



EPBC Act (2019/8468)

Compliance Report (June 2023 – June 2024)

EC.14171 Project EnergyConnect

NOVEMBER 2024

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18 July 23	1	Final	A Wright	S Haynes	S Davies
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Project Context

Project EnergyConnect (PEC) is a proposed high voltage electricity transmission interconnector to be constructed between Robertstown in South Australia (SA) and Wagga Wagga in New South Wales (NSW), with an added connection from Buronga in NSW to Red Cliffs in north-west Victoria. The transmission line would be the second major interconnector between SA and the National Electricity Market (NEM).

PEC comprises:

- a new substation located at Bunday, near the western extent of the transmission line, approximately 14 km north-east of Robertstown
- approximately ten kilometres of 275 kilovolt (kV) transmission line supported by steel towers from the existing Robertstown substation to the proposed new Bunday substation
- approximately 195 km of 330 kV transmission line supported by steel towers from the new Bunday substation to the SA / NSW border
- associated telecommunications infrastructure and access tracks
- associated temporary facilities (temporary construction compounds, site offices, laydown areas and mobile construction camps).

Construction of the substations and transmission line commenced in mid-2022 following the receipt of relevant state and Commonwealth approvals.

1.2. Project Location

PEC traverses approximately 205 km between Robertstown in the Mid North of South Australia and the SA / NSW border, via the Riverland area. The transmission line alignment and the locations of the substations are shown in Figure 1.1.

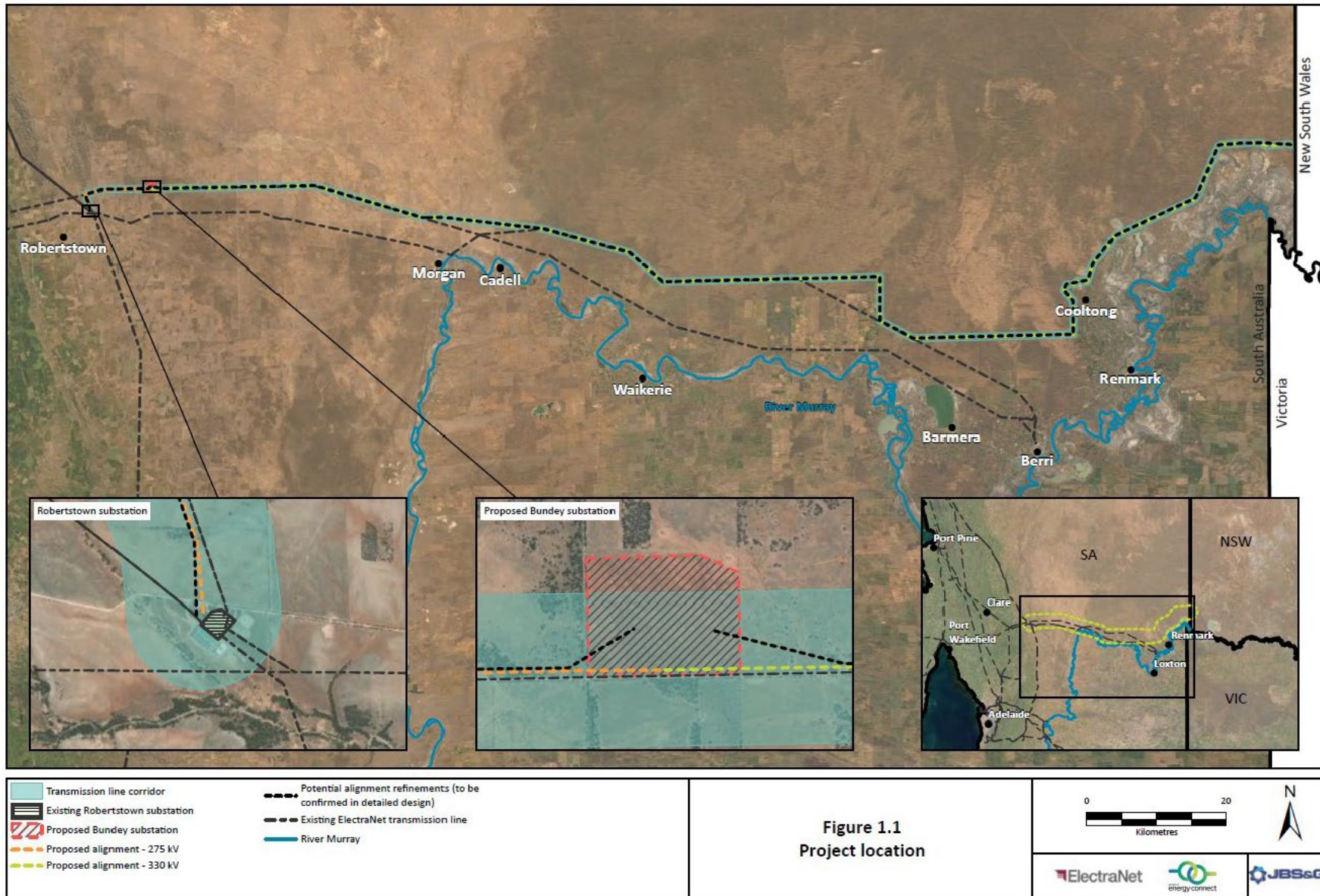


Figure 1.1: Location of the Project

1.3. Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to comply with Condition 15 of the Conditions of Approval associated with the approval of the Project (Project No. 2019/8468) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* (Cth, EPBC Act), which requires development of an annual Compliance Report (the Report). The Report aims to help in ensuring that PEC is implemented as approved. The Report, following submission, also helps the Australian Government to understand how well approval conditions are being understood and applied, and contribute to improving the effectiveness of their operations.

