitoring of bird and bat carcasses that occur as a result of collision with Project infrastructure as required by the Collision Risk Management Plan	Construction, Operation	Principal Contractor	To assess success of mitigation measures applied and to identify any further areas of collision concern, that require mitigation measures to be applied
BD7	Monitor the ongoing presence of threatened flora species, quality and extent of threatened ecological communities and weed presence and density within areas of native vegetation along the easement as required by the Operational Vegetation and Habitat Management Plan	Operation	Principal Contractor	To minimise impacts to threatened flora, threatened ecological communities, and native vegetation To verify appropriate measures are implemented to manage the risk and spread of weeds
CL3	Monitor and characterise spoil as required by the Spoil Management Plan	Construction	Principal Contractor	To determine the appropriate re-use options or off-site disposal To verify spoil is stored, handled, and re-used or disposed of in accordance with the Spoil Management Plan
GSL3	Inspect Project construction sites for land stability and erosion issues as required by the CEMP and AusNet's operational procedures	Construction Operation	Principal Contractor, AusNet	To inform adaptive management and any measures required to maintain the integrity of infrastructure during and post construction
GW1	Monitor groundwater on a site-specific basis where planned below ground works are within buffers to groundwater receptors specified in EPR GW1 and a groundwater risk assessment identifies potential for a physical impact, as required by the Groundwater Management Plan	Construction	Principal Contractor	To minimise potential for direct physical impact on groundwater receptors and beneficial uses of groundwater
GW2	Monitor groundwater dewatering as required by the site- specific field monitoring program as per the Groundwater Management Plan	Construction	Principal Contractor	To inform the management of potential changes to groundwater level and quality and develop site-specific mitigation strategies to prevent adverse outcomes
ННЗ	Implement any required monitoring programs, as required by <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> consents and permits	Construction	Principal Contractor	To verify compliance with the requirements and mitigations included within each consent or permit
NV1	Monitor noise and vibration associated with construction, as appropriate and with respect to reference levels as required by the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Construction	Principal Contractor	To validate predictions and assess the effectiveness of management measures To verify noise predictions for Unavoidable Works and Managed-Impact Works

EPR	Monitoring	Project stage(s)	Assigned responsibility	Objective(s)
NV2	Monitor noise and vibration during Unavoidable Works and Managed-Impact Works as required by the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Construction	Principal Contractor	To confirm predicted levels and that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented
NV5	Undertake commissioning noise monitoring at the upgraded Bulgana Terminal Station, the new 500kV terminal station near Bulgana and connection into Sydenham Terminal Station as required by the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Commissioning	Principal Contractor	To assess noise levels with respect to the EPRs and implement contingency requirements if these are not met
SC3	Monitor the level of participation of local workers and businesses in the Project in accordance with the plan developed as per EPR SC3	Construction	Principal Contractor, AusNet	To verify the maximisation of employment and business opportunities for residents and businesses in surrounding communities to participate in the Project
SW1	Monitor surface water quality on a site-specific basis where construction works are within the setback distances to waterways as specified in EPR SW1, as required by the Surface Water Management Plan	Design Construction	Principal Contractor	To provide a measure of the effectiveness of mitigation measures
SW3	Monitor surface water quality at designated waterways likely to be directly impacted by Project activities as required by the Surface Water Management Plan	Design Construction	Principal Contractor	To establish baseline conditions, detect water quality impacts and identify required actions
SG1	Monitor the process of achieving sustainability targets as required by the Sustainability Management Plan	Design Construction Operation	Principal Contractor	To verify achievement of target reductions for greenhouse gas emissions from materials and energy consumption
SG2	Monitor the energy and carbon use during construction of the Project as required by the Sustainability Management Plan	Construction	Principal Contractor	To verify the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from materials and energy consumption as far as practicable
T2	Monitor road conditions on any council managed roads that are used by heavy vehicles during construction of the Project as required by the Traffic Management Plans	Design Construction	Principal Contractor, AusNet	To understand road use and potential impacts and provide insight to local Councils and the relevant transportation authorities
T2	Undertake dilapidation surveys to identify roads that are degraded or damaged due to use by Project traffic as required by the Traffic Management Plans	Design Construction	Principal Contractor, AusNet	To enable any adverse impacts of the construction traffic to be identified and measures taken to restore roads to previous condition

29.8.2 Contingency measures

AusNet and the Principal Contractor will have contingency measures to respond to unexpected but foreseeable environmental risks, should they eventuate during construction, operation and decommissioning. Contingency measures will be contained within plans required by the EPRs and in some cases contingency measures are specified within EPRs.

Events for which contingency measures will be developed and implemented include, but not limited to:

- The discovery of previously unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage or historic heritage objects or places
- Hazardous chemicals, fuel or waste spills
- Surface water incidents such as leaks and spills or un-authorised discharges
- Identification of the spread of declared noxious and environmental weeds (EPR EM8 requires contingency measures to be developed and implemented for controlling the introduction and/or spread of declared noxious and environmental weeds to, within and from the Project Area)
- Emergency shutdown of abnormal operation conditions
- Encountering unexpected threatened fauna species during construction
- The discovery of unexpected contaminated soil or groundwater identified during earthworks (EPR CL3 requires a Contingency and Unexpected Finds Plan to be developed and implemented prior to construction commencing should unexpected, contaminated soil or groundwater be identified during earthworks)
- Monitoring results indicate outcomes are not as expected.

Contingency measures within the plans required by the EPRs will be developed to comply with relevant regulations, guidelines, standards and good industry practice. Contingency measures may also include changes to or implementation of additional mitigation measures to manage impacts.

29.8.3 Environmental incidents and emergencies

An environmental incident includes any action that has the potential to result in an unplanned environmental impact, including:

- Damage to native vegetation or protected flora or fauna habitat
- Damage to Aboriginal or historical heritage sites
- Injury or death of fauna
- Oil, chemical, fuel or other contaminant spillages
- Fires/explosions
- Introduction of weeds/quarantine issues
- Uncontrolled discharge (water or sediment)
- Environmental complaints from the public (including landholders).

AusNet will be responsible for implementing incident and emergency response procedures in the event of unexpected environmental events should they arise during construction, operation or decommissioning. AusNet will take the lead on incident and emergency response in accordance with AusNet's integrated HSEQ Management System and the Incident Management procedure to facilitate an efficient and effective response and investigation process. During the construction stage, this process will be coordinated by the Principal Contractor. All environment incidents, hazards and near misses reported to AusNet will be entered into their risk, incident, compliance, audit and action management system to facilitate adequate management and control. The overall objective of reporting is to identify and mitigate risk, in order to avoid a recurrence of the event.

The following environmental event definitions apply:

- Hazard any situation with the potential to cause harm to a sensitive receiver, equipment, property or the environment or a combination of these
- Near Miss an incident that does not result in any property damage, environmental damage or other loss but had the potential to do so
- Incident an undesired event that causes property damage or environmental damage.

Incidents, including pollution events that cause or threaten to cause material harm to the environment or human health as required under the Environment Protection Act and any other emergencies will also be reported where required to other relevant agencies such as emergency services, EPA Victoria, DCCEEW, DEECA, Heritage Victoria, First Peoples – State Relations, catchment management authorities, water authorities, and councils.

The Principal Contractor will be required to develop and implement a construction emergency management plan, as required by EPR EM6 consistent with AusNet requirements as detailed above. The construction emergency management plan will be developed prior to construction commencing.

29.8.4 Complaints management

Complaints received by the community or other stakeholders regarding environmental, social or cultural heritage issues related to construction, operation or decommissioning of the Project will be investigated by AusNet and/or the Principal Contractor. Complainant will be responded to within two working days, and the aim is to resolve a complaint within ten working days.

Where a resolution cannot be reached within ten working days, the complainant will be kept informed of the progress being made in handling the complaint and a revised timeframe advised.

Landholders will be able to lodge a complaint or feedback directly with their dedicated Land Liaison Officer.

EPR EM7 requires the development and implementation of a Complaints Management System at the commencement of the construction stage. The system will require processes covering the following matters:

- Recording of complaints regarding environmental performance
- Investigation processes and responsibilities, including close out processes and timeframes
- Engagement with the Australian Independent Energy Commissioner as needed to support and advise in addressing community concerns
- Reporting and escalation requirements
- Closing out the complaint.

29.8.5 Auditing

Independent Environmental Auditor audits

External audits will be conducted to monitor environmental performance of construction activities to assess compliance with the Project's environmental obligations, including this Environmental Management Framework and EPRs. These audits will be undertaken by an Independent Environmental Auditor appointed by AusNet, as set out in EPR EM9.

The Independent Environmental Auditor will be comprised of a body of professionals with appropriate qualifications and expertise to allow the roles specified for the Independent Environmental Auditor to be properly carried out.

The Independent Environmental Auditor must develop an audit plan to conduct regular audits of contractors' compliance with the Environmental Management Framework, EPRs, CEMP and any other plans required by the EPRs, and conditions of Project approvals is to the satisfaction AusNet.

Audits must occur prior to and during construction and for one year after commissioning of the Project, or as otherwise agreed with the Minister for Planning. The Environmental Management Framework and EPR compliance audits are to be conducted on a six-monthly basis, adopting a risk-based approach where compliance with all EPRs is audited at least once every 12-months and higher risk activities at higher frequencies. Audits must include a combination of documentation review as well as site inspections. For each audit a respective report must be prepared and provided to AusNet and the Principal Contractor.

In addition, routine performance audits of active Project work sites are proposed on a quarterly basis at a staggered frequency to the Environmental Management Framework and EPR compliance audits to:

- Observe Project activities and conduct interviews with staff
- Review documents and records
- Review environmental monitoring results
- Review work method statements, site plans and operating procedures
- Review incidents and complaints where they are relevant to potential non-compliance with EPRs
- Review of other documents relevant to assessment compliance with the Environmental Management Framework, EPRs, CEMP and any other plans required by the EPRs.

Considering the report findings, contractors must take corrective and preventative actions to address non-conformances and, where required by AusNet, other audit findings.

Audit requirements for Independent Environmental Auditor are presented in Table 29.8.

Table 29.8 Independent Environmental Auditor requirements, frequency, and roles/responsibilities

			Role/Responsibility			
Audit	Scope	Frequency	AusNet	Principal Contractor	Independent Environmental Auditor	
Environmental Management Framework and EPR compliance audit by IEA	Contractor's compliance with the Environmental Management Framework, EPRs, CEMP and any other plans required by the EPRs	Prior to construction commencing, then six- monthly thereafter	Engage Independent Environmental Auditor Participate in audits	Participate in audits	Plan and lead the audits	
Routine environmental performance audits	Environmental audits of active Project work sites and rehabilitated sites	Quarterly (staggered with the Environmental management Framework and EPR compliance audits), starting 3 months from commencement of works	Engage Independent Environmental Auditor Participate in audits	Participate in audits	Plan and lead the audits	

Energy Safe Victoria audits

Energy Safe Victoria regularly conducts both systems (office based) audits and outcomes (field based) audits to review AusNet's compliance with its ESMS, Bushfire Mitigation Plan and Vegetation Management Plan, ensuring processes and work practice are being carried out as documented in those documents and in accordance with the requirements stated in the Electricity Safety Act. If a compliance issue is identified by Energy Safe Victoria it is communicated to AusNet to address and rectify. Energy Safe Victoria prepare annual Safety Performance Reports on Victorian electricity networks and publish the reports on their website.

Certification audits

AusNet maintains quality assurance over its HSEQ Management System through certification to ISO45001-- Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems, ISO9001 – Quality Management Systems, and ISO14001 – Environmental Management System.

Certification for these management systems is maintained through a program of regular conformance audits by an independent and accredited service provider, BSI Group. A re-certification audit is undertaken every three years, followed by two years of annual surveillance audits before the next recertification.

Internal audits

Internal audits must be conducted throughout construction, operation and decommissioning by AusNet and Principal contractors to evaluate compliance with the Environmental Management Framework and EPRs.

Internal audits must be planned in accordance with an audit schedule and audit scope to assess environmental performance and effectiveness of management measures and monitoring programs. This includes assessment of:

- Compliance with the Environmental Management Framework, CEMP, and any other plans required by the EPRs
- Compliance with the EPRs
- Legislative compliance, including with approval conditions
- Responses to non-compliances, incidents, and complaints received
- Effectiveness and implementation of management measures and monitoring programs.

Compliance can be assessed through observation of Project activities, interviews and review of records.

29.8.6 Reporting

AusNet and its contractors will be responsible for reporting compliance with the CEMP, other plans (as listed in Table 29.5 or required by EPRs) and conditions of Project approvals to regulators.

For the construction stage, the CEMP will describe the reporting requirements, including what needs to be reported and to whom, and the timeframe for reporting.

Contractors will be required to prepare monthly environmental performance reports for submission to AusNet. Reporting requirements depend upon the terms of the statutory approvals and will include:

- Project status report, comprising summary of key Project activities within the month and planned works
- Internal and external audit findings, including non-conformances and corrective and preventative actions taken
- Monitoring results
- Complaints register, including status of investigations
- Environmental incidents and status of investigations and follow up actions
- Proposed changes to environmental management documents or plans
- Copies of application for consents, licences and approvals
- Summary of consultation with and notifications to government agencies, regulatory authorities or other stakeholders, such as:
 - Notification to EPA Victoria as required by the Environment Protection Act of environmental incidents
 - Notification to First Peoples State Relations or the Registered Aboriginal Party as relevant and DTP if a potential Aboriginal cultural heritage site or artefact is identified
 - Notification to Heritage Victoria and DTP if a historical heritage artefact is discovered.

As described in Section 29.8.5 for each audit conducted by the Independent Environmental Auditor, a respective report must be prepared and provided to AusNet and the Principal Contractor. AusNet will also be required to provide six-monthly summary construction audit reports to the Minister for Planning summarising the outcomes of audits conducted by the Independent Environmental Auditor in the reporting timeframe and the Project's compliance with Project approvals. Following acceptance by the Minister, AusNet will make these reports publicly available.

