Bellambi Heights Battery Energy Storage System

Biodiversity Management Plan

Prepared for Vena Energy Services (Australia) Pty Ltd

October 2025

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Vena Energy Services (Australia) Pty Ltd

E220170 RP19

October 2025

Version	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Comments
V1	19/09/2024	Madeleine Hunt	Jason Brown Kate Cox	Draft
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Approved by

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Associate Director - Environmental Scientist
23 October 2025

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Abbreviations

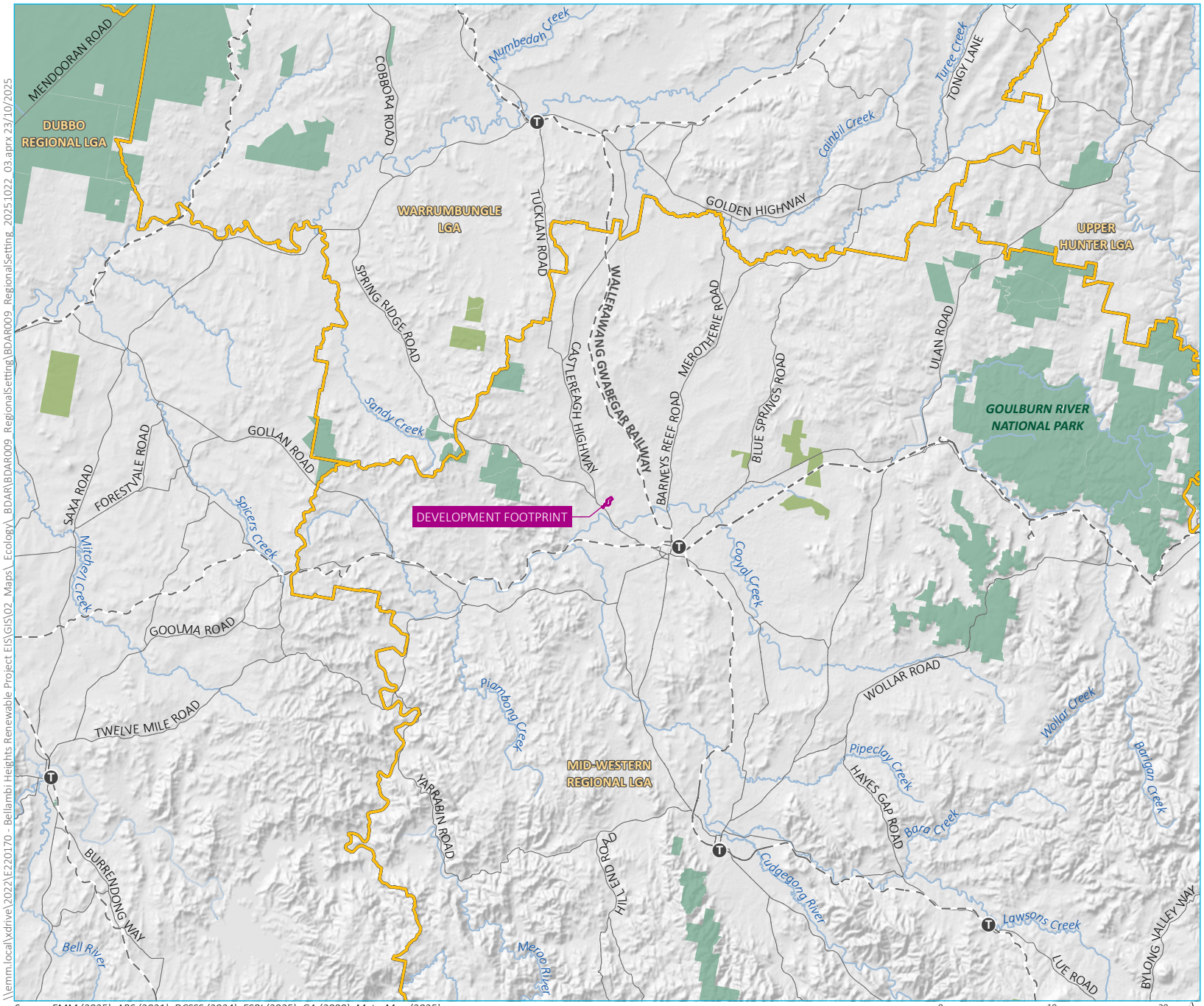
Abbreviation / Acronyms	Definition
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
Bellambi Heights BESS	Bellambi Heights Battery Energy Storage System
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
CPHR	Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group
DNG	Derived Native Grassland
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMM	EMM Consulting Pty Limited
EP&A Act	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
EPBC	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
km	Kilometre
NSW	New South Wales
PCT	Plant Community Type
Vena	Vena Energy Services (Australia) Pty Ltd
WONS	Weeds of National Significance

1 Introduction

Vena Energy Services (Australia) Pty Ltd (Vena) proposes to develop the Bellambi Heights Battery Energy Storage System (Bellambi Heights BESS), a major grid scale battery and associated infrastructure. The project will be developed within 79 Puggoon Road and 696 Castlereagh Highway (Lots 101 and 102, DP 1203462), approximately 6.5 kilometres (km) north-west of the township of Gulgong (hereafter 'the site'). The regional location is shown in Figure 1.1. The project includes battery containers, cabling, power conversion systems, switching station, access and other ancillary activities within the development footprint, shown in Figure 1.2.

Development consent SSD-33344237 was granted for the project in May 2024 by the NSW Minister for Planning under section 4.38 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Development Consent SSD-33344237 was subsequently modified on 20 October 2025. As part of the development application required to obtain the development consent, a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) was undertaken by EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM).

This Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) has been prepared to manage biodiversity impacts associated with the Bellambi Heights BESS. This BMP has been prepared to address the requirements of condition B13 of the Development Consent SSD-33344237 (as modified) for the project issued by the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). This BMP forms part of the suite of environmental management requirements required under the development consent, including the approved *Environmental Management Strategy: Bellambi Heights BESS* prepared to satisfy condition C1 in Development Consent SSD-33344237.



KEY

- Development footprint

Existing environment

- Train station
- Rail line
- Major road
- Named watercourse
- NPWS reserve
- State forest
- Local government area

Project location

Bellambi Heights BESS
Biodiversity Management Plan
Figure 1.1

EMM
creating opportunities

Source: EMM (2025); ABS (2021); DCSSS (2024); ESRI (2025); GA (2009); MetroMap (2025)

\\emm.local\xdrive\2022\E220170 - Bellambi Heights Renewable Project EIS\GIS\02_Maps_Ecology_BDAR\BDAR009_RegionalSetting\BDAR009_RegionalSetting_20251022_03.aprx 23/10/2025

KEY

- Development footprint
- Site boundary

Project component

- BESS compound
- Combined BESS substation and switching station
- Site access intersection
- Temporary construction laydown area

Existing environment

- Major road
- Minor road
- Vehicular track
- Named watercourse
- 330 kV transmission line
- Cadastral boundary

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Source: EMM (2025); DCSSS (2025)

0 250 500 m

GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

N

Project layout

Bellambi Heights BESS
Biodiversity Management Plan
Figure 1.2

EMM
creating opportunities

2 Purpose and objectives

2.1 Purpose and objectives

This BMP has been prepared to detail how Vena propose to manage biodiversity impacts of the project as required by condition B13 of the Development Consent.

The key objective of the BMP is to ensure that impacts to flora and fauna are minimised. To achieve this objective, the following will be undertaken:

- implement practical controls and procedures during construction activities to avoid, minimise or manage potential adverse impacts to flora and fauna
- conduct monitoring and reporting to assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures
- implement appropriate measures to address the requirements detailed in the Development Consent.

2.2 Key stakeholders

Table 2.1 outlines key stakeholders relevant to the relevant to the project.

