

28 November 2024

To: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

From: Natalie Devillers

Subject: Supplementary information for EPBC Act Referral

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

Preliminary biodiversity assessments and targeted surveys have been undertaken for the project by Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) to inform the scoping and design of the project and preparation of the biodiversity development assessment report (BDAR).

Flora

One Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) is present within the project area (see **Attachment 6 - Att 6_Native Vegetation**), described in Section 3.2.2 below.

Two flora species listed under the EPBC Act and BC Act have been recorded within the project area (see **Attachment 7 - Att 7_Matters of National Environmental Significance**), including:

- Bluegrass *Dichanthium setosum* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint *Eucalyptus nicholii* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).

Bluegrass

There are 164 records of this species within 20 km of the project area, with the closest being 12 m from the project area, the most recent record being in 2021 prior to the current assessment (Cth DCCEEW, 2024). Biosis survey identified 17 Bluegrass individuals adjacent to Gostwyck Road along access option 1. Of these, three are within the disturbance footprint and may be directly impacted if upgrades to Gostwyck Road are required to facilitate access to the project. These individuals were recorded within Plant Community Type (PCT) 3344 New England Ribbon Gum Grassy Forest.

Bluegrass are distributed on the New England Tablelands, North West Slopes and Plains, and the Central Western Slopes of NSW. The species occurs in moderately disturbed areas including cleared woodlands, roadside remnants, and agricultural pasturelands in a variety of communities including Inland Riverine Forests, Northern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forests, Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands and Coastal Valley Grassy Woodlands. The species grows on heavy black basaltic soils and red-brown loams with clay subsoils.

Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint

Biosis survey identified two Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint individuals within the project area within PCT 3363 Western New England Blakely's Red Gum-Box Grassy Forest. None of these are proposed to be directly or indirectly impacted, due to efforts to avoid and minimise impacts. Approximately 15 occurrences of this species have been recorded within 20 km of the project area, and the closest occurring approximately 7.7 km away, the most recent record being in 2020, prior to the individual recorded during the current assessment.

Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint are distributed from Nundle through to the north of Tenterfield, and are found in native vegetated areas and also in urban tree plantings. The species occurs on slopes and ridges in a variety of communities including New England Dry Sclerophyll Forests, Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests, New England Grassy Woodlands and Tableland Clay Grassy Woodlands. The species grows on shallow, infertile soils on shale substrates.

In addition to the above two species, previous records of threatened flora listed under the EPBC Act also exist within the locality or have been predicted by the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST):

- Velvet Wattle *Acacia pubifolia* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act, Endangered, BC Act).
- Hairy Jointgrass *Arthraxon hispidus* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Narrow-leaved Bertya *Bertya ingramii* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Ooline *Cadellia pentastylis* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- *Callistemon pungens* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act).
- Pygmy Cypress Pine *Callitris oblonga* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- White-flowered Wax Plant *Cynanchum elegans* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- *Diuris eborensis* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Small Snake Orchid *Diuris pedunculata* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Northern Blue Box *Eucalyptus magnificata* (Endangered, BC Act).
- McKie's Stringybark *Eucalyptus mckieana* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Blackbutt Candlebark *Eucalyptus rubida* subsp. *barbigerorum* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- *Euphrasia arguta* (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Beadle's Grevillea *Grevillea beadleana* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Gorge Hakea *Hakea fraseri* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Tall Velvet Sea-berry *Haloragis exalata* subsp. *velutina* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Barraba Homoranthus *Homoranthus prolixus* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- *Leonema lachnaeoides* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- *Leonema westonii* (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act, TBC, BC Act).

- Aromatic Peppercress *Lepidium hyssopifolium* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Hawkweed *Picris evae* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Gorge Rice-flower *Pimelea cremnophila* (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Bolivia Hill Rice-flower *Pimelea venosa* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Marlborough Bush-pea *Pultenaea setulosa* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Scrub Turpentine *Rhodamnia rubescens* (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Austral Toadflax *Thesium australe* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- *Tylophora linearis* (Endangered, EPBC Act, Vulnerable, BC Act).
- Cryptic Forest Twiner *Tylophora woollsii* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).