As described in Section 29.8.3, notifications and reporting of environmental incidents will occur in accordance with AusNet existing procedures, including reporting of pollution events to EPA Victoria.

29.9 Environmental Performance Requirements and conditions of the draft Incorporated Document

This section summarises the rationale and approach in preparing the EPRs for the Project. The proposed EPRs are provided in Table 29.9. Requirements relevant to the management of bushfire risk and the workforce accommodation facilities that informed the conditions of the draft Incorporated Document are provided in Table 29.10.

The EES adopted a systems and risk-based approach to inform the scope of the impact assessments and to focus the study effort for each environmental discipline. The impact assessment approach considered the potential impacts to the environment and human health through the initial identification of existing conditions, followed by detailed impact assessments of the Project. This has informed the development of the Project design and the proposed EPRs to be implemented during construction, operation and decommissioning.

The EPRs are intended to address the potential impacts identified in the EES so that the risks to human health and the environment are avoided or minimised to the extent reasonably practicable. The EPRs set out the environmental outcomes to be achieved through the implementation of mitigation measures during construction, operation and decommissioning. While some EPRs are performance based to allow flexibility in how they will be achieved other EPRs include more prescriptive measures that must be implemented. Compliance with the EPRs will be required as a condition of the Project's approval.

The Principal Contractor will be responsible for determining the specific mitigation and management measures to be implemented to comply with the environmental outcome required by the EPRs. In some cases, the EPRs also specify other requirements for environmental management. Through the preparation of impact assessments for the EES, potential mitigation and management measures were considered to avoid and minimise environmental impacts so far as reasonably practicable. These potential management measures have informed the development of the EPRs and adopt the hierarchy of avoid, minimise, manage and offset, and draw on standard industry practice measures, accepted construction techniques and experience from recent projects in Victoria and Australia. The Principal Contractor will use the EES technical reports as reference when developing the plans required by the EPRs. Early contractor involvement will enable contractors to understand the EPRs and propose environmental management measures and develop designs, plans and other environmental documents to comply with the Project's approvals and mitigate impacts. The IEA will verify the documentation and ongoing compliance.

AusNet are required by legislation and the electrical safety regulator, Energy Safe, to maintain an ESMS including a Bushfire Mitigation Plan (BFM 10-02) and a Vegetation Management Plan (BFM 10-06). As these are already referenced in Section 29.7.2 (Table 29.5) and required by regulation, they have not been reiterated here as an EPR. As outlined in section 29.7.1, AusNet's HSEQ Management System will apply during operation of the Project. The HSEQ Management System provides processes and procedures for the management of all works associated with AusNet's gas and electricity transmission and distribution networks to comply with Commonwealth and Victorian legislation, regulations, standards and codes applicable to its operations.

29.9.1 Consultation and engagement to deliver EPRs

Many of the EPRs require consultation and engagement to be undertaken with Traditional Owners, key stakeholders or regulatory authorities. This may include the manager or owner of an asset or land directly affected by the works or requirement, councils, EPA, DEECA, Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owner groups, Catchment Management Authorities, Melbourne Water, WorkSafe Victoria, Transport for Victoria, Country Fire Authority, Fire Rescue Victoria, Forest Fire Management Victoria, or other relevant regulatory authority or stakeholder group.

Consultative measures required under the EPRs include meetings, workshops, exchange and review of documentation and correspondence with AusNet and its contractors and the relevant stakeholder.

The extent and method of consultation will be documented (as a method to demonstrate compliance with the EPRs), communicated and available to stakeholders for each EPR, where consultation requirements exist. This method allows for feedback on how matters raised during consultation have been considered and, where appropriate and reasonable, addressed by AusNet or contractors.

The Principal Contractor will develop a Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan to be implemented during construction. AusNet will retain the power to lead consultation and stakeholder engagement. During operation, AusNet's existing communications and stakeholder engagement system (including complaints management system) that apply to all of AusNet's transmission network assets will be adopted.

All stakeholder engagement is to be undertaken cognisant with the Essential Services Commission Land Access Code of Practice. This Code of Practice regulates how transmission companies access land, including for this Project. It seeks to achieve a balance between the statutory right for licensed electricity corporations to access private lands and the rights of landholders affected by that exercise of power.

The Code of Practice outlines the obligations for electricity transmission companies prior to and during land access under Section 93 of the *Electricity Industry Act 2000*, outlining how electricity transmission companies should exercise their powers to access land. It also outlines the expectations of landholders and parties interested in land as critical partners and stakeholders in the delivery of major energy projects and the provision of essential transmission services.

29.9.2 Recommended Environmental Performance Requirements

Recommended EPRs are presented in Table 29.9. These EPRs will be finalised in response to the relevant matters and recommendations contained in the Minister for Planning's Assessment of the EES.

Bushfire is not addressed in the EPRs as there is a condition included in the draft Incorporated Document that defines the requirements. This is provided in Table 29.10.

The Project will be delivered in accordance with the final Environmental Management Framework including the EPRs approved by the Minister for Planning. Compliance with EPRs may be undertaken in stages as the Project may be completed in stages, as outlined in the draft Incorporated Document.

The recommended EPRs cover the following disciplines:

- Environmental management/general
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Agriculture and forestry
- Air quality
- Aviation
- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Contamination and soil management
- Economics and business continuity
- Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) and Electromagnetic interference (EMI)

- Geology and soils
- Groundwater
- Historical heritage
- Land use and planning
- Landscape and visual
- Noise and vibration
- Social
- Surface water
- Sustainability and greenhouse gas
- Transport.

In relation to Table 29.9, which details the Project's EPRs, the following applies:

- For the column 'Project component': 'All' means the EPR applies to all elements of the Project that are applicable to the Project stage for that EPR
- For the column 'Project stage': There are four stages over the life of the Project: design, construction, operation and decommissioning. EPRs might apply to one stage only or across multiple stages.

Table 29.9 Environmental Performance Requirements

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
General			
EM1	 Deliver the Project in general accordance with an Environmental Management System Prior to the commencement of construction, develop, implement and maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) to manage and improve environmental performance through the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project that is certified to AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016 Environmental Management Systems – requirements with guidance for use. 	All	Construction, Operation, Decommissioni ng
EM2	 Develop and implement a Construction Environmental Management Plan Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) with associated subplans as required by relevant EPRs in accordance with the Environmental Management Framework to manage the environmental impacts associated with construction in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy. The CEMP must be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders as required by relevant EPRs, reviewed by AusNet, and reviewed and verified by the Independent Environmental Auditor (IEA) for compliance with the EPRs prior to the commencement of construction. The CEMP subplans must address applicable EPRs including those relevant to surface water, groundwater, geology and soils, contaminated land, biodiversity, air, noise, historical heritage, bushfire protocols, weed and pest management. The CEMP and its subplans must comply with the EPRs and relevant environmental legislation, and performance must be reported to AusNet and relevant government agencies as appropriate. 	All	Construction
EMAD		A II	Construction
	 Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement an overarching Property Access and Management Plan (PAMP) to minimise impacts to landholders due to land access and occupation required for construction of the Project, so far as reasonably practicable. The PAMP must detail the process and procedures to be followed to access landholders' property for construction of the Project and include process and requirements regarding the following matters: That each landholder will have a single point of contact (i.e., case-manager) with the Project for two-way communications. Notification procedures to the landholders of Project approvals, construction activities and associated access to the property including provision of a plan showing the indicative positioning and design of temporary and permanent access roads (i.e., any access track, road or path) required to facilitate the Project, including the points of entry. Notification to the landholder of the final location of all Project activities to occur on their property including tower locations, temporary fencing, portable toilets and removal of any vegetation. Biosecurity requirements including an obligation to: 	All	Construction

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	ii. Maintain a record of properties that have existing biosecurity risks, issues (e.g., disease, weeds, or contaminant) or management plan(s), and which include any additional matters that must be met, over and above those within the PAMP.		
	e. Process for completing baseline assessments of existing land conditions (including soil, landform, vegetation, infrastructure, etc) within the proposed transmission line easement, any proposed permanent access roads/areas, and any proposed temporary construction areas and proposed temporary access tracks for rehabilitation reference.		
	f. An overview of the protocols and mitigation measures related to:		
	i. Fire management		
	ii. Livestock and farming operations, including animal health and safety		
	iii. Soil management and drainage		
	iv. Reinstatement and rehabilitation of land after works, and inspections to confirm rehabilitation and reinstatement has been achieved.		
	v. Notification, management and documenting of incidents.		
EM4	Maintain a record of Specific Property Access Requirements (SPAR) and implement during construction and operation	All	Construction,
	 Develop and maintain a record of agreed specific property access requirements to be implemented to avoid and minimise impacts to the property and its operations. 		Operation
EM5	Develop and implement a Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan	All	Construction
	 Prior to commencement of construction, develop and implement a Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan (CSEMP) to guide communication and engagement activities during construction to enable timely and accurate provision of information and address matters required by other EPRs. 		
	2. The CSEMP should be consistent with the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) core values and outline:		
	a. Engagement principles and objectives		
	 b. Project stakeholders with a likely interest in the Project, including (but not limited to) landholders, residents of local and regional communities, business owners, business and industry associations, aerodromes, road users, visitors, local Councils and community facility managers 		
	c. Communication and engagement tools that provide:		
	i. Early and ongoing information and notification about details and timing of proposed works to local communities and stakeholders		
	Opportunities for affected community members to input to the identification of mitigation and management controls for such things as noise and vibration, property access, construction dust and visual impacts		
	 Process and procedure for recording, managing, and resolving complaints received regarding the Project, in accordance with the Complaints Management System (EPR EM7) 		
	e. Process and procedure for consulting with landholders that agree to engage on specific property access requirements (EPR EM4)		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	 f. Procedures to access independent and confidential mental health support services available to landholders and surrounding landholders g. Procedures for regular review, monitoring, reporting, evaluating, and updating the CSEMP, including: Surveying and direct sampling of community and stakeholder views on the effectiveness and responsiveness of communication and engagement Updating the CSEMP in response to continued community complaints about environmental and social issues. 3. Principal contractors must prepare a CSEMP for their package of works that will also apply to any of their sub-contractors. 		
EM6	 Develop and implement a Construction Emergency Management Plan Prior to commencement of construction, develop and implement an emergency management plan that includes procedures for emergency management to minimise, as far as reasonably practicable, risks to construction crews and minimise risks to any construction site equipment or Project infrastructure. The emergency management plan must be developed in consultation with relevant emergency service authorities and include: a. Hazard identification and assessment b. Communication systems c. Applicable training and competency requirements for all construction personnel d. Procedures for the management of chemicals, fuels and hazardous substances and contingency measures if contamination is encountered and requires disposal e. Measures to manage bushfire risk, including: i. How fire weather conditions and bushfire emergency warnings will be monitored and responded to ii. Evacuation triggers, planned evacuation routes, assembly locations and locations to which crews are to evacuate in the event it is required iii. What do in case of fire ignition on- site, including emergency notifications f. Measures to manage flood risk (including consideration of scheduling works) g. Triggers and processes for advising neighbouring businesses about emergencies h. Post-incident follow-up process. 	All	Construction
EM7	 Prior to commencement of construction, develop and implement a process for recording, managing, and resolving complaints received from affected stakeholders as part of the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan (EPR EM5). The complaints management arrangements must be consistent with Australian Standard AS/NZS 10002: 2014 Guidelines for Complaints Management in Organisations and the Essential Services Commission Land Access Code of Practice. 	All	Construction