Table 2.1 Key stakeholder contact details

Name	Organisation	Role	Phone	Email
Andrew Brownlow	Vena	Manager (NSW) Development and Stakeholders	0417 210 253	Andrew.Brownlow@venaenergy.com.au
Liz Mazzer	Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR)	Conservation Planning Officer	-	Liz.Mazzer@environment.nsw.gov.au

Consultation and engagement with the CPHR has been completed. Recommendations were received from the CPHR on 29 November 2024, 19 February 2025 and 29 April 2025. All comments have been addressed, and their location in the report is provided below in Table 2.2. Confirmation from CPHR that all comments have been resolved was received on 14 May 2025. A copy of the letter is included as Appendix A.

Table 2.2 CPHR recommendations

CPHR comment	Matter resolved 14 May 2025	Section of the report where this has been addressed
1.1. Revise the BMP to address both the construction and operational phases of the project.	Yes	Section 5.1 and Table 6.1 in Section 6.3
1.2. Revise the BMP to include targets and triggers are quantitative, unambiguous and relate to performance or completion criteria.	Yes	Section 6.3
1.3 Ensure all performance criteria, completion criteria and indicators for each domain: • meet the 'SMART' principles. • are drafted with consideration of current baseline conditions. • are supported by suitable monitoring methods.	Yes	Section 6.3

CPHR comment	Matter resolved 14 May 2025	Section of the report where this has been addressed
2.1. Develop a strategy to protect and manage remnant native vegetation and fauna habitat on the site long term.	Yes	Section 5.1 and Chapter 6 Note: Landscaping and vegetation screening have not been proposed as part of this project. However, the BDAR suggests that if landscaping or vegetation screening is introduced in the future, selected tree species should be consistent with PCT 266 and PCT 277 to maintain alignment with the existing vegetation communities.
2.2. Develop a monitoring plan to track the condition of native vegetation on site.	Yes	Sections 5.1, 5.1.1iii, 6.3 and 6.4
3.1. Include the requirement that a local vet or wildlife carer should be contacted prior to clearing to confirm that they are willing to accept displaced or injured wildlife. Update Section 5.1.4 to include the requirement that an ecologist must be present to supervise all clearing works.	Yes	Section 5.1.1i The requirement for an ecologist during clearing works is addressed in Section 5.1.1.

3 Legislative requirements

Requirement for this BMP arises from condition B13 of the Development Consent. The consent condition and the section where each condition is addressed within this BMP is outlined in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Legislative requirements

Condition	Where condition is addressed
B10. The Applicant must not clear any native vegetation or fauna habitat located outside the approved disturbance areas described in the EIS.	Section 5.1
B11. Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Applicant must retire biodiversity credits of a number and class specified in Table 1 below, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. The retirement of these credits must be carried out in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and can be achieved by: (a) acquiring or retiring 'biodiversity credits' within the meaning of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*; (b) making payments into an offset fund that has been developed by the NSW Government; or (c) funding a biodiversity conservation action that benefits the entity impacted and is listed in the ancillary rules of the biodiversity offset scheme.	Appendix D
B12. Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Applicant must provide evidence to the Planning Secretary that biodiversity credits have been retired.	Appendix D
B13. Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the development in consultation with the Biodiversity Conservation and Science (BCS) department of NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must:	This document
a) be prepared in accordance with the revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (dated 11 March 2024)	This document
b) include a description of the measures and timeframes that would be implemented for: i) protecting vegetation and fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance areas	Section 5.1.1i Section 6.3
ii) managing the remnant vegetation and fauna habitat on site	Section 5.1 Section 5.2 Section 6.3
iii) minimising clearing and avoiding unnecessary disturbance of vegetation that is associated with the construction and operation of the development	Section 5.1.1i Section 6.3 Section 6.4
iv) minimising the impacts to fauna on site and implementing fauna management protocols, including the design of temporary fencing	Section 5.1 Section 6.3
v) maximising the salvage of vegetative and soil resources within the approved disturbance area for beneficial reuse in the enhancement or the rehabilitation of the site	Section 5.1.2iii Section 6.3
vi) biosecurity management, including controlling weeds, feral pests and pathogens	Section 5.2 Section 6.3 Section 6.4
c) include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of mitigation measures	Chapter 6 Section 6.4
d) include an incidental threatened species finds protocol to identify the avoid and/or minimise and/or offset options to be implemented if additional threatened species are discovered on site	Section 5.1.1ii

Condition	Where condition is addressed
e) include details of who would be responsible for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the plan.	Section 6.3 Section 6.4
Following the Planning Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Biodiversity Management Plan.	
Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs C2. The Applicant must: (a) update the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary prior to carrying out any upgrading or decommissioning activities on site; and (b) review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within 1 month of the: (i) submission of an incident report under condition C10 of Schedule 2; (ii) submission of an audit report under condition C14 of Schedule 2; or (iii) any modification to the conditions of this consent.	Section 7.2
Staging, Combining and Updating Strategies, Plans or Programs C3. With the approval of the Planning Secretary, the Applicant may stage the development and may: (a) prepare and submit any strategy, plan or program required by this consent on a staged basis (if a clear description is provided as to the specific stage and scope of the development to which the strategy, plan or program applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan or program); (b) combine any strategy, plan or program required by this consent (if a clear relationship is demonstrated between the strategies, plans or programs that are proposed to be combined); and (c) update any strategy, plan or program required by this consent (to ensure the strategies, plans and programs required under this consent are updated on a regular basis and incorporate additional measures or amendments to improve the environmental performance of the development).	Section 7.3
Incident Notification C10. The Department must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website immediately after the Applicant becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the development application number and the name of the development if it has one) and set out the location and nature of the incident. Subsequent notification requirements must be given, and reports submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 5.	Section 6.5.1
Non-Compliance Notification C11. The Planning Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after the Applicant becomes aware of any non-compliance.	Section 6.5.2
C12. A non-compliance notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of consent that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.	Section 6.5.2
C13. A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a noncompliance.	Section 6.5.2

Condition	Where condition is addressed
C20. The Applicant must: (a) make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development: (i) the EIS; (ii) the final layout plans for the development; (iii) current statutory approvals for the development; (iv) approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent (other than the Fire Safety Study and Emergency Plan); (v) the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development is to be staged; (vi) a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, which have been reported in accordance with the various plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent; (vii) how complaints about the development can be made; (viii) any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit; and (ix) any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and (b) keep this information up to date.	Section 6.6

4 Approved impacts

Potential direct and indirect impacts to flora and fauna arising from the project were identified in the BDAR (EMM 2024), which formed part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development application. Direct impacts will occur within the development footprint only (Figure 1.2). The assessed impacts to flora and fauna are outlined in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Approved direct and indirect impacts

Potential direct impacts
• Removal of native trees and derived native grassland.
• Reduction in fauna habitat.
Potential indirect impacts
• Decreased viability of any retained native vegetation in the 10 m indirect impact buffer due to edge effects.
• Sedimentation and pollution of waterways, leading to a reduction in water quality in minor watercourses and Wialdra Creek.
• Introduction and spread of invasive exotic weed species and pathogens, leading to loss of habitat and suppression of native seedling establishment resulting in changes to vegetation communities over time.
• Increase in pest animal activity in the general site area.
• Temporary increased noise levels from construction equipment leading to disturbance of fauna, especially during breeding seasons.
• Temporary increase in light levels during night works, leading to disturbance of fauna and changes in occupancy or behaviour.

5 Environmental management measures

5.1 Biodiversity management

In accordance with condition B10 no clearing of native vegetation or fauna habitat located outside the approved disturbance areas is permitted. The extent of approved disturbance is shown in Figure 5.2. Management of vegetation clearing during construction and operation is described in this section.