Targeted survey for Bluegrass, Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint and Austral Toadflax was undertaken during the appropriate survey periods. Austral Toadflax has not been detected to date.

Callistemon pungens and Tall Velvet Sea-berry were predicted species credit species under the BAM, however no suitable habitat is present for these species and therefore they were not considered to be candidate species.

The Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator (BAM-C) did not include any of the remaining species listed above or any additional flora species credit species; and no suitable habitat was considered to be present.

Fauna

Two fauna species listed under the EPBC Act, have been recorded within the project area (See **Attachment 7 - Att 7_Matters of National Environmental Significance**), including:

- Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act).

Koala

Biosis survey identified two Koala adjacent to Gostwyck Road along access option 1. Habitat for these individuals may be directly impacted if upgrades to Gostwyck Road are required to facilitate access to the project. Approximately 1,053 occurrences of Koala have been recorded within 20 km of the project area, and the closest occurring within the project area prior to detection on-site. The distribution of this species is consistent across the landscape, but little is known about the size of populations of this species. These 1053 records are considered to make up the local population.

White-throated Needletail

Biosis survey identified one White-throated Needletail individual within the disturbance footprint. Approximately 24 occurrences of White-throated Needletail have been recorded within 20 km of the project area, and the closest occurring approximately 178 m away, the most recent record being in 2020, prior to the individual recorded as part of the project's biodiversity assessment. This is an aerial species found in feeding concentrations over cities, hilltops and timbered ranges, however the species breeds in Asia. While the species was detected within the project area as an incidental record, this species is an ecosystem credit species under the BAM. While individuals may utilise the

disturbance footprint as foraging habitat, they are considered to use the disturbance footprint on a transient basis only.

In addition to the above species, previous records of threatened fauna listed under the EPBC Act also exist within the locality or have been predicted by the PMST:

- Five-clawed Worm-skink *Anomalopus mackayi* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act, Endangered, BC Act).
- Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia* (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act, Endangered, BC Act).
- Large-eared Pied Bat *Chalinolobus dwyeri* (Endangered, EPBC Act, Vulnerable, BC Act).
- Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies) *Climacteris picumnus victoriae* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Coxen's Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni* (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Spotted-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus* (Endangered, EPBC Act, Vulnerable, BC Act).
- Red Goshawk *Erythroriorchis radiatus* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act, Endangered, BC Act).
- Booroolong Frog *Litoria booroolongensis* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Yellow-spotted Tree Frog *Litoria castanea* (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Peppered Tree Frog *Litoria piperata* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act, Critically Endangered, BC Act).
- Glandular Frog *Litoria subglandulosa* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Murray Cod *Maccullochella peelii* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- South-eastern Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata cucullata* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Stuttering Frog *Mixophyes balbus* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act, Endangered, BC Act).
- Western Sawshelled Turtle, Bell's Turtle *Myuchelys bellii* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Parma Wallaby *Notamacropus parma* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).

- Corben's Long-eared Bat *Nyctophilus corbeni* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Southern Greater Glider *Petauroides volans* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby *Petrogale penicillata* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act, Endangered, BC Act).
- Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Long-nosed Potoroo *Potorous tridactylus* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- New Holland Mouse *Pseudomys novaehollandiae* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act).
- Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon *Tympanocryptis lineata* (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act).
- Border Thick-tailed Gecko *Uvidicolus sphyrurus* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act).

Targeted survey for South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Peppered Tree Frog, Glandular Frog, Stuttering Frog, Greater Glider, and Grey-headed Flying-fox was undertaken during the appropriate survey periods and these species were not detected. Further surveys for the above species will be undertaken within the transmission line in appropriate survey periods to further discount presence in this additional area, with exception to:

- Stuttering Frog, which is not considered likely to be present within the transmission line.
- Grey-headed Flying-fox, where there is potential for individuals to utilise the disturbance footprint as foraging habitat, however no breeding camps were identified.