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage	
EM8	Develop and implement a Biosecurity Management Plan	All	Design,	
	 Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement a Biosecurity Management Plan as a subplan of the CEMP (EPR EM2) to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity values, land use (including agriculture and forestry) and landholders. 		Construction	
	 The Biosecurity Management Plan must detail the hygiene requirements to manage pest animals and approach to the management of weeds, and harmful pathogens within the Project area. The plan must include, the following minimum requirements: 			
	a. Process and requirement for vehicle, plant and equipment washdown			
	b. Process for personnel entering each property			
	c. Process for identification of pests, animal/plant diseases and weeds on individual properties including areas of high biodiversity risk (e.g., localised occurrences of agricultural pathogens, state-prohibited noxious weeds, high-sensitivity environments such as wetlands)			
	d. Process for recording and implementing landholders individual biosecurity plans and requirements			
	 Prevention activities such as purchasing of weed/-pathogen free materials, and providing areas for soil removal and sanitising of footwear, vehicles, plant and equipment. 			
	 f. Contingency measures for controlling the introduction and/or spread of declared noxious and environmental weeds to, within and from the Project Area. 			
	g. Record management of washdown and decontamination.			
	h. Process for biosecurity breach detection, compliance, reporting and response.			
	i. Monitoring requirements for the presence of high-threat pest species.			
EM9	Audit and report on environmental compliance	All	Construction	
	1. Prior to the commencement of construction, appoint an Independent Environmental Auditor to:			
	a. Review the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EPR EM2), Communications and Stakeholder Management Plan (CSEMP) (EPR EM5) and other plans required by the EPRs to verify compliance with the Environmental Management Framework and the EPRs prior to the commencement of construction.			
	 Audit compliance with and implementation of the CEMP, CSEMP and other plans required by the EPRs during construction. 			
	c. Undertake routine environmental performance audits of active Project work sites			
	d. Audit the Project's compliance with environmental duties under the Environment Protection Act 2017, including frequency of evaluation, monitoring of compliance, reporting of compliance and non-compliances and further actions taken			
	e. Audit the Project's compliance against relevant environmental approvals and permits			
	f. Verify there are processes in place to identify opportunities for continual improvement in environmental management, performance, legislative and policy compliance			
EPR Code	Red	juirement	Project Component	Project Stage
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	2.	The Independent Environmental Auditor will be comprised of a body of practitioners with appropriate qualifications and expertise to allow the roles specified for the Independent Environmental Auditor to be properly carried out		
	3.	Summary reports of the audits must be provided to the Minister for Planning on a six-monthly basis.		
EM10	De	velop and implement a Residential Mitigation and Support Strategy	All	Construction,
	1.	Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement a 'Residential Mitigation and Support Strategy' to avoid and minimise impacts to landholders that could be directly affected by the Project as a result of the transmission line easement being placed on their property, to the extent reasonably practicable.		Operation
	2.	The strategy must be informed by the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan (EPR EM5).		
	3.	The strategy must define the process and requirements for:		
		a. Consulting with landholders that agree to engage with the Project, to discuss the specific impacts that the Project may have on their dwelling or lifestyle. As a minimum, this will consider tangible and intangible values, activities and land uses that may be affected as a result of dust, noise and traffic generated by construction of the Project, or by the physical presence of Project infrastructure during operation of the Project.		
		b. Provided the landholder agrees to engage with the Project, identifying, offering and implementing any practicable mitigation measures that could be applied to lessen the impacts of the Project on their dwelling and lifestyle. This includes but is not limited to measures that seek to, where practicable:		
		i. Provide for an offer to be made to the landholder for landscape screening, including the costs to monitor and maintain any landscape screening treatment for a period of 2 years, to lessen the visual impact of the Project on landholders' dwellings and lifestyles.		
		ii. Avoid and minimise air quality impacts on landholders' dwellings and lifestyles in accordance with the Air Quality Management Plan (EPR AQ1).		
		iii. Avoid and minimise noise and vibration impacts on landholders' dwellings and lifestyles in accordance with the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (EPR NV1) and in accordance with EPR NV3.		
		iv. Avoid and minimise traffic impacts on landholders' dwellings and lifestyles in accordance with the Traffic Management Plans (EPR T1).		
		 Maintain access to identified tangible and intangible values, activities and land uses, including if necessary establishing alternative temporary access. 		
		vi. Provide for reinstatement and rehabilitation of construction areas and temporary access tracks.		
		vii. Provide early and ongoing information and notification about details and timing of proposed works in proximity to the property (as per EM5).		
		 Documenting the outcomes for individual landholders and provide the landholder with the information and implementation steps. 		
		 Notifying landholders of construction timetable and changes to traffic conditions and duration of impact to assist landholder planning. 		
		e. Inclusion of information on a reporting and complaints handling system for landholders and community to use consistent with the Australian Standard AS/NZS 100002: 2014 Guidelines for Complaints Management in Organisations.		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	4. Prepare, provide to landholders and implement plans for affected landholders in accordance with the strategy. The Project will provide for engagement with landholders for 12 months following completion of construction of the towers which are visible from the property and other construction activities that directly affect the property and will implement agreed mitigation measures within that time unless otherwise agreed with the relevant landholder.		
EM11	 Prior to commencement of decommissioning, develop and implement a Decommissioning Management Plan detailing mitigation measures required to manage the environmental impacts associated with decommissioning and seek to minimise the risk of harm to human health or the environment of all activities associated with decommissioning Management and mitigation measures shall be consistent with environmental management strategies, practices, and technologies current at the time and shall include, but not be limited to measures for communications and stakeholder engagement, environmental protection measures, waste management and recycling, emergency response and measures to minimise disturbance to agriculture, recreation and other enterprises. 	All	Decommissioni ng
Aboriginal	cultural heritage		
ACH1	 Comply with Cultural Heritage Management Plans 1. Implement and comply with Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) sponsored by AusNet and approved for the Project under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. 	All	Design, Construction, Operation, Decommissioni ng
ACH2	 Discuss and negotiate Cultural Values Assessment recommendations AusNet must engage with each of the relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and Traditional Owner (TO) groups, being Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to address recommendations, where practicable, arising from each RAP or TO group's Cultural Values Assessment to avoid or minimise impacts on intangible cultural heritage values from the Project. 	All	Design, Construction, Operation, Decommissioni ng
Agriculture	and forestry		
AF1	 Develop and implement an Agriculture and Forestry Business Mitigation and Support Strategy Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement an Agriculture and Forestry Business Mitigation and Support Strategy to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts to agriculture and forestry (such as direct disruptions and disruption to farm and forestry businesses) from the Project, to the extent reasonably practicable. The strategy must be informed by the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan (EPR EM5). The strategy must define the process and requirements for: Consulting with landholders to discuss their individual business and specific impacts that their business may experience due to the Project. 	All	Construction, Operation

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	b. Provided the landholder agrees to engage with the Project, identifying, offering and implementing any practicable mitigation measures that could be applied to minimise the impacts of the Project on the individual business (both infrastructure and day to day operations). This includes but is not limited to measures that seek to, where practicable:		
	i. Maintain access for farm operations		
	ii. Maintain water supply for livestock troughs or relocate and re-establish at an agreed location		
	iii. Avoid the disturbance of farm assets such as sheds or relocate and re-establish assets in an agreed location		
	iv. Avoid irrigation systems or if not practicable re-design the system and replace it to enable irrigation of the affected paddock		
	v. Maintain fences and gates or relocate and re-establish to maintain workable paddocks		
	vi. Provide for reinstatement and rehabilitation of construction areas and access tracks		
	c. Documenting the above discussions (a and b) and agreed mitigation measures for individual properties. This document will be provided to the landholder.		
	d. If relevant and requested by the business, the appointment of agricultural or forestry consultant(s) with skills and qualifications relevant to the affected business, to advise the business on mitigation of specific property impacts (e.g., redesign of irrigation systems).		
	e. Providing information to the land title holder as to whether disruptions (e.g., impacts on farm or forestry business infrastructure) will be rectified, rehabilitated or compensated, either under the Options for Easement agreement, or in accordance with the requirements of the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986.		
	 Documenting areas on a property that should be avoided where reasonably possible and to record and implement any specific property biosecurity requirements as required. 		
	g. Notifying landholders of construction timetable to assist landholder planning.		
	 A reporting and complaints handling system for landholders and community to use consistent with the Australian Standard AS/NZS 100002: 2014 Guidelines for Complaints Management in Organisations. 		
	 Consulting with neighbouring landholders who have been identified as being indirectly affected and identifying reasonable mitigation measures which could be offered. 		
	3. The Project will provide for engagement with businesses for 24 months following completion of construction of the towers on their property and will implement agreed mitigation measures within that time unless otherwise agreed with the relevant business.		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
Air quality			
AQ1	Develop and implement an Air Quality Management Plan	All	Construction
	 Prior to construction commencing, develop, implement and maintain an Air Quality Management Plan as part of the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) (EPR EM2) to minimise air quality impacts during construction at surrounding sensitive receptors. 		
	2. The Air Quality Management Plan must:		
	a. Identify the main sources of dust and airborne pollutants, and the location of sensitive land uses.		
	b. Include a procedure for how the Project will control and where necessary monitor the emission of dust, exhaust emissions, fumes, odour and other pollution into the atmosphere during construction in accordance with relevant statutes, policies and guidelines to the extent reasonably practicable, including EPA Publication 1834.1: the Civil Construction, Building and Demolition Guide.		
	c. Outline a process for regular review and update of The Air Quality Management Plan and assess the effectiveness of controls implemented. Reviews of the plan would be undertaken when there are changes in design, conditions, monitoring results or as a result of investigating complaints:		
	 Provide a process to address complaints related to air quality and identify mitigation measures. The process must include: 		
	i. Follow-up with the potentially affected stakeholder(s) and capture all details.		
	ii. Review the results of air quality and meteorological monitoring and details of Project activities for any non- compliance or complaints received. A targeted trigger monitoring criterion with 1-hour averaged PM10 above 80 ug/m3 provides an indication when air quality conditions are poor, and that the 24-hr averaged 50 ug/m3 PM10 concentration objective would be exceeded to inform onsite management and controls as required.		
	iii. Identify Project contributions, including key activities, as well as contributions from other surrounding projects that could be leading to cumulative effects.		
	iv. Review associated controls for Project activities, and where necessary modifying these controls or the intensity of activities to address the measured/reported issue.		
	v. Provide feedback on action taken to the affected stakeholder(s) and confirm the complaint is closed out.		
	3. Monitors are required to be installed at or near works associated with the existing Bulgana Terminal Station, the new 500kV terminal station near Bulgana, Sydenham Terminal Station connection works and all laydown areas to reflect long term prevailing wind conditions and specific areas where sensitive receptors are located for the duration of construction works. The data collected would be used for compliance and management purposes.		
AQ2	Implement air quality management and mitigation measures for operation	All	Operation
	 Implement mitigation measures to avoid the generation of off-site visible dust during specific operational activities (i.e., dust from vehicles, plant and equipment used during scheduled maintenance activities or routine vegetation management required within the easement). 		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
Aviation			
AV1	 Provide notification to Airservices Australia The Project must provide relevant Project details to Airservices Australia so that pilots, including operators of any fire response aircraft, are aware of its existence, location and features of the Project that may pose a hazard to aircraft operations. The information must include relevant details of the Project plant, equipment and infrastructure, and meet the requirements (detail and frequency) of Airservices Australia for the promulgation of an Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) and where required a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) or an Aeronautical Information Supplement (AIP SUP) to keep the aviation industry informed of progress throughout construction. This information is to be reported in accordance with CASA Advisory Circular AC139.E-05 Obstacles (including wind farms) outside the vicinity of a CASA certified aerodrome and AC139.E-01 Reporting of tall structures. 	Transmission towers, tall plant and equipment	Construction, Operation
AV2	Mark transmission line towers and associated catenary around Melton Uncertified Aerodrome (YMEL) 1. Towers and associated catenary are to be marked with standard obstacle markings as per Australian Standard AS 3891.1:2021 and AS 3891.2 to make them more visible to pilots flying. Towers near the Melton Uncertified Aerodrome (YMEL) are to be marked, including: a. F4458DL b. F4459SL-A c. F4460SL-A d. F4458L-A e. F4462SL-A f. F4463SL-A g. F4464SL-A h. F4459SL-B i. F4463SL-B j. F4464SL-A h. F4459SL-B i. F4463SL-B j. F4464SL-B j. F4464SL-B j. F4463SL-B j. F458DL j. F458DL j. F458DL j. F458DL j. F4582DL	Transmission towers	Design, Construction, Operation

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	s. F4593DL t. F4594DL u. F4595DL		
Biodiversity	and habitat		
BD1	Complete ecological surveys and finalise design	All	Construction
	 Prior to the finalisation of the detailed design for an area, complete ecological survey of the area if yet to be surveyed (additional surveys) and identify native vegetation and threatened species habitat that may be impacted by the Project. 		
	a. Surveys must be completed in areas not previously surveyed due to access limitations, as shown on the plans in Appendix A of Technical Report A: Biodiversity Impact Assessment as "Survey Not Completed". These surveys must be completed for areas that have not been surveyed at all as well as areas that have been partially surveyed.		
	 b. The additional surveys must include, to the extent necessary, where impacts cannot be avoided or not already completed: 		
	i. mapping of native vegetation (including TECs);		
	ii. identification of threatened flora and fauna habitat; and		
	iii. targeted survey for threatened flora and fauna (or assume presence in suitable habitat for mobile species and species with a limited seasonal survey period).		
	 Identify all native tree protection zones associated with access tracks outside the Easement Corridor and abutting the easement and if practicable modify the location of the access track to avoid the tree protection zones; 		
	3. Reduce the extent of vegetation identified to be removed in the Easement Corridor (the Easement Corridor Construction Footprint) by:		
	 a. identifying any areas of disturbance to enable removal of the vegetation identified in Vegetation Clearance Risk Footprint in the Easement Corridor; and 		
	 undertaking further design to identify no go zones within the Easement Corridor – being the native vegetation and habitat that can be avoided and that does not need to be removed within the Easement Corridor and is to be retained. 		
	4. Prior to the finalisation of the detailed design for an area, mapping is to be updated in Appendix O of Technical Report A: Biodiversity Impact Assessment to include the outcomes of the additional survey, the no go zones, updated Easement Corridor Construction Footprint and areas associated with tree protection zones.		
	5. When finalising the detailed design for an area the updated mapping must be considered and infrastructure moved on the basis of the new information to avoid native vegetation, TECs and threatened taxa to the extent practicable.		
BD2	Develop and implement a Vegetation Management Plan	All	Construction
	 Prior to commencement of construction, develop and implement a Vegetation Management Plan in consultation with DEECA and DCCEEW to protect and monitor native vegetation (including TECs) and other biodiversity values in the areas where native vegetation is to be retained. The Vegetation Management Plan will be a sub plan to the CEMP. 		