5.1.1 Construction phase

i Vegetation pre-clearance procedure

Prior to any vegetation clearing, the following will be implemented.

a One week prior to clearing

A suitably qualified ecologist will undertake an assessment of trees and Derived Native Grassland (DNG) to be cleared. Results of the inspection will be provided to the contractor prior to clearing. The inspection will include:

- identification and marking of all habitat trees (such as trees with nests) and other fauna habitat features
- identification and marking up any High-Threat Weeds and/or Weeds of National Significance (WONS) that require additional disposal measures under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* within the impact area
- areas of weed material have been identified and marked for disposal by an appropriately qualified person
- identification of any incidental threatened species
- identification of any potential fauna release locations nearby, if required
- establishing three survey plots within “Good EPBC” PCT 277 (methods described in Section 5.1.2.

Inspection of Category One – Exempt Land is not required (Land category mapping included in Appendix B of this report).

The ecologist is to contact a local wildlife carer (or veterinarian) to determine whether they have capacity to receive and care for any displaced or injured wildlife.

b On the day of clearing

All contractors and employees involved in the clearing works must receive training on environmental risks through Toolbox Talks or Pre-Start Meetings. These will be conducted daily during clearing works and must cover the following:

- restricting clearing activities strictly within the development footprint, and contractors are not to disturb or enter areas outside of development footprint
- ensuring development footprint is fenced off with clearly visible temporary fencing (or similar)
- confirming erosion and sediment controls are in place, as required.

A suitably qualified ecologist will inspect any fauna habitat identified during the pre-clearance survey, and supervise its removal. If any fauna are present, the ecologist will relocate to release locations. The ecologist will supervise clearing of trees and DNG (excluding Category One – Exempt Land – see Appendix B) and document any identified and/or relocated fauna encountered during clearing.

ii Unexpected finds procedure

If any threatened species are unexpectedly encountered within the development footprint prior to or during construction activities, the procedure shown in Figure 5.1 is to be followed. Appendix C identifies threatened species identified in the BDAR with a moderate or greater potential to occur. No threatened species have been identified in investigations completed for the BDAR.

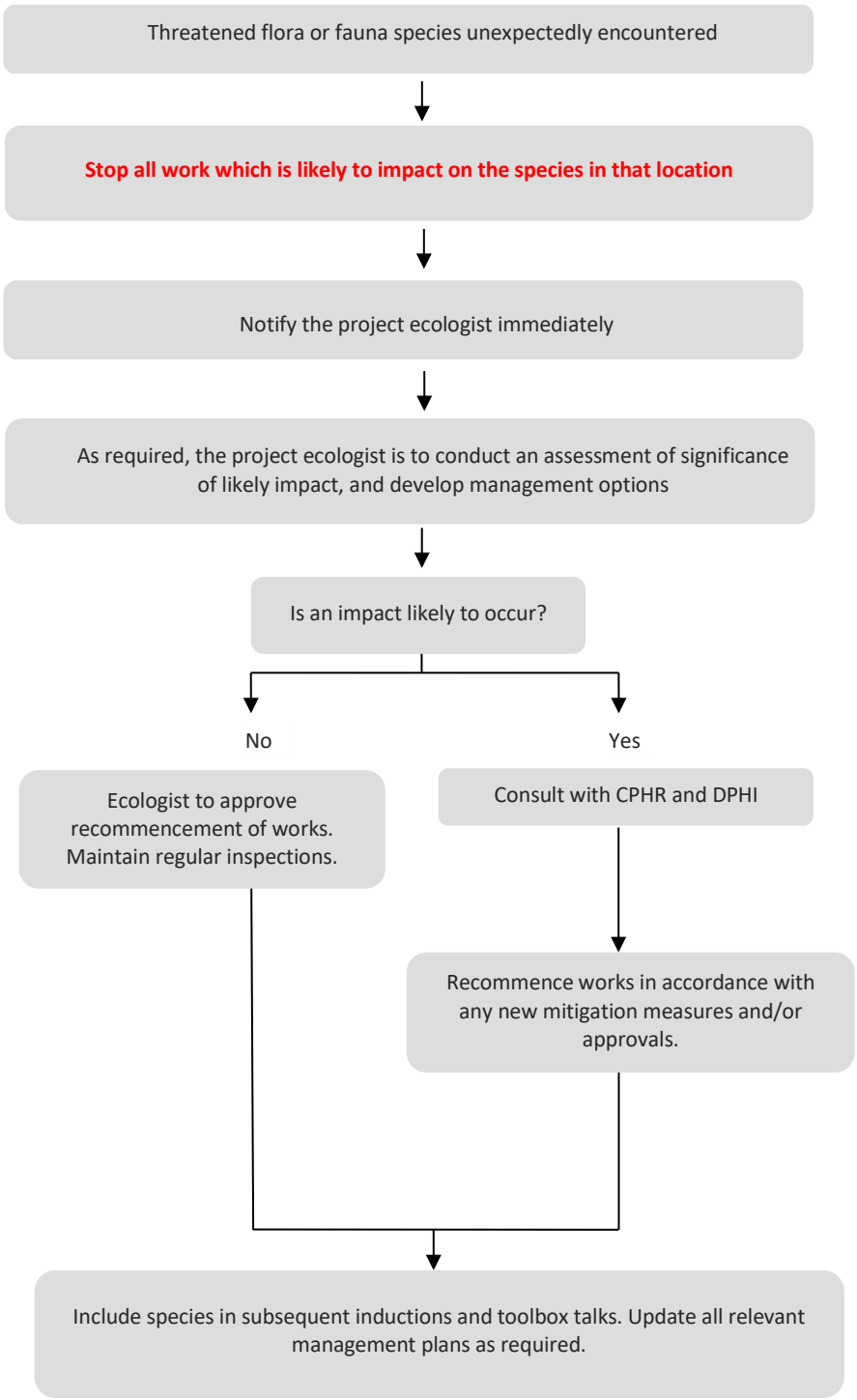

Figure 5.1 Unexpected finds procedure

iii Vegetation within the site outside of the approved disturbance area

In accordance with condition B10 no clearing of native vegetation or fauna habitat located outside the approved disturbance areas is permitted. The extent of approved disturbance is shown in Figure 5.2.

The 'site' or study area comprises the broader Bellambi Heights property, comprising Lot 101 and Lot 102 DP 1203462. The development footprint (i.e. the approved disturbance area) for the project covers approximately a 25-hectare portion of Lots 101 and 102. The indirect impact area (10 metre (m) buffer) has been defined in the approved BDAR. The development footprint and indirect impact area was the subject of the development application, and subject to assessment and approval in the EIS and BDAR. The site outside of the development footprint and indirect impact area does not form part of the project and will remain in agricultural production, with ongoing use of the land for grazing and farming, as stated in the EIS.

The site outside the development footprint and indirect impact area will continue to be grazed. Vegetation condition for selected areas will be monitored by use of annual inspections and photo-points (i.e. vegetation zone "Good EPBC" as shown on Figure 5.2). Monitoring will capture the general condition of the vegetation, such as presence of pest species (monitoring is described in Chapter 6).

The 'Good EPBC' vegetation zone will be monitored due to its proximity to the development footprint and high biodiversity value compared to surrounding cleared grazing land. The purpose of the monitoring is to ensure there are no un-anticipated indirect impacts within the Good EPBC vegetation zone as a result of the development.

Whilst no impacts are anticipated, this zone represents the area of highest ecological significance within the land outside of the development footprint. It is also downslope from the development footprint and therefore there may be a minor risk of indirect impacts from the development. All other woodland vegetation zones in the land outside of the development footprint are highly modified and heavily impacted by agricultural activities, are a considerable distance from the development footprint, therefore it is not considered necessary to undertake more detailed monitoring in these lower condition areas. For this reason, monitoring has been recommended only within the high-quality EPBC-listed vegetation area.