South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo

Preliminary targeted survey within the project area has not detected South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo; however, potential habitat has been identified within the transmission line easement which is yet to be surveyed. Approximately 11 occurrences of South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo have been recorded within 20 km of the project area, and the closest occurring approximately 5 km away. The distribution of this species is consistent across the landscape. The population of South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo is estimated at 7,500 individuals; however, these 11 records are considered to make up the local population. The area of potential habitat within the disturbance footprint is small in comparison to the large areas of commensurate habitat in the locality. While there is potential for individuals to utilise the disturbance footprint as breeding habitat, there is no foraging habitat present. Targeted surveys are intended to be completed within the recommended survey period.

Peppered Tree Frog

Preliminary targeted survey within the project area has not detected Peppered Tree Frog, however potential habitat has been identified within the proposed transmission line which is yet to be surveyed. Approximately one occurrence of Peppered Tree Frog has been recorded within 20 km of the project area, occurring approximately 18 km away. The distribution of this species is restricted to waterways. Little is known about the population of this species and therefore this record is considered to make up the local population. The area of potential habitat within the disturbance footprint is small in comparison to the large areas of commensurate habitat in the locality. There is

potential for individuals to utilise the disturbance footprint as breeding and foraging habitat. Targeted surveys are intended to be completed within the recommended survey period.

Glandular Frog

Preliminary targeted survey within the project area has not detected Glandular Frog, however potential habitat has been identified within the proposed transmission line which is yet to be surveyed. Approximately two occurrences of Glandular Frog have been recorded within 20 km of the project area, with the closest occurring approximately 18 km away. The distribution of this species is restricted to waterways. Little is known about the population of this species and therefore these two records are considered to make up the local population. The area of potential habitat within the disturbance footprint is small in comparison to the large areas of commensurate habitat in the locality. There is potential for individuals to utilise the disturbance footprint as breeding and foraging habitat. Targeted surveys are intended to be completed within the recommended survey period.

Greater Glider

Preliminary targeted survey within the project area has not detected Greater Glider, however potential habitat has been identified within the proposed transmission line which is yet to be surveyed. Approximately one occurrence of Greater Glider has been recorded within 20 km of the project area, occurring approximately 18 km away. The distribution of this species is consistent across the landscape within patches of vegetation containing hollows. Little is known about the population of this species but it is estimated at over 100,000 individuals. This record is considered to make up the local population. The area of potential habitat within the disturbance footprint is small in comparison to the large areas of commensurate habitat in the locality. There is potential for individuals to utilise the disturbance footprint as breeding and foraging habitat. Targeted surveys are intended to be completed within the recommended survey period.

Regent Honeyeater, Large-eared Pied Bat, Swift Parrot and Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby were predicted species credit species under the BAM, however no suitable habitat is present for these species and therefore they were not considered to be candidate species credit species. There is a low likelihood of transient use of the project area by Regent Honeyeater, Large-eared Pied Bat and Swift Parrot for foraging purposes, however they are not considered to be reliant on native vegetation or habitat within the disturbance footprint.

The BAM-C did not include any of the remaining above species or any additional fauna species credit species; and no suitable habitat was considered to be present

4.1.4.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters.

Threatened ecological communities

The project is anticipated to require the removal of up to approximately 16 ha of EPBC Act listed CEEC White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (Critically Endangered, EPBC Act) which occurs within the disturbance footprint (see **Attachment 6** and **Attachment 7 – Att 6_Native Vegetation and Att 7_Matters of National Environmental Significance**). The amount of Box-Gum Grassy Woodland that will be removed by the project will be dependent on the selected access option and subsequent public road upgrade requirements. For the purposes of this referral, it is estimated that:

- Approximately 9 ha of direct impacts to an EPBC Act listed CEEC will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 1, or
- Approximately 7 ha of direct impacts to an EPBC Act listed CEEC will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 2, or

- Approximately 16 ha of direct impacts to an EPBC Act listed CEEC will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 3.

Indirect impacts to Box-Gum Grassy Woodland (based on a 50 m buffer from the disturbance footprint) will be up to approximately 57 ha. The amount of Box-Gum Grassy Woodland that will be indirectly impacted by the project will be dependent on the selected access option and subsequent public road upgrade requirements. For the purposes of this referral, it is estimated that:

- Approximately 28 ha of indirect impacts to an EPBC Act listed CEEC will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 1, or
- Approximately 16 ha of indirect impacts to an EPBC Act listed CEEC will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 2, or
- Approximately 57 ha of indirect impacts to an EPBC Act listed CEEC will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 3.