EPR Code	Re	quirement P C	roject Component	Project Stage
	2.	The Vegetation Management Plan must include but not be limited to:		
		a. Designating and implementing controls to prevent unauthorised access or disturbance to the no go zones identified in the Easement Corridor and shown on the updated Appendix O maps		
		b. Implementing controls to minimise disturbance to tree protection zones associated with access tracks construction		
		c. Within the areas identified for Partial Clearance, understorey vegetation is to be maintained and clearing limited to canopy trees only with minimal disturbance to the understorey		
		d. A hollow replacement strategy that includes identification of tree hollows and requirements for removal and areas of re-establishment in adjoining habitat (e.g., strapped onto suitable trees where available) where practicable and subject to landholder agreement. In particular, consideration of tree hollows must be given in the following areas:		
		 impacted forest habitat located at Lexton, Lerderderg and Haydens Hill, hollows with an opening greater than 20cm diameter (to support owl species, Gang-gang Cockatoo (EN, en) and potentially Southern Greater Glider (EN, en) at Haydens Hill) 		
		impacted woodland habitat located at Lexton and Lerderderg, hollows with an opening greater than 5cm diameter (to support the smaller arboreal fauna group, potentially Brush-tailed Phascogale (vu), that inhabits these areas)		
		e. Measures to maximise reuse of cleared native vegetation such as logs, salvaged hollows and other coarse woody debris for habitat in suitable areas (i.e. vegetated areas where practicable), subject to landholder consent		
		f. Develop tailored construction methods and measures to minimise removal of native vegetation in patches of native vegetation where full removal is not required, and to minimise ground disturbance in patches of native vegetation where works are required where practicable		
		g. Requirements for reestablishment of areas of native vegetation removed during construction works in areas that are not required to be maintained clear of native vegetation during operation of the transmission line (e.g. temporary access tracks)		
		h. Procedures and methods for briefing all contractors and sub-contractors on requirements for the protection of flora and fauna habitat, and response procedures if unexpected threatened species are identified.		
	3.	The Vegetation Management Plan must include measures to minimise impacts to threatened flora, in areas identified as being habitat or potential habitat for the following threatened flora:		
		a. Matted Flax-lily (Dianella amoena) (EN, cr)		
		b. Small Golden Moth Orchid (Diuris basaltica) (EN, cr)		
		c. Swamp Fireweed (Senecio psilocarpus) (VU)		
		d. Bacchus Marsh Wattle (Acacia rostriformis) (vu)		
		e. Cane Spear-grass (Austrostipa breviglumis) (en)		
		f. Melbourne Yellow-gum (Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. connata) (en)		
		g. Yarra Gum (Eucalyptus yarraensis) (cr)		
		h. Brittle Greenhood (Pterostylis truncata) (cr)		
		i. Fragrant Saltbush (Rhagodia parabolica) (vu)		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	 j. Floodplain Fireweed (Senecio campylocarpus) (en) k. Glaucous Flax-lily (Dianella longifolia var. grandis s.l.) (cr). 4. The threatened flora measures must address or satisfy as a minimum the following requirements: a. A seasonal survey of identified potential threatened flora habitat where survey has not been completed under BD1 for seasonal species b. Identification on the relevant maps prepared under EPR BD1 for confirmed habitat or potential habitat for the threatened flora listed above c. A process to be followed to avoid as far as practicable any new occurrences of threatened flora which are identified during surveys required under BD1 and BD2(4a) d. Details of species awareness materials to be presented to construction personnel at Project induction and toolbox meetings e. For Brittle Greenhood (cr) (between towers F4515DL and F4374DL S), use of heavy machinery is to be avoided where practicable, and ground disturbance is to be minimised for all construction works including tree removal. 5. The Vegetation Management Plan must define post construction monitoring requirements and time frame required to confirm compliance with management plans, including: a. the condition and extent of native vegetation, including TECs, and threatened flora 		
BD3	 c. weed management. Develop and implement a Fauna Management Plan Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement a Fauna Management Plan in consultation with DEECA to avoid and minimise impacts to native fauna during construction. The Fauna Management Plan must be a sub plan to the CEMP and include as a minimum the following requirements: a. To undertake pre-clearing inspections and supervise habitat removal by a qualified and experience ecologist or wildlife handler. Any fauna protected under the Wildlife Act 1975 that is disturbed in the process must be safely relocated to the nearest suitable habitat outside the Construction Footprint. b. Measures to avoid entrapment of fauna in excavations (e.g., by ensuring excavations are not left open overnight or installing temporary fencing to prevent fauna access and undertaking daily inspections of excavations before starting works for the day) where practicable c. Fauna that may be displaced due to habitat removal or encountered on site during construction works, must be managed in compliance with the Wildlife Act 1975. d. Measures to map active eagle (such as Wedge-tailed Eagle, White bellied Sea Eagle) nest locations in suitable breeding habitat- forested areas with large trees and measures to minimise impacts such as applying spatial or temporal buffers to works in proximity to active nests during breeding season e. Identify opportunities where nest box and artificial hollows could be installed where hollow salvage is not practicable, 	All	Construction
	 Identity opportunities where nest box and artificial hollows could be installed where hollow salvage is not practicable, or in areas that could benefit from the addition of them, subject to landholders providing consent for placement on their land, and requirements to deploy nest boxes and artificial hollows in specified circumstances. 		

EPR Code	Requirement P C	Project Component	Project Stage
EPR Code	Requirement PC Develop and implement Threatened Fauna Management Plans A 1. Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement Fauna Management Plans, in consultation with DEECA and DCCEEW where relevant, to minimise potential impacts to identified or potential habitat for threatened fauna species. The plans must be prepared for the following species: a. a. Brown Toadlet (Pseudophryne bibronii) (en) b. Western Burrowing Crayfish (Engaeus merosetosus) (en) c. c. Growling Grass Frog (Litoria raniformis) (VU, vu) d. Swift Parrot (Lathamus discolor) (CR, cr) e. e. Barking OWI (Ninox connivens) (cr) f. Powerful OWI (Ninox strenua) (vu) g. g. Masked OWI (Tyto novaehollandiae) (cr) h. Golden Sun Moth (Synemon plana) (VU, vu) i. i. Fat-tailed Dunnart (Sminthopsis crassicaudata) (vu) j. Brush-tailed Phascogale (Phascogale tapoatafa) (vu) k. Southern Greater Gilder (Petauroides volans) (EN, en) l. Platypus (Ornithorhynchus anatinus) (vu) m. m. Tussock Skink (Pseudemoia pagenstecheri) (en) n. Stipped Legless Lizard (Delma impar) (VU, en) o. o. Victorian Grestera Enderso Dirgonaporcervici pinguical/a) (CP, cr) o. o. o. <th>Project Component All - within or adjacent threatened flora habitat</th> <th>Project Stage Construction</th>	Project Component All - within or adjacent threatened flora habitat	Project Stage Construction
	 o. Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon (Tympanocryptis pinguicolla) (CR, cr). 2. The threatened fauna management plans must include requirements for: a. Identification on the relevant maps prepared under EPR BD1 for confirmed habitat or potential habitat for the threatened fauna listed above b. Avoiding construction activities in identified habitat for threatened fauna if occupied during breeding season to the extent practicable, (in particular for: Brush-tailed Phascogale; Growling Grass Frog (VU, vu); Powerful Owl (vu); Barking Owl (cr)) c. Retention of groundstorey and shrub layer in the easement where possible and identify opportunities to increase cover particularly in areas of habitat for woodland birds, Brown Toadlet (en) and Brush-tailed Phascogale (vu) d. Apply recommendations from the Growling Grass Frog Crossing Design Standards (DELWP, 2017b) where required access tracks cross or impact on mapped aquatic habitat for the species. 		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	e. Identification and installation of measures to support movement for Brush-tailed Phascogale (vu) and Southern Greater Glider (EN, en) in identified habitat that is fragmented by the Project Area. This is likely to require rope bridges (near Lexton between F6120DL and F6123DL, Darley between F4649DL and F4387DL, Djerriwarrh Creek between F4608DL and F4609DL) and glider poles (at Haydens Hill between F4399DL and F4404DL) across the transmission line easement at approximately 50m intervals where retained canopy vegetation is available on both sides of the clearing. The height of glider poles shall be established in accordance with the Electricity Safety Regulations and subject to landholder discussion and agreement of placement.		
	f. Define reporting and post construction monitoring requirements and time frames to:		
	i. confirm compliance with management plans to demonstrate impacts have been managed; and		
	 ii. determine effectiveness of installed habitat (e.g. salvaged hollows, artificial hollows, nest boxes) and connectivity measures (e.g. glider poles and rope-bridges). 		
	g. Preparation of species awareness materials on threatened fauna to be presented to construction personnel at Project induction and toolbox meetings (e.g., glider poles and rope-bridges).		
	h. Installation of signage along access routes through habitat for threatened fauna to raise awareness of wildlife crossings and implementation of measures such as reduced vehicle speeds to minimise the risk of collisions with wildlife.		
BD5	Develop and implement a Collision Risk Management Plan	Transmission line	Construction,
	 Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement a Collision Risk Management Plan, in consultation with DEECA, to minimise the potential for bird and bat collisions with transmission line infrastructure. The plan should: Identify key collision risk areas for the Project, focussing on areas of high bird utilisation, habitat for species identified as high risk or in proximity to key habitat features (wetlands, riparian corridors, movement corridors). Describe mitigation measures to be implemented for key collision risk areas during construction and operation of the Project (e.g. larger wire diameters or vertical line marking such as bird flappers or diverters). Describe a carcass monitoring plan (post construction) to assess success of mitigation measures applied and to identify any further areas of collision concern, that require mitigation measures to be applied. 	(towers, conductors, easement) – within identified key collision risk areas (see Figure 8.1 in Technical Report A: Biodiversity Impact Assessment)	Operation
BD6	Develop and implement measures to manage riparian and aquatic habitat	All - within DEECA	Design,
	 Prior to commencement of construction, develop and implement measures to avoid and minimise, to the extent reasonably practicable, short and long-term adverse impacts on riparian, riverbed and aquatic habitat, and aquatic fauna connectivity during construction activities. The measures must be developed in consultation with the relevant catchment management authorities, and be documented in the CEMP. Measures should include as a minimum but not limited to: a. Retaining understorey and ground cover vegetation in the riparian area, and tree stumps to maintain bank stability and retaining in-stream habitat features such as woody snags where practicable; 	wetlands or within CMA- specified buffers to waterways	Construction
	 Identifying areas of revegetation and location where fencing will enhance the success of the revegetation (in consultation with landholders); 		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	 c. Standard erosion and sediment control measures as outlined in EPA Victoria construction guidelines (Publications 275, 1820.1 and 1834.1) along waterways during the construction period. d. Establishment of native vegetation in any riparian areas disturbed during construction that are not otherwise required for the operation of the Project. 		
BD7	 Develop and implement an Operational Vegetation and Habitat Management Plan Prior to the commencement of operation of the Project, develop and implement an Operational Vegetation and Habitat Management Plan in consultation with DEECA that sets out the requirements and methods for protection of native vegetation and flora and fauna habitat during operations and in accordance with the Electricity Act Regulations. The plan should include, as a minimum: a. Within areas identified as containing high densities of threatened flora (between Swans Road and Camerons Road, Darley), where native understorey vegetation is to be maintained within the easement area (outside permanent hardstand sites and access tracks), clearing of native vegetation must be limited to canopy trees >3m only, ensuring minimal disturbance to the understorey (refer to Appendix O.3 of Technical Report A: Biodiversity Impact Assessment)). b. Within identified habitat for Brittle Greenhood (cr) (between towers F4515DL and F4374DL S) (refer to Appendix O.3 of Technical Report A: Biodiversity Impact Assessment), use of heavy machinery is to be avoided where practicable, and ground disturbance is to be minimised. c. Implementation of appropriate measures to manage the risk of the spread and treat the introduction of pest animals, weeds and pathogens d. Processes to manage any spread of weeds and pathogens resulting from ongoing maintenance works within easement 	Transmission line (easement)	Operation
BD8	Complete ecological surveys and finalise design for TEC – White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (WBYB) Prior to the finalisation of the detailed design for an area, complete survey for areas yet to be surveyed and where impacts to WBYB threatened ecological community (TEC) cannot be avoided. Undertake design refinements and establish no go zones to avoid or minimise impacts to WBYB TEC so that impacts do not exceed the area of removal as assessed within Technical Report A: Biodiversity Impact Assessment. When finalising the detailed design update mapping in accordance with BD 1. Impacts that cannot be avoided will require offsets under the EPBC Act.	All	Design

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
Climate ch	ange		
CC1	 Undertake a climate change risk assessment for the Project during its detailed design stage to consider risks climate change related hazards may pose to Project infrastructure. This assessment must: a. Consider risks to Project infrastructure that arise from climate change. b. Consider how existing risks to surrounding communities, land uses, properties and environments that arise from climate change may change as a result of the Project. c. Develop practicable adaptation measures, if necessary, to address priority risks and provide assurance that the Project will satisfy performance expectations as critical electricity supply infrastructure over its planned operating life under projected climate change. 	All	Design
CC2	 Review climate change risk Five-yearly reviews of the best available climate change science relating to key climate-related hazards for Project infrastructure will be used to update the climate change risk assessment for the Project (EPR CC1). Where new information suggests the climate-related hazard context for the Project has materially changed or is projected to change materially from that considered in the initial climate change risk assessment, additional measures (or climate adaptations) may be identified to provide assurance that Project infrastructure will satisfy performance expectations as critical electricity supply infrastructure under climate change. Those measures would be implemented through on-going asset management. 	All	Operation
Contamina	ted land		
CL1	 Minimise contaminated land impacts through investigation and design Prior to the commencement of construction, undertake assessments consistent with Schedule A – Recommended general process for assessment of site contamination of the NEPM 2013 in areas of planned ground disturbance prior to any earthworks to inform detailed design and preparation of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EPR EM2). As part of the General Environmental Duty, these assessments must include but not be limited to consideration of the following: a. Potential mobilisation of groundwater contamination towards the Proposed Route should dewatering be required as part of the construction. b. Potential implications of chemically aggressive ground conditions, Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) and Acid Sulfate Rock (ASR) on the selection of construction materials and durability. c. Characterisation of all excavated soil in accordance with waste management requirements in EPA Publication 702.2 Soil sampling for waste soils. 	Access tracks, Transmission towers, Terminal stations, Laydown and hardstand areas, Distribution line crossovers	Design