This monitoring will be used to report on the effectiveness of mitigation in accordance with condition B13 (c), as it addressed B13 (b) (ii) *managing the remnant vegetation and fauna habitat on site* and B 13 (c) *include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of mitigation measures*.

iv Minimising impact on retained vegetation

The following measures will be implemented prior to, and during construction, to avoid and minimise construction impacts:

- Weeds will be removed from within the development footprint prior to vegetation clearing, with weeds appropriately stockpiled prior to removal to avoid the spread of seed and other propagules. Weed controls will consist of:
    - placing all weeds on top of plastic sheeting to prevent the vegetative material from establishing at the stockpile location and removing weeds and weed infested plant material from the development footprint as soon as practicably possible (i.e. the same day as removal)
    - plant and machinery will arrive clean to prevent weed introduction
    - further discussion of weeds is included in Section 5.2.
- Construction impacts will be contained within the development footprint, and no encroachment into retained vegetation outside the development footprint will result from the project. Controls will include:
    - installation of appropriate fencing around the extent of the development footprint to ensure vegetation within the site (external to the development footprint) is not disturbed

- identification of retained vegetation outside the development footprint as part of site induction training
- all material stockpiles, vehicle parking and machinery storage should be located within the development footprint, on flat level ground (where possible) on the furthest point away from drainage lines
- dust levels will be visually monitored, and dust suppression strategies will be implemented, including wetting down dirt roads and reducing vehicle speeds within the development footprint.

- Sediment controls will be put in place, including installation of sediment traps and sediment fencing around construction and earth works.

5.1.2 Operational phase

i Minimising impacts during operation

As stated in the EIS, the broader site (which is outside the development footprint) will continue to be managed to enable ongoing agricultural production. Practices implemented to ensure sustainable agricultural production and maintain biodiversity values will include:

- sustainable grazing to retain the groundcover as best as possible
- ongoing management and cyclical control of problematic weed species
- maintain and align paddock fences and gates with minimal disturbance
- ongoing pest animal control
- inspect for and manage localised erosion.

Within the development footprint, the following measures will be implemented during the operational phase to reduce the likelihood of impacts occurring outside of the development footprint:

- clearly marked disturbance footprint (i.e. fencing of the development footprint)
- annual environmental awareness training for personnel to ensure compliance with biodiversity protection measures
- signage installation to indicate extent of development footprint
- regular monitoring and maintenance of fencing to ensure continued effectiveness in protecting vegetation
- implementation of weed and pest management to prevent the spread of invasive species in retained vegetation areas.
- designated access roads and pathways to minimise off-road movement and reduce disturbance
- waste management protocols to prevent contamination of surrounding vegetation
- use of low-impact lighting to minimise disturbance to nocturnal wildlife in adjacent habitats
- emergency response procedures to manage potential environmental incidents, such as spills or fires, in a way that minimises ecological impact.

A summary of these measures, timing, responsible persons and reporting requirements are included in Table 6.2.

KEY

- Development footprint – extent of approved disturbance
- Site boundary
- Surveyed cadastre

Retained vegetation - plant community type (condition)

- Dam
- Infrastructure

PCT 281 | Rough-Barked Apple - red gum - Yellow Box woodland on alluvial clay to loam soils on valley flats in the northern NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and Brigalow Belt South Bioregion

- Poor

PCT 277 | Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion

- Good EPBC
- Poor EPBC
- DNG
- Poor

PCT 266 | White Box grassy woodland in the upper slopes sub-region of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion

- DNG moderate
- DNG
- Poor

Existing environment

- 330 kV transmission line
- Major road
- Minor road
- Vehicular track
- Cadastral boundary

Retained vegetation within the site

Source: EMM (2025); DFSI (2020, 2021); DCSSS (2023); OEH (2014, 2017)

0 250 500 m

GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

N

Bellambi Heights BESS
Biodiversity Management Plan
Figure 5.2

EMM
creating opportunities

ii Monitoring of vegetation outside the approved disturbance area

The site outside of the approved development footprint will continue to remain in agricultural use and will not be impacted by the development.

Formal vegetation monitoring will be conducted in the large patch of woodland mapped as PCT 277 Good EPBC. This will be conducted prior to construction to set a baseline for future comparison, then annually in late spring or summer during construction. The monitoring will occur for two years post construction. As discussed, the 'Good EPBC' vegetation zone will be monitored due to its proximity to the development footprint and high biodiversity value compared to surrounding cleared grazing land. While no impacts are anticipated, this zone represents the area of highest ecological significance within the land outside of the development footprint. It is also downslope from the development footprint and therefore there may be a minor risk of indirect impacts from the development. All other woodland vegetation zones in the land outside of the development footprint are highly modified, heavily impacted by agricultural activities, and are located a considerable distance from the development footprint, therefore it is not considered necessary to undertake more detailed monitoring in these lower condition areas.

Monitoring methods will include:

- three 20 m x 20 m survey plots will be established:
    - photo points at the start and end of each plot
    - native vegetation cover – top three species in each stratum with cover and abundance noted
    - weed cover – top three weeds' species cover and abundance noted
    - evidence of any recent fire
    - evidence of erosion and rubbish
    - evidence of any plant or soil pathogens
    - evidence of pest species
- a site-wide walkover assessment by an ecologist to inspect woodland areas under agricultural use to inspect for any significant new weed incursions (using the original BDAR as a baseline).

These monitoring requirements are summarised in Table 6.2.

iii Reuse of salvaged material

Logs, coarse woody debris and bush rock, if present, will be salvaged and retained within the development footprint or relocated to nearby vegetated areas on site, under the direction of the ecologist. If the topsoil is considered suitable for recovery (i.e. contains a large percentage of native species or a similar species composition to what the land use will return to), it should be used as growth medium to be used in the revegetation of disturbed areas following completion of construction or to rehabilitate areas in the site, where practical.

Native vegetation cleared from the development footprint should be mulched for re-use, such as to stabilise bare ground, where practical.

5.2 Biosecurity management

5.2.1 Weed and pathogen management

i Weeds identified

The following high threat weed (HTW) species have been identified on the site or within adjacent vegetation:

- Sheep Sorrel (*Acetosella vulgaris*)
- Great Brome (*Bromus diandrus*)
- Saffron Thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*)
- St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*)
- Paspalum (*Paspalum dilatatum*).

ii Weed management

A weed management and treatment protocol for the construction and operation of the project (Table 5.1) has been developed in accordance with the treatment methods identified on the 'NSW WeedWise' website (DPI n.d.), developed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

Of the weed species observed within the site, Saffron Thistle, St. John's Wort and African Boxthorn have biosecurity controls listed within a species profile on the 'NSW WeedWise' website (DPI n.d.), links to each profile are included in Table 5.1.

African Boxthorn is listed as a WONS. Any WONS identified during vegetation clearance will be disposed of at an appropriately licenced waste management facility. Where WONS are identified, affected topsoil (typically the top 5 centimetre (cm) of soil profile, where seeds are likely) is to be stockpiled, monitored and treated with herbicide in accordance with the NSW WeedWise (NSW WeedWise ((DPI n.d.) (refer Table 5.1). If weed-affected topsoil is to remain on site following treatment, it should be stockpiled a safe distance away from sensitive environmental areas, including remnant vegetation, creeklines, and drainage features. While the *Biosecurity Act 2015* does not specify exact distances, a minimum buffer of 50 m from intact native vegetation or drainage lines would be sufficient to facilitate future weed control access and helps to minimise the spread of weed propagules off site.

The **NSW WeedWise website** (https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/) contains key information for over 325 weeds in New South Wales including weed names, physical description and image gallery, impacts, occurrence, how it spreads and preferred habitat. Control options are described for each weed and the herbicides registered for control are listed, including application rates and techniques, and any minor-use permits that must be complied with. General, state or regional biosecurity duties under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are displayed for each weed.