All areas of Box-Gum Grassy Woodland which meet the minimum condition criteria outlined in Section 3.2.2 should be considered critical to the survival of this ecological community. A total of approximately 250 ha of PCT 3363 within the project area meets the listing criteria for this CEEC as set out by (TSSC, 2006). Of this, up to approximately 18 ha occurs within the development footprint in total (dependent on the selected access option and subsequent public road upgrade requirements) and up to approximately 16 ha is subject to direct removal. A further approximately 57 ha of this CEEC will be subject to indirect impacts.

The remaining Box-Gum Grassy Woodland vegetation within the project area either did not meet the quality, size or canopy species thresholds to be considered part of the CEEC, however may still be consistent with the BC Act listed CEEC and will be considered as part of the BDAR.

The vegetation to be impacted, either directly or indirectly, as a result of the project is contiguous to patches of the White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland that occurs in the broader local area. The removal of up to 16 ha will reduce the extent of the CEEC; however, 232 ha will be retained within the project area and higher-quality patches of this will be included within a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to preserve and improve the quality of retained vegetation over a three-year period. The CEEC within the project area is also contiguous with a much larger patch of native vegetation (approximately 5,559 ha within 18,871 ha or 29%) within 1,500 m of the project area. Despite this, the project's impact to Box-Gum Grassy Woodland may significantly reduce the extent of this CEEC due to indirect impacts.

Threatened flora

If access option 1 is selected, the project will remove up to three Bluegrass *Dichanthium setosum* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act and BC Act) individuals and indirectly impact a further 14 within the project area (see **Attachment 7 - Att 7_Matters of National Environmental Significance**). There are 164 records of this species within 20 km of the project area, with the closest being 12 m from the project area (Cth DCCEEW, 2024). Biosis survey identified 17 individuals within the access option 1, bringing the total records to 181.

According to the Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE, 2013) a patch of Bluegrass individuals is an important population if they are:

- A key source population either for breeding or dispersal.
- A population that is necessary for maintaining genetic diversity.

- A population that is near to the limit of the species range.

As the group of Bluegrass in the project area is scattered in nature and limited in the number of individual plants (17 total), this group of the species is not considered a key source population for breeding or dispersal due to the small size and limited individuals as a breeding population or population important to maintaining genetic diversity. This group of individual Bluegrass plants is not near the limit of the species range, occurring within the centre of the southern distribution of the species' range (Cth DCCEEW, 2024). This group of individual Bluegrass plants in the project area is therefore not an important population.

Biosis survey identified 17 individuals within the access option 1, of which up to three will be impacted. This loss represents 2% of the local subpopulation or 18% of the population identified within the project area. It is unlikely that the loss of this proportion of the population identified within the project area or local subpopulation will lead to a long-term decrease in the size of the population given the small number of individuals involved and the high proportion of individuals occupying disturbed lands on the adjoining road corridor. Further avoidance will be undertaken for the species through further detailed design for the project, where possible.

Threatened fauna

The following species recorded within the project area (See **Attachment 7 - Att 7_Matters of National Environmental Significance**) are listed as threatened under the EPBC Act and BC Act:

- Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* (Endangered, EPBC Act and BC Act)
- White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* (Vulnerable, EPBC Act)

Native vegetation within the project area is considered to represent potential foraging habitat for Koala as it contains feed trees utilised by the species. Habitat is present within the project area for Koala as wooded patches of PCT 3344 New England Ribbon Gum Grassy Forest, PCT 3359 New England Hills Stringybark-Box Woodland and PCT 3363 Western New England Blakelys Red Gum-Box Grassy Forest. Vegetation zones considered habitat include low, moderate and scattered trees condition PCT 3344, moderate and high condition PCT 3359, as well as low, moderate, high and scattered trees condition PCT 3363. This vegetation will be removed by the project including known feed species; Rough-barked Apple, White Box, Blakely's Red Gum, Apple Box *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*, Broad-leaved Stringybark, Mountain Gum, Yellow Box, Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint, New England Peppermint, White Sally *E. pauciflora* and Ribbon Gum. Given the nearby resources, these species may use the project area for foraging resources within a wider home range.