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
CL2	 Develop and implement contaminated land management and mitigation measures for construction Prior to the commencement of construction and as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EPR EM2), develop and implement management and mitigation measures for contaminated land consistent with the EPA, WorkSafe Victoria, and any other relevant regulatory requirements. The contaminated land section of the CEMP must include (but is not limited to) the following: a. Summary of applicable regulatory requirements. b. Description of roles and responsibilities. c. Management measures to address potential risks associated with excavation of impacted soils, extraction of impacted groundwater, open excavations and stockpiles. d. Odour management measures (in accordance with EPA Victoria requirements) during the excavation, stockpiling and transportation of contaminated material. e. Management measures for storage and use of chemicals, fuels and hazardous materials during construction. f. A process for the assessment of suitability of any imported material. g. Procedures for the identification of issues and appropriate management measures for residual risks of construction spoil that will become a waste and require management through construction (EPA Publication 1834.1: Civil Construction, Building and Demolition Guide). h. Processes for preparation of a Remedial Options Assessment (if unacceptable residual risks are identified or as required for re-use of project spoil (EPR CL3)) and further, if required, prepare a Remedial Action Plan and remedial designs. i. Measures to prevent contamination of areas used for temporary construction works and to remediate any contamination caused by temporary construction activities in consultation with the relevant land manager. j. Contingency and Unexpected Finds Plan should unexpected, contaminated soil or groundwater be identified during earthworks. <	Access tracks, Transmission towers, Terminal stations, Laydown and hardstand areas, Distribution line crossovers	Construction
CL3	 Develop and implement a Spoil Management Plan Prior to commencement of construction and as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (EPR EM2) develop and implement a Spoil Management Plan (SMP) in consultation with EPA to manage the environmental impacts associated with construction spoil. The SMP must include (but not limited to) the following: a. Summary of applicable regulatory requirements. b. Description of roles and responsibilities. c. Characterisation approach for the spoil for off-site disposal or re-use, if required. d. Consideration of major projects in the region to minimise cumulative impacts associated with spoil management. e. Identification of suitable sites for disposal of any waste in consultation with local councils. f. Identification of reuse options for all categories of spoil expected to be generated through construction. g. Management of hazardous substances. h. Monitoring and reporting requirements. 	Access tracks, Transmission towers, Terminal stations, Laydown and hardstand areas, Distribution line crossovers	Construction

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	 i. Sub-plans as appropriate, including but not limited to an ASS and ASR Management Sub-Plan. The Acid Sulfate Soil (ASS) and Acid Sulfate Rock (ASR) Management Sub-Plan will include but not be limited to: Undertaking ASS and ASR investigations prior to commencement of construction. Identification of locations and extent of any potential ASS/ASR. Stockpile management including lining, covering and runoff collection to prevent oxidation and release of acid to the environment, and impact to human health. Identification of suitable sites for re-use management or disposal of ASS and ASR. The ASS and ASR Management Sub-Plan will be prepared in accordance with General Environmental Duty, <i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i> and subordinate legislation, EPA Publication 655.1: Acid Sulfate Soil and Rock, and the Victorian Best Practice Guidelines for Assessing and Managing Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils Management measures for sustainable handling and transport of spoil for the protection of human health and the environment. Environmental management plans for temporary stockpile areas and stockpile activities. m. Details of appropriate lawful places for the receipt of waste and permit requirements. 		
Economic			
EC1	 Develop and implement a Business Mitigation and Support Strategy for directly affected businesses Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement an overarching 'Business Mitigation and Support Strategy' to avoid and minimise impacts on businesses that could be directly affected by the Project, as a result of the transmission line easement being placed on land associated with the business, to the extent reasonably practicable. The strategy must be informed by the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan (EPR EM5). The strategy must define the process and requirements for: a. Consulting with business owners that agree to engage with the Project, to discuss their business and the specific impacts that their business may experience. As a minimum, this will consider business operations and services that may be affected or require alteration as a result of dust, noise and traffic generated by construction of the Project, or by the physical presence of Project infrastructure during operation of the Project. Provided the business owner agrees to engage with the Project, identifying, offering and implementing any practicable mitigation measures that could be applied to lessen the impacts of the Project on the business (both infrastructure and day to day operations). This includes but is not limited to measures that seek to, where practicable: i. Establish landscape screening to avoid and minimise the visual impact of the Project. ii. Increase marketing and promotional activities to encourage patronage. iv. Avoid and minimise air quality impacts on business operations in accordance with the Air Quality Management Plan (EPR AQ1). 	All	Construction, Operation

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	 Avoid and minimise noise and vibration impacts on business operations in accordance with the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (EPR NV1) and in accordance with EPR NV3. 		
	vi. Avoid and minimise traffic impacts on business operations in accordance with the Traffic Management Plans (EPR T1).		
	vii. Maintain access for business operations, including if necessary establishing alternative temporary access and signage.		
	viii. Avoid impacts on business assets or relocate and re-establish assets in an agreed location.		
	ix. Provide for reinstatement and rehabilitation of construction areas and temporary access tracks.		
	 Provide early and ongoing information and notification about details and timing of proposed works in proximity to the business (as per EM5). 		
	xi. If requested by the business and it would assist in the identification of practicable mitigation measures, provide a consultant(s) with skills and qualifications relevant to the affected business to advise on mitigation of specific impacts.		
	c. Documenting the outcomes for individual businesses and provide the business with the information and implementation steps.		
	d. The information which must be provided to the land title holder as to whether disturbance would be rectified, rehabilitated or compensated, either under the Options for Easement agreement, or in accordance with the requirements of the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986		
	 Notification of construction timetable and changes to traffic conditions and duration of impact to assist landholder business planning 		
	f. Inclusion of information on a reporting and complaints handling system for affected businesses to use consistent with the Australian Standard AS/NZS 100002: 2014 Guidelines for Complaints Management in Organisations.		
	4. Prepare, provide to business owners and implement plans for affected businesses in accordance with the strategy.		
	5. The Project will provide for engagement with business owners for 12 months following completion of construction activities that directly affect the business and will implement agreed mitigation measures within that time unless otherwise agreed with the relevant business owner.		
EC2	Develop and implement initiatives for procurement of goods and services from local communities and social enterprises	All	Construction,
	 Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement a plan to increase positive social and economic impacts through the procurement of goods and services from local communities and social enterprises. 		Operation
	2. The plan must include initiatives and commitments to prioritise to the extent practicable the procurement of goods and services from:		
	 Local businesses, particularly within the local government areas intersected by the Project and small to medium enterprises 		
	b. Sustainable social enterprises and Aboriginal-owned businesses		

EPR Code	Requirement P C	Project Component	Project Stage
EC3	Requirement P Develop and implement a Business Miligation and Support Strategy for eligible businesses within 2km A 1. Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement a 'Business Miligation and Support Strategy' to avoid and minimise, to the extent reasonably practicable, impacts from the Project to existing businesses that would not be supported under EPR EC1 but which: a. a. are within 2km of the Project; and b. rely on the existing character of the natural landscape to attract customers, a. 2. The strategy must confirm the businesses that meet the eligibility requirements referred to in point 1 above and include actions that will business owners that agree to engage with the Project to discuss their business and the specific impacts that their business may experience. As a minimum, this will consider business operations and services that may be affected or require alteration as a result of dust, noise and traffic generated by construction of the Project, or by the physical presence of Project intrastructure duing operation of the Project. d. Provided the business owner agrees to engage with the Project, on the business (both infrastructure and day to day operation), or that may otherwise support the busines. On the Project, or by the physical presence of Project infrastructure duing operation of the Project. d. Provided the business cover reorientate any existing business assets that have views to the Project to avoid and minimise the visual impact of the Project. ii. Isotabilish landscape screening to avoid and minimise the visual impact of the Project. iii. Reconfigure, relocate or re	Project Component All	Project Stage Construction, Operation
	 Standard AS/NZS 100002: 2014 Guidelines for Complaints Management in Organisations. Prepare, provide to business owners and implement plans for affected businesses, in accordance with the strategy. The Project will provide for engagement with business owners for 12 months following completion of construction of the towers which are visible from the business and will implement agreed mitigation measures within that time unless otherwise agreed with the relevant business owner. 		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
EMI and EM	λ ΛF		
EL1	 Undertake an Electric and Magnetic Field and Electromagnetic Interference Assessment Design and construct the Project to reduce electric and magnetic fields (EMF) and electromagnetic interference (EMI) from the Project infrastructure to below the reference levels and limits for the Project, or as low as reasonably practicable to avoid and minimise impacts. The applicable reference levels and limits are defined in Technical Report 1: EMI and EMF Impact Assessment. The design must be informed by a Project wide EMI and EMF verification assessment for all the proposed infrastructure at the detailed design stage, identifying existing sensitive receptors and committed future developments within the study area. Prior to the commencement of the relevant construction works, the assessment must be documented in a management plan for implementation and includes, but is not limited to: Outcomes of the Project wide EMI and EMF verification assessment at the detailed design stage and details of the areas assessed. The location of all sensitive receptors that may be impacted by the infrastructure. Where at-receiver mitigation measures to sensitive receptors are required to avoid or minimise adverse impacts. If mitigation works are, and timeline for implementation. A pre- and post-construction testing strategy to verify design calculations, impacts on sensitive equipment and the efficacy of any specified mitigation measures. Remedial action to be investigated if EMI and EMF limits are not met during the construction, testing, and commissioning. 	All	Design, Construction, Operation
Geology a	nd soils		
GSL1	 Develop and implement a pre-construction Site Investigation Plan to inform detailed design Prior to the commencement of construction works, develop and implement a pre-construction Site Investigation Plan for geotechnical site investigations to inform detailed design. The plan must be developed in accordance with AS 1726-2017 and include the locations, number, and type of geotechnical site investigations to determine the sub-surface conditions and soil/rock characteristics, and to characterise and assess the nature of the soils, including compressible, reactive, erosive/dispersive and saline soils. Detailed design of the Project must consider the findings of the geotechnical site investigations, with design measures to be incorporated as far as reasonably practicable to reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation (including considering appropriate surface drainage and existing topography of land), and impact to geologically significant sites. Detailed design must consider: Earthworks design must be undertaken in accordance with AS 3798-2007. Landslide risk and slope stability must be assessed in accordance with AGS Practice Note Guidelines (AGS, 2007c). Mitigation measures and practices must be developed with reference to AGS GeoGuide LR8 (AGS, 2007e). Foundation design must be undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS 7000-2016 with reference to the handbook HB331:2020, AS2159-2009 and AS5100.3:2017 as applicable. 	Transmission tower and terminal station foundations, Permanent earthworks and slope design, Permanent erosion control measures, Permanent access track design, Temporary works required for construction.	Design

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
GSL2	 Develop and implement a Sediment and Erosion Control Management Plan as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EPR EM2). The Sediment and Erosion Control Management Plan must incorporate drainage, erosion and sediment control measures and stockpile management from industry guidelines, including IECAA Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control, 2008 and EPA Victoria Publication No. 1834.1: Civil construction, building and demolition guide. It must include measures to: a. Minimise clearance of vegetation and retain existing vegetation wherever possible, particularly along drainage lines and waterways, steep slopes and areas with unstable soils. b. Stabilise exposed soil where applicable with the appropriate structural materials and media for the construction activities (e.g., stabilisation matting, rock armour or vegetation). c. Manage vehicle movement to designated roads and access areas, and use dust-suppression measures where practicable. d. Where required, reinstate vegetation as soon as works in an area have finished (staged reinstatement). Maintain erosion controls until vegetation is established (as per EPR GSL3). e. Install sediment control measures around stockpiles to contain sediment f. If required, treat in situ and site won dispersive or reactive soils prior to construction to improve the performance. g. Any imported material should be tested for dispersive/reactive soil behaviour prior to use in construction in accordance with AS 3798-2007 and the Project earthwork specification. h. Maintain existing erosion management controls within existing biodiversity corridors and reinstate if damaged. 	Temporary earthworks during construction	Construction
GSL3	 Identify and remediate erosion and land stability issues Develop and implement an inspection and maintenance schedule as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EPR EM2) and AusNet's operational procedures to inform adaptive management and/or measures to maintain integrity of infrastructure during and post construction. The schedule will include: Minimum ongoing inspection and monitoring requirements, including frequency, timing and locations. Requirements for ongoing maintenance of permanent erosion control measures (e.g., vegetation). Remediation requirements for areas that have experienced unexpected disturbance that have not been controlled appropriately with other measures. 	All Project components, particularly those located in identified erosion prone areas, existing landslides or slopes susceptible to landslides.	Construction, Operation
GSL4	 Maintain current public access to geologically significant sites Develop and implement access controls and measures as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EPR EM2) and AusNet's operational procedures to maintain safe access (where sites are currently accessible by the general public) to geologically significant sites during construction and operation. Geologically significant sites include the following locations: Bulgana to Lexton: Landsborough Fault road cutting (BL120)	All	Construction, Operation

EPR Code	Requirement
	ii. Mount Direction Roof Pendant Remnant, (BL123).
	b. Lexton to Ballan:
	i. Mount Beckworth (BL39)
	ii. Hepburn Lagoon (BL45)
	Potential eruption point near Mount Gap (SLO), eruption point near Mount Prospect (SLO), eruption point Newlyn Reservoir (SLO)¹
	iv. Eruption point near Mount Bolton (SLO) ¹ adjacent to the study area and eruption point near Birch Hill (SLC the study area.
	c. Ballan to Melton West:
	i. Lerderderg River Morven Terrace (ML294), Lerderderg River Permian sequence (ML201), Lerderderg Valley Fan (ML291)
	ii. Pykes Hill (ML278)
	iii. Lake Merrimu road cutting (ML113)
	iv. Steep hills west of Bacchus Marsh (SLO) ¹ .
	d. Melton West to Sydenham:
	i. Mount Kororoit (ML66)
	ii. Eruption point near Mount Kororoit (SLO)*.
	e. Distribution line crossovers:
	i. Landsborough Fault road cutting (BL120)
	ii. Lerderderg River Permian sequence (ML201) and Lerderderg River Morven Terrace (ML294)
	iii. Mount Kororoit (ML66)
	iv. Eruption point, near Newlyn Reservoir (SLO) ¹
	v. Steep hills west of Bacchus Marsh (SLO) ¹
	vi. Eruption point near Mount Kororoit (SLO) ¹ .
	Note: * indicates that Sites are not identified as geologically significant sites however they are covered by a SLO.
Groundwat	er
GW1	Site works to reduce the potential of direct physical impact to groundwater receptors