Table 5.1 Weed management and treatment protocol

Scientific name	Common name	Management and treatment method	Links to Weedwise website
Carthamus lanatus	Saffron Thistle	Control with herbicides is the recommended treatment method for Saffron Thistle. All plants will be removed prior to vegetation clearance and root systems should be removed from the soil. To prevent rigorous regrowth, herbicide treatment may be required following initial removal efforts. Weed hygiene must be maintained for all vehicles, machinery and plant entering the development footprint.	https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/SaffronThistle
Hypericum perforatum	St. John's Wort	Prevention is the best means of control for St. John's Wort. Weed hygiene must be maintained for all vehicles, machinery and plant entering the development footprint.	https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/StJohnsWort
Lycium ferocissimum	African Boxthorn	Successful control of African Boxthorn relies on completing follow up measures after the initial eradication efforts. All plants will be removed prior to vegetation clearance and root systems should be removed from the soil. Follow up inspections should be conducted as it is likely additional treatment will be required during construction to prevent vigorous regrowth. Follow-up treatment may include physical removal and/or chemical treatment of regrowth. As a WONS, infestations of this weed, including any affected topsoil, will be appropriately managed and disposed of in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. Affected topsoil is to be stockpiled, monitored and treated with herbicide in accordance with the NSW WeedWise website (DPI n.d.), which specifies the following methods: • Soil spraying: Treat before bud burst (when plants start growing from their buds after being dormant). This method is for small plants that are not close to desirable plants. Thoroughly cover the soil from the trunk to the dripline of each plant. • Granular herbicide soil application: Estimate the area within 30 cm beyond the drip zone (area under the canopy) of each tree or group of trees. Calculate the amount of herbicide required to cover area to be treated. Distribute the required dose uniformly over the soil within this area.	https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/AfricanBoxthorn
All other weeds Sheep Sorrel (*Acetosella vulgaris*) Great Brome (*Bromus diandrus*) Saffron Thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*) Paspalum (*Paspalum dilatatum*).		All weeds will be effectively controlled with herbicide such as Glyphosate (in accordance with the label) or physical removal prior to vegetation clearing. To prevent regrowth during construction, ongoing management will include regular slashing or application of herbicide to any emerging weeds.	

iii Pathogen management

All vehicles, machinery and plant must arrive clean to the development footprint to minimise the risk of pathogens and diseases being spread within the development footprint and within the broader environment.

5.2.2 Pest animal management

The development footprint is situated in a rural landscape where pest species such as foxes, exotic birds (e.g. Starlings and Common Mynas), and feral cats may periodically occur within the project footprint. These species may exploit increased human activity and foraging opportunities resulting from vegetation clearing. While the project is expected to have an insignificant impact on the overall abundance of pest animals in the area, proactive measures will be implemented to further reduce potential risks. These include using secure, pest-proof waste receptacles to prevent access to food scraps, and promptly reporting any emerging pest issues to Local Land Services.

5.3 Erosion and sediment control

Works shall not be undertaken unless erosion and sediment controls are in place. Construction areas must be regularly wet down whilst works are ongoing to minimise dust generation. Project personnel shall monitor local weather patterns, and plan work accordingly. Inspection of all sediment controls and drainage outlets should be undertaken before and after rain events to ensure that they are in working order. The erosion and sediment control measures will be maintained throughout the construction period and be carefully removed following the completion of works and the stabilisation of the area.

6 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

6.1 Training

All employees, contractors and utility staff working on site during construction and operation will undergo site induction training relating to flora and fauna management issues. The induction training will address elements related to biodiversity management including:

- the existence of this plan and its requirements
- relevant legislation
- specific weeds and threatened species that may occur and how these species can be recognised (refer to Appendix C)
- stockpile locations and management measures
- weed control measures
- general flora and fauna management measures for clearance activities
- specific responsibilities for the protection of flora and fauna.

6.2 Inspections

Pre-clearance inspections will be conducted by an ecologist as per the pre-clearance procedures and timing included in Table 6.2. General environmental inspections (including inspections for effectiveness of erosion and sediment control measures) will be undertaken regularly for the duration of the project. Inspections of all sediment controls and drainage outlets should be undertaken before and after significant rain events to ensure that sediment control measures are in place and working correctly, for the life of the project.

6.3 Performance criteria

The performance criteria are based on measurable outcomes (completion criteria) and will be used to assess how effectively the BMP is being implemented. The performance criteria are based on the aims of the BMP (Chapter 5) and are provided in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 Management measures performance criteria

Management measure	Timeframe	Performance criteria	Completion criteria	Responsibility	Where referenced in this report
Weed management	• Pre-construction • Construction • Operation	No weeds are spread from the site.	• Weeds are removed from within the development footprint as per the weed management and treatment protocol (Section 5.2.1). • Weed management actions are recorded.	Contractor	Section 5.2.1 Table 5.1
Pathogen and weed management	• Pre-construction • Construction	No introduction of new weeds species to the site, and no weeds are spread from to the site. No transfer of pathogens to and from the site.	• A wash down facility is installed. • The wash down area is monitored and maintained weekly. • All vehicles, machinery and plant use the wash down area as required.	Contractor	Section and 5.2.1
Fencing	• Pre-construction • Construction	No disturbance to native vegetation outside of the development footprint.	• Fencing has been installed prior to construction to demarcate the development footprint (including exclusion zones and clearance limits). • Fencing is monitored weekly and maintained as required throughout construction.	Contractor	Section 5.1.1i and 5.1.1iv
Sediment controls	• Construction	No disturbance to waterways within and outside the development footprint.	• Material stockpiles, vehicle parking and machinery storage are located wholly within the development footprint, the greatest distance possible from drainage lines.	Contractor	Section 5.1.1 Section 5.3
Sediment control	• Pre-construction • Construction	No disturbance to waterways outside the development footprint.	• Sediment traps and sediment fencing have been installed around construction and earth works consistent with the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (or similar). • Sediment traps and fencing are maintained weekly and inspected before and after rain events consistent with the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (or similar).	Contractor	Section 5.1.1 Section 5.3

Management measure	Timeframe	Performance criteria	Completion criteria	Responsibility	Where referenced in this report
Sediment control	• Operation	No disturbance to waterways outside the development footprint.	• All temporary erosion and sediment control measures have been removed following the completion of works and the stabilisation of disturbed areas has been undertaken.	Contractor	Section 5.3
Vegetation pre-clearance procedure	• Pre-construction	Minimise adverse effects on terrestrial fauna by construction activities.	• A suitably qualified ecologist completes an assessment of trees and DNG to be cleared within the development footprint. • The pre-clearance assessment considers and locates high threat weeds and WONs, habitat trees, sightings of threatened flora and fauna and potential fauna release locations, if required. • Pre-clearance assessment has been documented in a pre-clearance report.	Qualified Ecologist	Section 5.1.1i
Vegetation clearance procedure	• Construction	Minimise adverse effects on terrestrial fauna by construction activities.	• Any actions identified by the qualified ecologist during the pre-clearance assessment have been actioned in accordance with the ecologist's pre-clearance report. • Actions documented in a post-clearance report.	Contractor	Section 5.1.1i
Reuse of salvaged material	• Pre-construction • Construction	Minimise adverse effects on terrestrial fauna by construction activities.	• All logs, coarse woody debris and bush rock within the development footprint has been salvaged and retained within the development footprint or relocated to nearby vegetated areas within the site, under the direction of the ecologist.	Contractor Qualified Ecologist	Chapter 6
Reuse of salvaged material	• Pre-construction • Construction • Post-construction	Minimise adverse effects on flora by construction activities.	• Topsoil assessed by an appropriately qualified person for suitability for use as a growth medium for revegetation post-construction. • Should topsoil be deemed suitable for re-use, it will be stored and used post-construction for revegetation within the site.	Contractor Qualified Ecologist	Chapter 6
Reuse of salvaged material	• Construction	Minimise adverse effects on flora by construction activities.	• Native vegetation cleared from the development footprint is mulched and reused where possible within the site.	Contractor	Chapter 6
Unexpected finds	• Pre-construction • Construction • Operation	Minimise adverse effects on terrestrial flora and fauna by construction activities.	• A physical copy of the unexpected finds procedure is on site and available to all site personnel. • If a threatened species is unexpectedly found during construction, the unexpected finds procedure is followed and documented.	Contractor	Section 5.1.1ii