The amount of foraging habitat that will be removed by the project will be dependent on the selected access option and subsequent public road upgrade requirements.

The amount of potential breeding and foraging habitat for Koala that will be removed by the project will be dependent on the selected access option and subsequent public road upgrade requirements (see **Attachment 7 - Att 7_Matters of National Environmental Significance**). For the purposes of this referral, it is estimated that:

- Approximately 39 ha of direct impacts to Koala breeding and foraging habitat will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 1, or
- Approximately 34 ha of direct impacts to Koala breeding and foraging habitat will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 2, or
- Approximately 44 ha of direct impacts to Koala breeding and foraging habitat will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 3.

Impacts to Koala will be offset under the BAM as an ecosystem and species credit species.

White-throated Needletail

Native vegetation within the project area is considered to represent potential foraging habitat for White-throated Needletail, which is an aerial forager and not specifically reliant on native vegetation as such, but will forage above the canopy. Habitat is present within the project area for White-throated Needletail as PCT 3344 New England Ribbon Gum Grassy Forest, PCT 3359 New England Hills Stringybark-Box Woodland and PCT 3363 Western New England Blakelys Red Gum-Box Grassy Forest. Vegetation zones considered habitat include DNG_low, DNG_moderate, low, moderate and scattered trees condition PCT 3344, DNG_low, DNG_moderate, moderate and high condition PCT 3359, as well as DNG_low, DNG_moderate, low, moderate, high and scattered trees condition PCT 3363. This vegetation will be removed by the project. Given the nearby resources, this species may use the project area for foraging resources within a wider home range.

The amount of foraging habitat that will be removed by the project will be dependent on the selected access option and subsequent public road upgrade requirements.

The amount of potential foraging habitat for White-throated Needletail that will be removed by the project will be dependent on the selected access option and subsequent public road upgrade requirements (see **Attachment 7 - Attachment 7_Matters of National Environmental Significance**). For the purposes of this referral, it is estimated that:

- Approximately 776 ha of direct impacts to White-throated Needletail foraging habitat will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 1, or
- Approximately 763 ha of direct impacts to White-throated Needletail foraging habitat will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 2, or
- Approximately 797 ha of direct impacts to White-throated Needletail foraging habitat will occur for the solar farm array, transmission line and access option 3.

Breeding habitat for White-throated Needletail is not present. Impacts to this species will be offset under the BAM as an ecosystem credit species.

Glossy Black-Cockatoo and Greater Glider

Native vegetation within the project area is considered to represent potential breeding and/or foraging habitat for Glossy Black-Cockatoo and Greater Glider, for which survey is ongoing. Habitat is present within the project area as PCT 3344 New England Ribbon Gum Grassy Forest, PCT 3359 New England Hills Stringybark-Box Woodland and PCT 3363 Western New England Blakelys Red Gum-Box Grassy Forest. Vegetation zones considered habitat include moderate condition PCT 3344, moderate and high condition PCT 3359, as well as moderate condition PCT 3363 within the transmission line. This vegetation will be removed by the project. Given the nearby resources, these species may use the project area for breeding and foraging resources within a wider home range.

The amount of potential habitat that will be removed by the project, for the purposes of this referral it is estimated at approximately 47 ha of direct impacts to habitat for Glossy Black-Cockatoo and Greater Glider habitat for the transmission line.

Peppered Tree Frog and Glandular Frog

Native vegetation within the project area is considered to represent potential breeding and/or foraging habitat for Peppered Tree Frog and Glandular Frog, for which survey is ongoing. Habitat is present within the project area as PCT 3344 New England Ribbon Gum Grassy Forest. Vegetation zones considered habitat include DNG_low condition PCT

3344. This vegetation will be removed by the project. Given the nearby resources, these species may use the project area for breeding and foraging resources within a wider home range.

The amount of potential habitat that will be removed by the project, for the purposes of this referral it is estimated at approximately 1 ha of direct impacts to habitat for Peppered Tree Frog and Glandular Frog habitat for the transmission line.

References

Cth DCCEEW. (2024). *Dichanthium setosum - Bluegrass*. Retrieved from Species Profile and Threats (SPRAT) Database: http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=14159

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