1. Prior to commencement of construction, apply buffers around known and identified groundwater receptors (where practicable) to minimise potential for direct physical impact of construction. These buffers are to apply to the construction of transmission towers, Powercor distribution line crossovers and below ground works at terminal stations. The buffer distances to be applied to groundwater receptors are as follows, noting they are for physical distancing only and do not consider dewatering impacts:

a. Bores (i.e., all extractive bores and excluding bores for monitoring specific purposes): 100m

Transmission Design, towers, Terminal Construction stations, Powercor distribution line crossovers

Project

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EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	 b. SOBN bores: 100m c. Aquatic groundwater dependant ecosystems: 50m or related waterway buffer identified in EPR SW1. 2. If planned works for transmission towers, Powercor distribution line crossovers and below ground works at terminal stations, are located within the buffers specified in item 1): a. Consult with the landholder and undertake a site walkover to inspect or identify groundwater bores or areas where subsurface infrastructure is present (such as supply mains) within and adjacent the construction footprint. i. If additional bores or potential GDEs are discovered, these must be discussed with the landholder and the relevant water authority and considered against the nominated physical distancing buffers listed above in item 1. ii. If sub-surface infrastructure is identified (such as drains, mains), potential for physical impact must be discussed with the landholder. b. Conduct a site-specific groundwater risk assessment to evaluate potential for physical impact c. If potential impacts are identified, prepare and implement site-specific monitoring and mitigation strategies if necessary. These requirements must be incorporated into the Groundwater Management Plan as required by EPR GW2. 		
GW2	 Pevelop and implement a Groundwater Management Plan Prior to commencement of Project construction and as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EPR EM2), develop, implement and maintain a Groundwater Management Plan in consultation with EPA and relevant water authorities that details the specific controls that would avoid or minimise risks to the environmental value of groundwater. The Groundwater Management Plan must include the following, as a minimum: Controls outlined in EPA Publication1834.1 Civil construction, building and demolition guide (EPA, 2023), as relevant to erosion, sediment, contaminated land and contaminated groundwater, chemicals and waste. This includes controls for management measures of the collection, containment and transport of groundwater or slurry discharged or displacement displaced from below ground construction. Groundwater displaced to the surface will be "waste" as defined by the Environment Protection Act 2017. Wastes will be classified, managed, and disposed in accordance with EPA Publication 1827.2: Waste classification assessment protocol (EPA, 2021a), EPA Publication 1968.1: Guide to classifying industrial waste (EPA, 2021b), and EPA Publication 1828.3: Waste disposal categories-characteristics and thresholds (EPA, 2024). Waste will be managed in accordance with the Environment Protection Regulations 2021. These measures should be implemented to prevent any waste reaching waterways, as well as ensuring open holes are bunded to prevent preferential pathways during construction (refer to EPR CL3). Controls outlined in EPA Publication 1698 Liquid handling and storage guidelines (EPA, 2018a) and EPA Publication 1700 Preventing liquid leaks and spills from entering the environment (PA, 2018b). This includes controls such as using secondary containment (bunded) areas to store or transfer liquids, safe pouring and decanting methods, and spill kits to prevent migration of liquid.	Transmission towers, Terminal stations, Powercor distribution line crossovers	Design, Construction

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	d. Provision of access arrangements to DEECA in the event that State Observation Bore Network bores are located within a fenced construction area.		
	e. Protocols in the event of dewatering for towers and terminal stations. The dewatering protocols must include, but not be limited to:		
	i. Review of geotechnical survey data to determine sub-surface conditions.		
	 Estimation of drawdown and cone of depression based on planned dewatering duration and conditions encountered. 		
	Estimation of extraction volume. If the activity is within a Groundwater Management Area, the volume should be communicated to the relevant Water Authority.		
	iv. Identification of receptors (GDEs, waterways, users) or sensitive sites (acid sulfate soils, contamination sources as identified through EPR CL1) within the expected cone of depression. If potential for impact to receptors is identified, consider the proposed construction method and timing to minimise or eliminate impacts.		
	 If there is high uncertainty, high risk, or if impacts cannot be mitigated through design, construction methodology, and timing, install a groundwater bore and undertake investigations to determine groundwater level, groundwater quality and hydraulic conductivity. 		
	vi. Design and implement a field monitoring program before, during and after dewatering to monitor and manage impacts.		
	vii. Develop site-specific mitigation strategies to mitigate potential impacts.		
	viii. Groundwater inflow management planning.		
	ix. Groundwater discharge options assessment and management planning.		
Historical h	eritage		
HH1	Design and construct to avoid and minimise impacts on heritage	All	Design,
	 Undertake design and construction planning to avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, minimise impacts so far as reasonably practicable on the known heritage values of heritage places in consultation with the relevant statutory authority. 		Construction
	2. Prior to commencement of works that have the potential to (directly or indirectly) impact any heritage places, structures or features, develop and implement measures to protect heritage places, structures or features as appropriate from impact during the construction works. Such measures may include, but not be limited to, the erection of physical barriers, the implementation of marked exclusion zones and or the monitoring of the place during works. These mitigation measures are to be developed and implemented, in consultation with the relevant statutory authority, in a manner that is responsive to the specific circumstances of the heritage place the nature of the Project works occurring there.		
HH2	 Undertake archival place recording Prior to commencement of works involving the demolition or modification of non-archaeological heritage places (including trees), undertake archival place recording of these places and their settings to create a permanent record for future study and research. 	All	Construction

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	 The means by which the recording is to be undertaken will be determined by the type and nature of the place but must include the measurement of the place and archival photographic recording as the primary means of recording and documentation. Other means to augment and support the place recording should also be considered and applied where possible. These may include, but not be limited to, techniques such as aerial (drone) photography, photogrammetry, 3D scanning, LiDAR, rectified photography and site survey. Archival photographic recording must be undertaken in accordance with Heritage Victoria's specification for the archival photographic recording of heritage places or alternative applicable Heritage Victoria guidelines. 		
ннз	Manage historical archaeological sites	All	Construction
	 As required by the Heritage Act 2017, apply for consents for Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI) sites and permits for Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) places where direct impacts are proposed. 		
	2. Prepare documentation required to comply with consents and permits obtained for the Project, which may include an Archaeological Management Plan detailing measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate and manage disturbance of archaeological sites and values affected by the Project. The Archaeological Management Plan may include requirements for background historical research, excavation methodology, research design, reporting and artefact management, artefact conservation, and analysis.		
	 Undertake archaeological investigations in accordance with the Guidelines for investigating historical archaeological artefacts and sites (Heritage Victoria, 2015) and any conditions of consents or permits obtained for the Project. 		
HH4	Avoid and minimise impacts to historical heritage during construction	All	Construction
	 To avoid and minimise impacts to historical heritage during construction, the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EPR EM2) must include: 		
	a. An unexpected finds protocol that specifies measures to manage unidentified historical archaeological sites and values discovered during construction. The management protocol must be consistent with the requirements of the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> and include procedures for ceasing work if human remains or archaeological sites, values or objects are discovered, notifying Heritage Victoria of the find, obtaining consent to deal with the find, and dealing with the find in accordance with the consent.		
	 Measures to manage historical heritage impacts including physical barrier protection and/or exclusion zones to manage unplanned effects. 		
	c. Details around training and awareness in relation to historical heritage places and obligations (e.g., Project induction, toolbox talks and staff inductions).		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
Land use a	ind planning		
LU1	 Develop and implement a plan to minimise land use impacts during construction Prior to commencement of construction, develop and implement a plan to minimise the construction footprint so far as reasonably practicable. The plan must be informed by consultation with landholders, the Property Access and Management Plan (PAMP) (EPR EM3) and Specific Property Access Requirements (SPAR) (EPR EM4). The plan must consider, but not be limited to: use of existing roads and tracks for access Avoiding areas of vegetation and cultural heritage sensitivity Existing terrain and reducing areas of excavation where practical 	Towers, Access tracks, Stringing pads, Easement	Design, Construction
LU2	 Minimise land use impacts through design Develop the Project design to avoid and minimise impacts to approved dwellings not yet constructed and other infrastructure as follows: a. Avoid and minimise impacts to approved, but yet to be constructed dwellings located within the Proposed Route, or compensate the affected land title holders to modify their approved planning permit (approved prior to AusNet issuing the Proposed Route) for an alternative dwelling location outside of the Proposed Route. b. Avoid and minimise impacts, so far as reasonably practicable, to transport, utility and service infrastructure in consultation with the asset owners and managers. 	Towers, Easement	Design

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
Landscape	and visual		
LV1	Minimise visual impacts – Public domain	Transmission line	Design,
	 During detailed design, develop a process for consulting with the relevant landholders and/or land managers for Merrimu Reservoir and War Memorial, Bald Hill Activation Area and Bolwarrah Weir to: 		Construction
	a. Confirm sensitive viewpoints, based on the detailed design that are significantly impacted by the Project from a landscape and visual perspective at Merrimu Reservoir and War Memorial, Bald Hill Activation Area and Bolwarrah Weir; and		
	 Determine appropriate measures (if any) for mitigating visual impacts with a particular focus on the matters outlined in items 2, 3 and 4 of this EPR (LV1). 		
	2. Merrimu Reservoir and War Memorial engagement must include offer of the following, at a minimum, for the relevant landholder and/or land manager's consideration:		
	 Landscape screening to filter views towards the Project when facing east from the existing barbecue and picnic facilities at Merrimu Reservoir. 		
	 The development of new public amenities to replace or replicate existing assets in a suitable location within Merrimu Reservoir, which are oriented away from the Project. 		
	c. Reconfiguration and/or redesign of the Merrimu Reservoir War Memorial so that views are oriented away from the Project when the parade ground and ceremonial areas are in use.		
	3. Bald Hill Activation Area engagement must include offer of the following, at a minimum, for the relevant landholder and/or land manager's consideration:		
	a. Landscape screening be installed to filter views towards the Project from the six sculpture locations along the proposed sculpture trail and at the entrance from Swans Road.		
	 Landscape screening will include selective screen planting to be designed and installed to partially screen individual towers. 		
	4. Bolwarrah Weir engagement must include offer of the following, at a minimum, for the relevant landholder and/or land manager's consideration:		
	a. Landscape screening to minimise visual impacts from the existing picnic tables and chairs at the Bolwarrah Weir.		
	5. Provided the required access and authorisations are granted by the relevant landholders and/or land managers, the measures referred to in 1b) of this EPR, must be implemented, at the proponent's cost, within 24 months of the completion of construction of the Project.		
	6. To the extent that the measures referred to in 1b) of this EPR LV1 require planting to be undertaken, ongoing maintenance will be the responsibility of the relevant landholders and/or land managers.		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
LV2	 Minimise visual impacts - Private domain landscape screening program Prior to the commencement of operation, develop a program that provides offers for landscape screening to eligible land title holders (refer Item 2 (b) of this EPR LV2) to minimise visual impacts. The program must: a. Set out the process for informing and making offers for landscape screening, including the timeframe within which offers must be made by the proponent and accepted by the eligible land title holder; and b. Set out the methodology for determining eligibility to participate in the program. Eligible land title holders will include those that meet the following criteria: i. They have elected to participate in the program; and ii. The dwelling must be located within 2km of the approved route, and on a property not directly affected by the Project; and iii. Project towers must be visible from habitable rooms within the dwelling or attached areas of private open space within the curtilage of the dwelling c. Provide for an offer to be made to eligible land title holders, including the costs to monitor and maintain any landscape screening treatment for a period of 2 years d. Provide for the offer to be made by the proponent to the eligible land title holder within 12 months of the completion of construction of the closest tower to that eligible land title holder's dwelling which is visible from habitable rooms within the curtilage of the dwelling. 	Transmission line	Design, Construction
Noise and	vibration		
NV1	 Develop and implement a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan As part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EPR EM2), develop a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP) to avoid and minimise, so far as reasonably practicable, noise and vibration impacts at sensitive receivers. The CNVMP must be developed in consultation with EPA Victoria and comply with the Environment Protection Act 2017 and subordinate legislation, including the general environmental duty, and with reference to the Civil construction, building and demolition guide (EPA Publication 1834.1, as amended from time to time) and Construction – guide to preventing harm to people and the environment (EPA Publication 1820.1, as amended from time to time). The CNVMP must be informed by noise and vibration modelling of Project works. The CNVMP must include: Identification of noise and vibration sensitive receivers, including consideration of sensitive receivers that may be more sensitive at specific times of year. Construction noise and vibration reference levels and criteria as per EPRs NV2 and NV3. 	All	Construction