Management measure	Timeframe	Performance criteria	Completion criteria	Responsibility	Where referenced in this report
Pest animal management	• Construction • Operation	No introduction of new pest species to the site.	• Pest-proof waste receptacles have been installed and are regularly maintained. • Emerging pest issues are reported to Local Land Services within one week of identifying issue.	Contractor	Section 5.2.2
Personnel Training	• Pre-construction • Construction • Operation	No disturbance to native vegetation outside the development footprint. Negligible impact to waterways within and outside the development footprint.	• All subcontractors and employees have been inducted. • Induction material includes: – exclusion zones and clearance limits – location of temporary fencing, sediment fencing, material and weed stockpiles – erosion controls – weed management controls including high threat weeds and their control as per Section 5.2.1. • Toolbox Talks or Pre-Starts outline relevant environmental risks to be considered prior to each daily task. Toolbox Talks or Pre-Starts are documented and signed by all personnel on site that day.	Contractor	Sections 5.1.1, 5.1.2 and 5.2.1
Monitoring of retained vegetation	• Pre-construction • Construction • Operation	No disturbance to native vegetation outside the development footprint. No introduction of new weed species to the site.	• Comparison of monitoring results to baseline.	Vena Qualified Ecologist	Section 5.1.2, ii

6.4 Monitoring and reporting requirements

Table 6.2 outlines the key monitoring and reporting requirements, including the frequency of assessments, responsible parties, and performance indicators to ensure compliance with management objectives. Vena will be responsible for implementing and reviewing the BMP.

Table 6.2 Monitoring and reporting requirements

Measures	Monitoring	Timing	Performance measures	Responsibility	Reporting
Weed management	Site walk-over assessing weed cover, abundance, or incursions.	Prior to clearing works in the development footprint. Check for weed outbreaks or incursions in late spring or summer. Annually during construction then two years post construction.	New weed outbreaks contained before spreading to meet biosecurity obligations. Weeds remain at an acceptable cover and abundance.	Contractor/appropriately qualified person Reporting to CPHR – Vena	On site reporting and annual biodiversity reporting to CPHR (annual during construction then annually for two years post construction).
Pathogen and weed management	Visual inspection of washdown facility to ensure it is available and functioning.	Daily.	All vehicles and equipment cleaned prior to arrival and when leaving site.	Contractor	If the washdown facility is not operational or unavailable, the project manager must arrange for immediate repairs. Any worker that notices the washdown facility is not operational should report it immediately to the project manager.
Fencing	Inspection of fencing around development footprint.	Prior to clearance.	No disturbance outside the demarcation.	Contractor	On site reporting including photo of demarcation for records
Sediment controls	Visual inspection of stockpiles, drainage and waterways to ensure sediment controls are in place and functioning.	After rain.	No disturbance to waterways within and outside the development footprint.	Contractor	On site reporting. Project Manager to organise additional sediment controls if necessary.

Measures	Monitoring	Timing	Performance measures	Responsibility	Reporting
Vegetation pre-clearance procedure	Visual inspection of trees and DNG within development footprint to check for bird nests or tree hollows and other habitat.	Within 24 hrs prior to felling.	No fauna injured during vegetation (tree) clearance	Contractor/Qualified Ecologist	Ecologist brief report to Contractor/Vena.
Reuse of salvaged vegetative material	Visual inspection of logs retained within the development footprint.	Post-construction.	Logs from any fallen trees are retained on site as fauna habitat	Contractor/Qualified Ecologist Reporting to CPHR – Vena	Annual biodiversity reporting to CPHR (annual during construction then annually for two years post construction).
Unexpected finds	Investigating if any unexpected finds have occurred and if the unexpected finds procedure shown in Figure 5.1 of this report has been followed.	Pre-construction. Construction. Operation.	If a threatened species is unexpectedly found during construction, the unexpected finds procedure is followed and documented.	Contractor/Qualified Ecologist Reporting to CPHR – Vena	Annual biodiversity reporting to CPHR (annual during construction then annually for two years post construction).

Measures	Monitoring	Timing	Performance measures	Responsibility	Reporting
Monitoring of retained vegetation	Complete monitoring using the method provided in Chapter 6. This includes: • three survey plots within "Good EPBC" PCT 277 woodland • walkover of remaining portion of the site managed for agricultural purposes.	Prior to clearing works in the development footprint. Annually during construction then two years post construction. Check for weed outbreaks or incursions in late spring or summer.	In Good EPBC PCT 277 Woodland: • No significant decrease in vegetation condition. This will be assessed through: – comparisons of percentage weed cover presence of weeds and number of new weed species – visible evidence of erosion – evidence of pest animals. Across remainder of site: • number of new weed incursions recorded • visible evidence of erosion • evidence of pest animals. This is linked to the following management measures in Table 6.1: weed management, sediment control and pest animal management. Baseline measurements are established using method in Section 5.1.2, ii.	Vena/Qualified Ecologist Reporting to CPHR – Vena	Annual biodiversity reporting to CPHR (annual during construction then annually for two years post construction).
Pest animal management	Feral sightings recorded, e.g. rabbits, foxes, pigs and cats.	Incidental sighting or noted during annual ecological monitoring.	Feral species are monitored, and management is initiated if a significant increase in abundance or activity is detected—such as a 20% rise in sightings over the year or observable damage from pig foraging.	Contractor Reporting to CPHR – Vena	Annual biodiversity reporting to CPHR (annual during construction then annually for two years post construction).

Measures	Monitoring	Timing	Performance measures	Responsibility	Reporting
Personnel Training	Inspection of training and induction records for workers on site.	Pre-construction Construction Operation	Documentation of all workers having worked on site being inducted.	Contractor	On-site reporting.

6.5 Incident and non-compliance notification

6.5.1 Incident reporting

The Department must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website immediately after the Applicant becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the development application number and the name of the development if it has one) and set out the location and nature of the incident. Subsequent notification requirements must be given, and reports submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 5 of the development consent.

6.5.2 Non-compliance reporting

Non-compliance reporting will be in accordance with the *Environmental Management Strategy: Bellambi Heights BESS* (Vena 2025) which addresses the requirements of condition C11, C12 and C13 of the development consent:

> A non-compliance is an occurrence, set of circumstances or development that is a breach of consent but is not an incident. Vena Energy will notify the Planning Secretary in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after becoming aware of any non-compliance. The notification will include the development name, development application number, relevant consent condition or conditions which are in non-compliance, the way in which it is non-compliant, the reasons for non-compliance (if known), and what actions have or will be taken to address the non-compliance. Corrective and preventative actions will also be documented and managed in accordance with the Vena Energy Corrective Action Management Procedure (IMS_01_HSE_PRO_072). A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident will not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.

6.6 Access to information

In accordance with condition C20 of the development consent, and as specified in the approved *Environmental Management Strategy: Bellambi Heights BESS* (Vena 2025), Vena must:

a) make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development:

   i) the EIS

   ii) the final layout plans for the development

   iii) current statutory approvals for the development

   iv) approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent (other than the Fire Safety Study and Emergency Plan)

   v) the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development is to be staged

   vi) a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, which have been reported in accordance with the various plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent

   vii) how complaints about the development can be made

   viii) any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit

ix) any other matter required by the Planning Secretary

b) keep this information up to date.