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	 c. Details of relevant construction activities and an indicative schedule for construction works, including identification of the activities that have the potential to generate noise and/or vibration impacts at sensitive receivers. d. A noise and vibration risk assessment for operation of laydown areas 		
	 d. A noise and vibration risk assessment for operation of laydown areas. e. How the risks of construction noise and vibration will be minimised, including but not limited to: Where noise and vibration modelling of the demonstrates a potential exceedance of reference levels Where cumulative noise and vibration from Project works and from other developments occurring during construction could exceed reference levels Where the environmental values for ambient sound defined in the Environment Reference Standard are at risk. Management actions and mitigation measures to reduce noise and vibration impacts so far as reasonably practicable. g. Roles and responsibilities. Community notification procedures in accordance with EPR EM5 (Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Management Plan). Complaint response procedures in accordance with EPR EM7 (Complaints Management System). A program for monitoring and inspections to: Validate construction noise and vibration predictions. Assess the effectiveness of management measures Assess whether noise and vibration emissions are being minimised so far as reasonably practicable 		
	 iv. Verify noise predictions for Unavoidable Works and Managed-Impact Works. k. Processes for reviewing and updating the modelling, plan and implemented controls in response to Project changes, changes to conditions, monitoring results or enquiries/complaints. 5. The CNVMP must identify Unavoidable Works (refer to EPR NV2) that would be undertaken, including their location, timing and duration. The CNVMP must either include a clear rationale for defining works or a list of the type of planned works that constitute Unavoidable Works and response strategies to mitigate the impacts of these Unavoidable Works, consistent with EPA Publication 1834.1 (as amended from time to time). Note that, in the context of this EPR, noise and vibration reference levels are not compliance levels that if met will discharge the requirements of the general environmental duty. Reference levels represent levels above which harm to human health and the environment is more likely to occur. At all times, the contractor must first eliminate risks of harm so far as reasonably practicable, then reduce risks of harm so far as reasonably practicable. If exceedance of reference levels occurs after all reasonably practicable measures have been implemented, then management actions must be implemented in accordance with the CNVMP. 		
NV2	 Minimise construction outside of Normal Working Hours Schedule works during Normal Working Hours between the hours of 7am – 6pm Monday to Friday, and 7am – 1pm Saturdays to minimise noise impacts. Works must be scheduled during Normal Working Hours unless the works meet the following requirements: 	All	Construction

EPR Code	Rec	juirement			Project Component	Project Stage
		 Construction noise levels are predicted construction, building and demolition guilding vibration levels are predicted to comply and works are undertaken in accordance NV1; or 	not to exceed the noise requirements spe uide (EPA Publication 1834.1 as amended with the relevant vibration reference leve ce with management measures set out in	cified in Table 4.3 of the Civil from time to time), construction el specified in BS6472-1:2008 (NV3), the CNVMP developed under EPR		
		 b. The proposed scope of Unavoidable Woverified by the Independent Environmer Works as outlined in EPA Publication 183 their impacts) are proposed to be many 	orks or Managed-Impact Works, as defined Ital Auditor to meet the definition of Unav 4.1 (as amended from time to time), and aged so far as reasonably practicable.	d in the CNVMP, are reviewed and oidable Works or Managed-Impact noise and vibration emissions (and		
	3.	Notification of any Unavoidable Works must Project website where the Weekend/Evenin from time to time) are predicted to be exce	be provided to potentially affected land g or Night reference levels specified in EP. reded.	holders and made available on the A Publication 1834.1 (as amended		
	4.	Noise and vibration monitoring must be carr Works to confirm predicted levels and that of Construction Noise and Vibration Managen Environmental Auditor (IEA).	ied out at the commencement of Unavoi appropriate management measures are in hent Plan (CNVMP) developed under EPR	dable Works and Managed-Impact mplemented in accordance with the NV1 as verified by the Independent		
	5.	The above requirements do not apply to en environmental harm. The CNVMP must set o and relevant regulators about these works.	nergency works to avoid the loss of life, do ut a process for responding to emergenc	amage to property, or to prevent y works and informing EPA Victoria		
NV3	Min	imise construction vibration impacts on amo	enity		All	Construction
	1.	Develop and implement measures to minim target levels are exceeded.	ise impact to human comfort in occupied	buildings from continuous vibration if		
	2.	Implement management actions if the follo are not achieved (levels are calculated as 1:2008).	wing guideline target levels for continuou: ower range of 'adverse comment possibl	s vibration from construction activities e' from the British Standard BS6472-		
		Location	Guideline target (VDV m/s ^{1.75})			
		Residential (Night – 10pm to 7 am)	0.2			
		Residential (Day – 7am to 10 pm)	0.4			
		Commercial offices, 7am to 10 pm	0.8			
		Workshops, 7am to 10 pm	1.6			
	3.	Notes:				
		a. The reference levels are non-mandatory of practicable mitigation measures. If example, the second	r; they are goals that should be sought to acceeded, then management actions will b	be achieved through the application be required.		
		b The Vibration Dose Values (VDV) may be	e converted to Peak Particle Velocity (PP)	/) levels within the Construction Noise		

b. The Vibration Dose Values (VDV) may be converted to Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) levels within the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP). The methodology to convert VDV to PPV must be verified by the Independent Environmental Auditor (IEA).

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
NV4	 Design operational noise sources to minimise noise so far as reasonably practicable 1. Design and operate the Project to avoid and minimise impacts due to noise emissions as follows: a. Design and operate the new 500kV terminal station near Bulgana, connection to Sydenham terminal station and new transmission infrastructure elements that are subject to Part 5.3, Division 3 (Unreasonable and aggravated noise from commercial, industrial and trade premises) of the Environment Protection Regulations 2021 to: i. Minimise the risk of harm from noise associated with the Project so far as reasonably practicable, ii. Prevent unreasonable noise by ensuring the risk of sporadic noise and low frequency noise is eliminated or managed to the extent reasonably practicable, and iii. Not exceed the noise limits set by the Environment Protection Regulations 2021, to the extent reasonably practicable. b. Noise predictions and analysis for the purposes of this EPR must be conducted in accordance with the Noise Protocol (EPA Publication 1826.4 as amended from time to time), Measuring and analysing industry noise and music noise (Technical Guide: EPA Publication 1997 as amended from time to time) and, where relevant, the Noise guideline – assessing low frequency noise (EPA Publication 1996 as amended from time to time). 	All	Design
NV5	 Undertake commissioning noise monitoring of terminal stations Within six months of completing construction, appoint a suitably qualified acoustic consultant to undertake commissioning noise measurements of the new 500kV terminal station near Bulgana and connection to Sydenham terminal station, following completion of the Project works, to assess levels with respect to the EPRs and to identify and implement contingency measures if the requirements in the EPRs are not met. 	Terminal stations	Operation
NV6	 Minimise the impact of noise from maintenance activities Develop and implement measures to avoid and minimise noise emissions during operation as follows: a. Prior to commencing maintenance activities, prepare and implement measures to undertake the activities to avoid or, where not possible to avoid, minimise noise so far as reasonably practicable. b. Restrict inspections and maintenance to the hours of 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 6pm on Sunday and public holidays where reasonably practicable. 	All	Operation
Social			
SC1	 Avoid and minimise potential negative social impacts of the Project construction workforce Subject to item 2 below, each Operational Management Plan for workforce accommodation facilities required by the draft Incorporated Document condition 4.13.6 must include the following to avoid and minimise potential negative social impacts of the Project construction workforce on surrounding communities: a. A commitment that all construction workers working on the Project who cannot commute safely to work from their current residence will be required to reside within the workforce accommodation facilities, while on a rostered shift and return to their permanent place of residence on rostered breaks, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant Local Authorities. 	Workforce	Design, Construction

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	 b. The management protocol for worker access to settlements in proximity to the workforce accommodation facilities must limit visits to essential trips, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant Local Authorities. c. A commitment to service the workforce accommodation facilities with medical services and to have nominated medical professionals available on call and via programmed visits, to attend to the medical needs of workers. 2. Despite item 1(a) and item 1(b) above, alternative arrangements may be agreed with the relevant Local Authorities and reflected in the relevant Operational Management Plan so as to increase potential positive socioeconomic outcomes of the Project construction stage, while avoiding and minimising to the extent practicable potential negative social impacts. This includes but is not limited to measures that seek to: a. Utilise existing available accommodation in the areas surrounding the Project without resulting in negative effects on housing availability or affordability for local communities, or on the availability of tourist accommodation. b. Allow non-essential trips to larger towns and urban centres under specific circumstances, while avoiding non-essential trips to smaller townships. 		
SC2	 Develop and implement a Code of Conduct to avoid and minimise potential social impacts of the construction workforce Prior to construction commencing, develop and implement a Code of Conduct for the Project workforce in consultation with local councils to avoid and minimise the potential for negative social impacts of the construction workforce on local communities. The Code of Conduct must set out AusNet's expectations of staff when interacting with members of the local community. The Code of Conduct must address matters relating to dress standards and alcohol consumption. The Code of Conduct must stipulate the protocols for worker access to settlements as per EPR SC1. Compliance with the Code of Conduct must be required of all staff and non-compliances investigated and responded to in accordance with misconduct and disciplinary action protocols defined in the Code of Conduct. 	Workforce	Design, Construction
SC3	 Develop and implement initiatives to maximise employment opportunities for local communities, First Nations people and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups Prior to construction commencing, develop and implement a plan to maximise potential benefits of the Project with regard to employment opportunities for local communities, First Nations people and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The local employment initiatives must: a. Aim to recruit as many as possible of the required employees for the Project from within local communities. b. Include strategies focused on employment of First Nations people, apprentices, trainees, people with disability and women. c. Support local workforce growth by hiring regional Victorian workers, particularly those under 25. The plan must include a commitment to deliver training and upskilling, including through apprenticeships, traineeships, and cadetships. 	Workforce	Design, Construction

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
Surface wa	ter		
SW1	 Site works to reduce potential for surface water impact Develop and implement works to avoid and minimise the potential impact to surface water. Prior to the commencement of construction, plans must be developed and implemented for the siting of access tracks, transmission towers and/or terminal stations which show that works will be: Located outside of the floodplain (as defined by the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood extent) where possible. If siting of towers within the floodplain cannot be avoided, further flood protection measures may need to be considered in design. Located at a setback distance of 30m from all designated waterways and water bodies in areas managed by the Wimmera CMA, North Central CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA or Corangamite CMA Located to achieve minimum set back distance determined in consultation with Melbourne Water and based on distances specified in "Waterway Corridors, Guidelines for greenfield development areas within the Port Phillip and Westermport Region" (Melbourne Water, 2013) as follows:	Access tracks, Transmission towers, Terminal stations	Design, Construction
SW2	 Develop and implement a Surface Water Management Plan Prior to construction commencing, develop and implement a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) as part of the CEMP (EPR EM2) to minimise the risk of harm to environmental values of surface water from pollution or waste associated with the construction of the Project; protect waterways and surface water users and maintain floodplain function so far as reasonably practicable. To inform the development of the SWMP, the Principal Contractor is to conduct site walkovers as part of construction site preparation for transmission towers and terminal stations. Site walkovers shall inspect adjacent waterways; confirm the location of all potential surface waters or surface water users within and adjacent to the construction footprint; and determine the potential for direct impacts. This shall include local and ephemeral drainage paths and potential flow or water quality impacts to farm dams or other extractive uses. The SWMP will include management and mitigation measures for: a. Operation of temporary laydown areas, including:	All	Construction

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	ii. Management of site drainage, stormwater runoff, liquid storage and spill control, supply of potable water and non- potable water, and details on greywater and sewage generated onsite.		
	 b. Minimising the potential for erosion and sedimentation, in general accordance with relevant EPA Publications including publications 1820.1 (Construction – Guide to preventing harm to people and the environment); 1894 (Managing soil disturbance); and 1893 (Erosion, sediment and dust: treatment train) 		
	c. Prevention of leaks and spills from entering local waterways, drainage lines or the stormwater network, in general accordance with relevant EPA Publications including publications 1700 (Preventing liquid leaks and spills from entering the environment) and 1698 (Liquid storage and handling guidelines).		
	d. Minimising stormwater runoff, in general accordance with EPA Publication 1834.1 (Civil construction, building and demolition guide) and Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines.		
	 Minimising disturbance of waterway bed or banks or alteration of flow regime, in general accordance with EPA Publication 1896 (Working within or adjacent to waterways). 		
	4. The SWMP must also set out the requirements and methods for:		
	a. Maintaining the key hydrologic and hydraulic functionality and reliability of existing flow paths, drainage lines and floodplain storage wherever possible.		
	b. Siting and construction of Project infrastructure to avoid diversion or blockage of flows to farm dams and extractive users both during and after construction. This includes highly localised flows and ephemeral drainage lines.		
SW3	Monitor water quality	All	Construction,
	 As part of the Surface Water Management Plan (EPR SW2), develop and implement a surface water quality monitoring program prior to and during construction for designated waterways likely to be directly impacted by Project activities. The monitoring program is to be developed in consultation with EPA Victoria, relevant CMAs and Melbourne Water to: 		Operation
	a. Establish the baseline condition of designated waterways within or immediately adjacent to the construction footprint that could be directly impacted by construction activities. This includes waterways crossed by access tracks and waterways that have tower footings located within the minimum set back distance (as defined EPR SW1)		
	b. Monitor water quality prior to construction commencing (subject to flow conditions in seasonal waterways) to establish baseline ambient water quality conditions both upstream and downstream of potential point of impact (i.e., track crossing or tower footing).		
	c. Monitor water quality during construction to detect impacts to water quality and take actions to address impacts		
	 Monitor water quality following completion of construction to establish return to pre-construction water quality conditions both upstream and downstream (allowing for natural and seasonal variability). 		
	2. The monitoring program must:		
	a. Be consistent with recommendations for surface water monitoring provided in EPA Publication IWRG701 (Sampling and analysis of waters, wastewaters, soils and wastes and the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality).		
	b. Specify locations, parameters, and frequency of monitoring.		
	c. Take into account the timing of construction works so that monitoring programs are reflective of site activities.		
	 Measures for addressing any water quality impacts attributed to the Project must be outlined in the Surface Water Management Plan (EPR SW2). 		