7 Implementation, review and improvement

7.1 Implementation

Following the Planning Secretary's approval, Vena will implement the Biodiversity Management Plan. Vena will be responsible for implementing and reviewing the BMP.

7.2 Continuous improvement

Compliance audits and independent environmental audits required will be in accordance with the approved *Environmental Management Strategy: Bellambi Heights BESS* (Vena 2025) and will include compliance checks against consent conditions, as well as the monitoring and reporting requirements specified in this BMP.

Continuous improvement of this plan will be achieved by the ongoing evaluation of environmental management performance against development consent requirements and results of inspections/monitoring undertaken.

The continuous improvement process is designed to:

- identify areas of opportunity for improvement of environmental management and performance
- determine the cause or causes of non-conformances and deficiencies
- develop and implement a plan of corrective and preventative action to address any non-conformances and deficiencies
- verify the effectiveness of the corrective and preventative actions.

The performance criteria outlined in Section 6.3 indicate those measures from which success of the project should be measured (i.e. completion criteria) as provided in Table 6.1. Should these performance criteria not be met, these management measures will be evaluated and actioned, with consideration given to updates and amendments to the BMP.

7.3 Update and amendment

Any revisions to this plan will be undertaken as required, should site conditions change or designs for the project vary. A copy of the updated plan and changes will be distributed to CPHR and DPHI for review and approval. Revisions of strategies, plans and programs must meet the requirements of Condition C2 as listed below:

a) update the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary prior to carrying out any upgrading or decommissioning activities on site; and

b) review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within 1 month of the:

   i) submission of an incident report under condition C10 of Schedule 2

   ii) submission of an audit report under condition C14 of Schedule 2, or

   iii) any modification to the conditions of this consent.

7.4 Staging, combining and updating strategies, plans or programs

In accordance with condition C3, with the approval of the Planning Secretary, Vena may stage the development and may:

a) Prepare and submit any strategy, plan or program required by this consent on a staged basis (if a clear description is provided as to the specific stage and scope of the development to which the strategy, plan or program applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan or program).

b) Combine any strategy, plan or program required by this consent (if a clear relationship is demonstrated between the strategies, plans or programs that are proposed to be combined).

c) Update any strategy, plan or program required by this consent (to ensure the strategies, plans and programs required under this consent are updated on a regular basis and incorporate additional measures or amendments to improve the environmental performance of the development).

References

EMM 2024, *Bellambi Heights Battery Energy Storage System Biodiversity development assessment report*, prepared for Vena Energy Services (Australia) Pty Ltd by EMM Consulting Pty Limited.

DPI n.d., *NSW Weedwise*, State of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries. Accessed on 6 September 2024, https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Appendix A

CPHR response on draft Biodiversity Management Plan 14 May 2025

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Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Our ref: DOC25/388011-2
Your ref: SSD-33344237

Kate Cox
Associate Director
EMM Consulting Pty Limited
kcox@emmconsulting.com.au

Dear Kate

Bellambi Heights Battery Energy Storage System – Draft Biodiversity Management Plan

Thank you for your email dated 12 May 2025 to the Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR), of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) inviting comments on the revised Draft Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for Bellambi Heights Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

CPHR have reviewed the revised BMP (dated 9 May 2025) against our recommendations provided on 29 April 2025 (our ref DOC25/339539). We are now satisfied that it addresses all our recommendations and have no further comments.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) are responsible for determining whether the BMP satisfies consent condition B13 for SSD-33344237.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact Alex Christie, Senior Conservation Planning Officer, via alex.christie@environment.nsw.gov.au or (02) 8229 2916.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Mazzer
A/Senior Team Leader Planning North West
Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group

14 May 2025

Appendix B
Land category mapping

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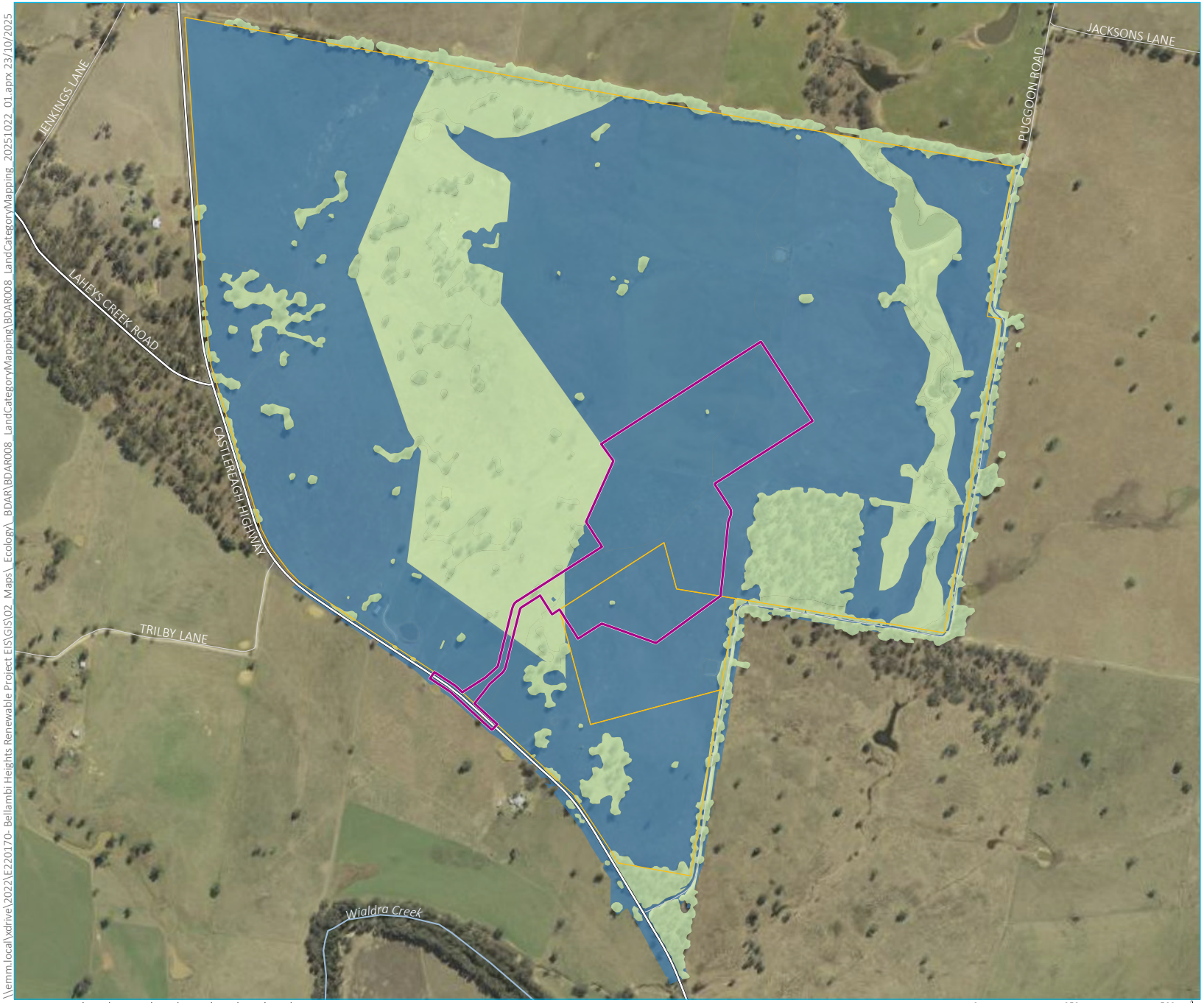

KEY

- Subject land
- Study area

Land category

- Category 1
- Category 2

Existing environment

- Major road
- Minor road
- Named watercourse

\\emm.local\xdrive\2022\E220170- Bellambi Heights Renewable Project EIS\GIS\02_Maps_Ecology_BDAR\BDAR008_LandCategoryMapping\BDAR008_LandCategoryMapping_20251022_01.aprx 23/10/2025

Source: EMM (2025); DCSSS (2024); DFSI (2021); GA (2009)

0 250 500 m

GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

N

Land category mapping

Bellambi Heights Battery
Energy Storage System
Biodiversity Management Plan
Figure B.1

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Appendix C

List of threatened species and weed species

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C.1 Threatened species identification

Stop all work which is likely to impact on identified or potential threatened species and refer to the unexpected finds procedure (Section 5.1.1ii) and consult a suitably qualified ecologist.

Table C.1 Threatened species

Name	Image	Status	Description
Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*)		NSW – Critically Endangered under BC Act Commonwealth – Critically Endangered under EPBC At	Medium-sized, black and yellow honeyeater with a sturdy, curved bill. Its head, neck, throat, upper breast and bill are black and the back and lower breast are pale lemon in colour with a black scalloped pattern. Its flight and tail feathers are edged with bright yellow. There is a characteristic patch of dark pink or cream-coloured facial-skin around the eye.
Superb Parrot *(Polytelis swainsonii*)		NSW – Vulnerable under BC Act Commonwealth – Vulnerable under EPBC At	Large, bright grass-green parrot with a long, narrow tail and sharply back-angled wings in flight. Males have yellow foreheads and throats and a red crescent that separates the throat from the green breast and belly. Females are slightly duller green and have a dull, light blue wash in place of the males' red and yellow markings.

Name	Image	Status	Description
Ausfeld's Wattle (*Acacia ausfeldii)*		NSW – Vulnerable under BC Act	An erect or spreading shrub 2 to 4 m high with branchlets angled or flattened, resinous and smooth. The leaves are narrowly elliptic to linear-oblong, straight to slightly curved, 2 to 7 cm long, 2 to 5 mm wide, hairless and are dotted with resin glands.
Small Scurf-pea (*Cullen parvum)*		NSW – Endangered under BC Act	A small perennial pea that may either trail or stand erect. Its leaves comprise three elongated leaflets to 25 mm long by 8 mm wide. Its flowers are usually also in threes, purple-pink (or sometimes white), appearing in summer.

Name	Image	Status	Description
Key's Matchstick Grasshopper (*Keyacris scurra*)		NSW –Endangered under BC Act Commonwealth – Endangered under EPBC Act	Small (females ~25 mm, males ~18 mm), slender, wingless grasshopper characterised by its slanted face, splayed hind femora (longest segment of the hind leg) and sword-shaped antennae. This species occurs in several colour forms, with brown being the most common.
Tarengo Leek Orchid (*Prasophyllum petilum* (syn. P. sp. Wybong))		NSW –Endangered under BC Act Commonwealth – Endangered under EPBC Act	Reaches to 35 cm tall. This species can be distinguished from the more common onion orchids that grow in its habitat by the pinkish-purple base to the leaf. Each plant produces a solitary, tubular, fleshy, dull green leaf, growing to 35 cm tall. The flower-stem emerges in mid spring to early summer from a hole near the base of the leaf.

Name	Image	Status	Description
Small Purple-pea (*Swainsona recta*)		NSW –Endangered under BC Act Commonwealth – Endangered under EPBC Act	A slender, erect perennial herb growing to 30 cm tall. The leaves are divided into up to six pairs of 10 mm long, very narrow leaflets, each with a pointed tip. There is also a single leaflet at the end of each divided leaf. It bears one to several sprays of between 10 and 20 purple, pea-shaped flower.
Silky Swainson-pea (*Swainsona sericea*)		NSW – Vulnerable under BC Act	An erect perennial, growing to 10 cm tall. The stems and leaves are densely hairy. The leaves are up to 7 cm long, composed of 5 to 13 narrow, pointed leaflets, each up to 15 mm long. The purple pea-shaped flowers are to 11 mm long and are held in groups of up to 8 flowers, on a stem to 10 cm tall. The spring flowers are followed by hairy pods, up to 17 mm long.

C.2 Weed species identification

The **NSW WeedWise website (https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/) and NSW WeedWise smartphone app (available for android and Apple users – download from your app store)** contains key information for over 325 weeds in New South Wales including weed names, physical description and image gallery, impacts, occurrence, how it spreads and preferred habitat. Control options are described for each weed and the herbicides registered for control are listed, including application rates and techniques, and any minor-use permits that must be complied with. General, state or regional biosecurity duties under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are displayed for each weed.

Table C.2 Weed species

Name	Image	Status	Description
Saffron Thistle (*Carthamus lanatus)*		High threat weed	An erect, rigid, very spiny annual plant usually growing up to 1 m in height. It mainly occurs on overcropped paddocks with low fertility and poorly structured soils.

Name	Image	Status	Description
St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum)*		High threat weed	Yellow flowers in October to January, about 22 mm across, with five petals. Leaves and branches always opposite one another on the stem. Leaves appear perforated when held up to the light.

Name	Image	Status	Description
African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum)*	 	Weed of National Significance	A rounded, woody, densely branched and very thorny large shrub up to 5 m high. Forms impenetrable, spiny thickets that block access for vehicles, livestock and people. Invades pastures, roadsides, reserves, remnant bushland and waterways.

Name	Image	Status	Description
Sheep Sorrel (*Acetosella vulgaris*)	 	High threat weed	An erect, reddish, perennial plant growing up to 20 cm high with underground rhizomes. The plant develops from an untidy rosette, with long leaves and stems. Leaves are alternate, long and triangular, often with narrow lobes at the base, sour/acid taste. Stems are erect, with many branches. Tiny flowers, male and female on different plants, red to yellow, on upright panicles, from September to November.

Name	Image	Status	Description
Great Brome (*Bromus diandrus*)		High threat weed	Tufted annual grass to 80 cm tall. Leaves are covered in soft spreading hairs, are flat or loosely folded and up to 15 cm long and 10 mm wide. Flower-head is a loose, drooping, panicle to 15 cm long.
Paspalum (*Paspalum dilatatum*)		High threat weed	A long-lived tufted grass growing up to 1.5 m tall. Its leaf blades are slightly folded at the base and are usually hairless. Its seed-heads are borne at the tips of the upright flowering stems these seed-heads have 2 to 11 branches (2.5 to 11 cm long) that are alternatively arranged along a main stalk each seed-head branch bears numerous small flower spikelets that are covered with hairs.

Appendix D
Biodiversity credit retirement

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Biodiversity Conservation Trust

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

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

Payment made by	Vena Energy Services (Australia) Pty Ltd
Date received	20/03/2025
NSW statutory obligation reference[1]	SSD-33344237
Commonwealth EPBC Act controlled action reference (if applicable)[2]	No
BCT Reference	BCF847

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

Biodiversity credit type (Credit ID and name)	Offset trading group	EPBC Act Controlled Action offset obligation (Y / N)	Number of credits	Cost per credit (Exc. GST)	Total payment per credit type (Exc. GST)
266 - White Box grassy woodland in the upper slopes sub-region of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions	No	1	$5,290.08	$5,290.08
277 - Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions	No	1	$5,290.08	$5,290.08
Total (Exc. GST)					$10,580.16
GST					$1,058.02
Total (Inc. GST)					**$11,638.18**

Emily McCosker 24/03/2025
Director Strategy & Finance

[1] This refers to either; a development application number for a development consent under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (**EP&A Act**), a State significant infrastructure approval under the previous Part 5.1 (now Part 5, Division 5.2) of the EP&A Act, a decision of a determining authority to carry out or approve the carrying out of an activity under Part 5 of the EP&A Act, or a biobank statement number or biodiversity certification number. [2] This refers to a controlled action under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for which a biodiversity offset obligation has been met through payment into the BCF.

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

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