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
SW4	 Minimise risks from changes to flood levels, surface flows and velocities 1. Undertake a flood assessment for the Project during its detailed design phase to inform development of design and construction methods to avoid and minimise impact to flood levels, surface flows and velocities. The flood assessment is to be undertaken in accordance with the Guidelines for Development in Flood Affected Areas (DELWP, 2019) and the requirements of the relevant CMAs. a. The assessment must identify potential flood risks and mitigate these through appropriate design considerations by addressing the following criteria supported by flood modelling where possible: i. Flood safety: Refer to EPR SW6 for including flooding into the emergency response plan. ii. Flood damages: As terminal stations are considered critical infrastructure, all electrical plant equipment at the proposed new 500kV terminal station near Bulgana must be set at a threshold level based on an appropriate freeboard allowance above the 1% AEP flood level including consideration of climate change and in consultation with the relevant referral authority. iii. Flood impacts: Flood impact assessment, including impacts on adjacent landholders and users, and on waterway and floodplain function within the floodplain (as defined by the 1% AEP flood extent), including in ephemeral waterways. iv. The adopted flood and climate change conditions must be revisited at 5-yearly intervals in line with EPR CC2. If material changes have occurred in climate conditions and associated flood risks, relative to those forecast and/or assumed at design stage, then additional flood risk assessments are to be carried out. 2. Design for, and implement measures for the management of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces to minimise the risk of harm to surface water environments, so far as reasonably practicable 	Access Tracks, Transmission Towers, Expanded Bulgana Terminal Station, New 500kV terminal station near Bulgana, Laydown Areas	Design, Operation
SW5	 Manage stormwater runoff to reduce potential for surface water impact Conduct periodic inspections of terminal stations, cleared easement areas and permanent AusNet access tracks located within minimum waterway set back distances or at waterway crossings, to maintain conditions to minimise impacts of stormwater runoff on waterways. 	Terminal stations, Cleared easement areas, Access tracks	Operation
SW6	 Operational emergency flood response management Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement a flood response management plan for the Project. The plan will be consistent with AusNet's existing procedures and include relevant flood response actions, clear roles and responsibilities, and consideration of available Municipal Flood Emergency Plans and Local Flood Guides. 	All	Operation
Greenhous	e gas		
SG1	 Develop and implement sustainability targets and a Sustainability Management Plan Develop and implement sustainability targets and specify ratings to reduce construction and operational greenhouse gas emissions. To aid in achieving the targets, the Principal Contractor must develop and implement a Construction Sustainability Management Plan prior to the commencement of construction and an Operational Sustainability Management Plan prior to the commencement of measures to meet the sustainability targets and specified ratings and 	All	Design, Construction, Operation

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	 include the requirement to monitor and report on the progress of achieving the sustainability targets and implementation of the Sustainability Management Plans. At a minimum, this will include: a. Measures to minimise fuel combustion where possible. b. Adopting the waste management hierarchy in accordance with the Environment Protection Act 2017. c. Vendors must adopt technology to minimise handling of sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) during delivery and maximise the efficiency of SF6 utilisation as far as practicable when its use cannot be avoided. d. Measures to track and manage sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) utilisation, including a leak detection and repair (LDAR) strategy to effectively detect and rapidly manage any SF6 leaks. 		
SG2	 Consider environmentally sustainable design Select and source materials in detailed design, and monitor energy and carbon use during construction, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with materials and energy consumption as far as practicable. Investigate, document and implement opportunities to use green power sourced from renewable energy and bio diesel where practicable. Integrate sustainable design practices into the design process to minimise, to the extent practicable, greenhouse gas emissions arising from construction, operations and maintenance of the Project in line with the ratings and targets selected as part of SG1. 	All	Design, Construction, Operation
Transport			
TI	 Develop and implement Traffic Management Plans Prior to commencement of construction, develop and implement Traffic Management Plans (TMPs) to manage risks, so that works are delivered in a manner which promotes safety on the road network, and minimises and manages disruption to all transport modes due to construction traffic required for Project construction. TMPs can be prepared in stages according to locations of Project works and the roads used by construction traffic. TMPs must, as a minimum: Be consistent with Clause 3 of Schedule 7 to the Road Management Act 2004 and be developed in accordance with the Code of Practice for Worksite Safety – Traffic Management and Australian Standard AS1742.3: Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 3: Traffic control for works on roads. Confirm routes for construction haulage and construction Sites, including Oversize and Overmass (OSOM) vehicles) travelling to and from the Project laydowns and Construction Sites, including the confirmation of access point locations, recognising sensitive receptors and minimising the use of local roads where practicable. Include mitigation measures to avoid and minimise road safety impacts as a result of the Project. In developing Project TMPs, the Principal Contractor must: Consider and coordinate with other TMPs developed for the Project and TMPs developed for other works potentially impacting transport so the same area. 	All	Design, Construction

EPR Code	Requirement	Project Component	Project Stage
	b. Consult with all relevant road authorities including the Department of Transport and Planning, Public Transport Victoria, VicTrack, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, emergency services, and local Councils. This will include the exchange of information and discussion of issues and feedback for haulage routes (including OSOM vehicles), road modifications/upgrades (as identified in pre-construction dilapidation surveys required by EPR T2), alternate/detour routes, access points and local access routes, and optimisation of works method and staging. This may also include engagement regarding sensitive, high-risk locations with stakeholders about the need for any additional measures.		
	c. Use Austroads Guide to Temporary Traffic Management Part 10 - Supporting Guidance, undertake independent Road Safety Audits (RSA) of all TMPs prior to their implementation to confirm that Project construction activities comply with all relevant road and transport authority requirements with respect to transport network user safety. Mitigation measures recommended by the RSA will be considered in the TMPs.		
	d. Obtain approval from the relevant road authorities for each TMP including the Department of Transport and Planning, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, and relevant local Councils, and advise on likely implementation timing.		
Τ2	 Undertake dilapidation surveys, road condition monitoring and rectification/restoration Based on the location of construction works and the roads to be used by construction traffic, the Principal Contractor must undertake dilapidation surveys, road condition monitoring and rectification/restoration of any council managed roads which heavy vehicles will use during Project construction. These activities must be undertaken for construction traffic routes at the following frequency: a. Dilapidation survey and upgrade/rectification: Prior to commencement of construction works at each location. Dilapidation surveys will document the existing road condition and be used to determine any upgrades and rectifications required prior to use by Project traffic. Roads identified for upgrade works must be upgraded ahead of construction stage works commencing. b. Road condition monitoring and rectification: Monitoring, reporting and rectification by the Principal Contractor throughout the construction period, to identify when damage occurs due to Project construction traffic, and any maintenance/rectification required. c. Dilapidation survey and restoration: Once construction works at each location are complete, dilapidation surveys will 	Access tracks, Transmission towers, Terminal stations, Stringing pads, Laydown areas	Design, Construction
	 Content of dilapidation surveys to be agreed with relevant local Council. In accordance with Clause 12 of Schedule 7 to the Road Management Act 2004, any council managed road, including bridges and culverts, that experiences damage or degradation due to Project construction traffic must be restored to the previous condition as recorded in the pre-construction dilapidation surveys. Any such works will be done by the Principal Contractor in accordance with necessary approvals and in consultation with the relevant local Council and Department of Transport and Planning. A plan will be developed for restoration works in consultation with relevant local Councils, to be implemented at the end of the construction period for relevant locations. Road restoration works are to be informed by dilapidation surveys as described in Item 1a). Road condition monitoring and outcomes during Project construction must be shared with local Council and relevant transportation authorities. Traffic Management Plans (EPR T1) must be prepared and implemented to undertake any works to rectify/restore any Project damage or degradation at specific locations found through Item 1a), 1b) and 1c). 		

29.9.3 Other recommended requirements

The draft Incorporated Document captures requirements related to management of bushfire risk and of the temporary workforce accommodation facilities. These requirements were identified by the impact assessments in the EES technical reports and have informed the development of conditions in the draft Incorporated Document. These requirements are not EPRs however are related to the avoidance, minimisation and management of potential Project impacts and would be required to be achieved to comply with Project primary approval. These requirements are provided for reference in Table 29.10.

Draft Incorporated Document condition	Requirement
Bushfire management	
Draft Incorporated Document condition 4.11.1	4.11.1 Before development starts, a Construction Bushfire Management Plan must be prepared in consultation with the relevant fire authority and must address the following:
	a. Controls on hot works, flammable liquid storage, vehicle use and other activities that could result in fire ignition, including additional controls during the declared fire danger period, Total Fire Ban days and any days of Catastrophic fire weather conditions.
	b. Securing Country Fire Authority permits for any essential hot works on Total Fire Ban days.
	c. Management of stores of fuel or other flammable materials.
	d. Separation of any offices, lunch rooms and other buildings in which people will congregate in laydown areas from bushfire fuels, resulting in no more than BAL-12.5 exposure.
	e. Provision of mains and/or static water supply and hoses at laydown areas.
	f. Provision of vehicle-based fire water supply, pumps and hoses at all transmission line construction sites during declared fire danger periods.
	g. Coordination with Councils and relevant fire authority to develop conditions under which municipal fire control lines and strategic fire access routes are used by construction traffic during the declared fire danger period and periods of elevated fire weather.
	h. Communication of forecast fire weather conditions to the construction workforce
	i. Removal of vegetation residue from clearing of vegetation for the Project
	j. Applicable bushfire-related training and competency requirements for construction personnel.
Draft Incorporated Document condition 4.11.2	4.11.2 Prior to commencement of construction, all relevant fire authorities must be notified (for dissemination to incident control personnel) that the infrastructure is not electrically active during the construction phase. These agencies must also be notified prior to the activation of the Project, of the date that the infrastructure should be assumed to be electrically active. The second notification must be accompanied by the provision of spatial data on the locations of transmission towers, conductors, new components of the Bulgana and Sydenham terminal stations and the new terminal station near Bulgana.

Table 29.10 Other environmental management requirements captured as conditions of the draft Incorporated Document

Draft Incorporated Document condition	Requirement
Temporary workforce accomr	modation facilities
Draft Incorporated Document condition 4.13.2	 4.13.2 Before development of any temporary workforce accommodation starts, a Temporary Workforce Accommodation Plan (TWAP) must be approved and endorsed by the Minister for Planning. The TWAP must include the following: Fully dimensioned site plans and elevations for each accommodation site including: The boundaries and dimensions of the site. The boundaries and dimensions of the site. The location of all on-site native vegetation and identification if it is to be removed or retained The location of all on-site native vegetation and identification of all facilities provided. Elevation plans showing all buildings and works. Allowance for a perimeter road that has a minimum width of 4 metres and is constructed to an all-weather use standard. Adjoining roads. All proposed driveways, car parking and loading areas. Proposed landscape areas including perimeter fencing details, external lighting, drainage and stormwater treatment measures. All external storage and waste treatment areas. All external storage and waste treatment areas. Any emergency management design features and facilities required as result of condition 4.13.3. Anotation on the site plan for the Lexton facility stating that the temporary workforce accommodation buildings will have a minimum of BAL129 construction The stimuted duration of operation of each accommodation is the are appropriate having regard to: Access, roads and on-site parking. Wether the load is for perimeter for chas any particular environmental sensitivity, and that the works will be suitably managed to address on yiks. Mortalian of the site plan for the Builting to the site are appropriate having regard to: Access, roads and on-site parking. Wether the load is fload prone, at risk of bushfire, or has any particular environmental sensitivity, and that the works will be suitably managed
Draft Incorporated Document condition	Requirement
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Draft Incorporated Document condition 4.13.3	4.13.3 Before development of any Temporary Workforce Accommodation starts, a Construction Bushfire Management Plan must be prepared in consultation with the relevant fire authority that addresses the requirements at Clause 4.11.1 where relevant to the temporary workforce accommodation.
Draft Incorporated Document condition 4.13.4	 4.13.4 Before use of the temporary Workforce Accommodation sites start, an Emergency Management Plan must be prepared in consultation with the relevant Fire Authority and the relevant councils, and approved and endorsed by the Minister for Planning. The Emergency Management Plan must include the following information: a. Procedures for how to deal with fire in buildings, bushfire, and medical emergencies. b. A Bushfire Preparedness and Response Plan addressing the following matters: i. Actions for days with elevated fire danger ii. Monitoring of and response to fire emergency warnings iii. Water and power supply iv. Evacuation and/or shelter in place instructions v. Location of assembly areas vi. Fire response roles, responsibilities and competency requirements viii. Access to and use of fire water supplies, hoses and other fire response equipment viii. Implementation of the preparedness and response plan c. Provide for the procedures outlined in the Bushfire Preparedness and Response Plan as well as Site Plan to be on prominent display in the Workforce Accommodation buildings.
Draft Incorporated Document condition 4.13.5	 4.13.5 Prior to commencement of any works associated with the Temporary Workforce Accommodation, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) must be submitted and approved and endorsed by the Minister for Planning. The CEMP must include the following: a. Procedures to identify, manage and monitor environmental risks specific to the construction activities including air quality, biosecurity, ground water, contaminated land and spoil management, waste, noise, sediment and erosion, surface water, light spill, traffic and unexpected finds protocol. b. Measures to protect native vegetation that is to be retained. c. Procedures to manage construction activities in accordance with the relevant EPA Publications. d. The person(s) responsible for implementation and compliance of each of the CEMP requirements, including details of a site contact or site manager. e. A process for inspections and monitoring, auditing, and reporting.

Draft Incorporated Document condition	Requirement
Draft Incorporated Document condition 4.13.6	 4.13.6 Before use of the temporary Workforce Accommodation sites starts an Operational Management Plan (OMP) must be prepared in consultation with the relevant Council, and must be approved and endorsed by the Minister for Planning. The OMP must include: a. Procedures for on-going management of vegetation with the sites to maintain it as low threat vegetation as per AS3959:2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas. b. Details of staffing and management arrangements. c. Information about the manner in which workers will be transported from the Workforce Accommodation facilities to the relevant worksite, including working hours, rostering and rotations. d. A protocol for managing worker access to settlements in proximity to Workforce Accommodation facilities. e. Information about the arrangements for medical services to be available on-call and via programmed visits, to attend to the medical needs of workers if required. f. Complaint management procedures.
Draft Incorporated Document condition 4.13.8	4.13.8 Following completion of construction of the Project, a decommissioning plan for Workforce Accommodation sites must be approved and endorsed by the Minister for Planning. Decommissioning and rehabilitation must be undertaken in compliance with the approved plan.



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