The Report covers the 12-month period from 01 June 2023 to 01 June 2024.

1.4. Proponent Details

1.4.1. ElectraNet

ElectraNet Pty Ltd (ElectraNet) is the principal electricity Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP) in South Australia, operating as part of the National Electricity Market under National Electricity Rules. The company’s revenue is set by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER).

ElectraNet’s role is to own and manage the high-voltage transmission lines and substations that connect this State’s electricity generation system to multiple customer connection points, including SA Power Network’s lower-voltage distribution network. The role of ElectraNet in the electricity supply chain is shown in Figure 1.2.

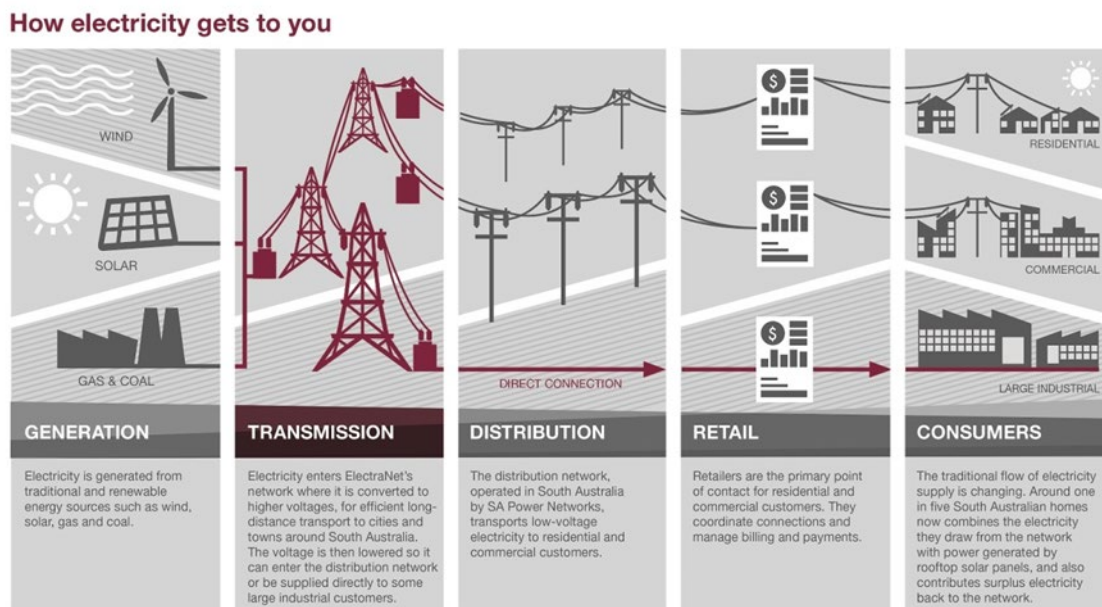


Figure 1.2: Role of ElectraNet in the electricity supply chain

ElectraNet’s transmission network is one of the most extensive regional transmission systems in Australia, extending across some 200,000 square kilometres of the State. This network consists of transmission lines operating at 132,000 Volts (132 kV) and 275,000 Volts (275 kV), which are supported by both lattice towers and large Stobie poles.

1.4.2. Contact Information

Proponent contact details associated with this Report are described in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Proponent Details

Project	EC. 14171 EnergyConnect
Location	Riverland, between Robertstown (SA) and the SA / NSW border
Proponent	ElectraNet Pty Ltd
Australian Company Number (ACN)	094 482 416
Contact	Scott Haynes (Senior Development Advisor)
Address	PO Box 7096 Hutt Street Post Office ADELAIDE SA 5000
Telephone	+61 8 8404 7966 +61 408 883 559
Email	Haynes.scott@electranet.com.au

1.5. Declaration of Accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* (Cth) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both.

I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this Compliance Report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.



Signed:

Full name (please print): Scott Haynes

Position (please print): Senior Development Advisor

Organisation (please print including ABN/ACN if applicable): ElectraNet ABN 41 094 482 416

Date 14 November 2024

2. COMPLIANCE REPORT REQUIREMENTS

2.1. Conditions of Approval

Condition 15 of the Conditions of Approval attached to the approval of PEC under the EPBC Act requires the development of an annual Compliance Report, specifically:

15. The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the action, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the Minister, for a period of 15 years. The approval holder must:

- a) publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12-month period;*
- b) notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website and provide the weblink for the compliance report within 5 business days of the date of publication;*
- c) keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires;*
- d) exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website; and*
- e) where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication.*

Note: Compliance reports may be published on the Department’s website.

The content of the Report is further defined in the Conditions of Approval as follows:

Compliance report(s) means written reports:

- i. providing accurate and complete details of compliance, incidents, and non-compliance with the conditions and the plans;*
- ii. consistent with the Department’s Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014);*
- iii. include a shapefile of any clearance of any protected matters, or their habitat, undertaken within the relevant 12-month period; and*
- iv. annexing a schedule of all plans prepared and in existence in relation to the conditions during the relevant 12-month period*

2.2. Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014)

The Commonwealth Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DECCEEW) maintain the Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (the Guideline), which aim to provide guidance to approval holders preparing annual compliance reports where required under a condition of their EPBC Act approval.

This Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Guideline, as described in Table 2.

Table 2.1: Proponent Details

Guideline Requirement	Reference
EPBC number	Title page, Page header and Section 1.3
Project name	Title page, Section 1.1

Approval holder and ACN or ABN	Table 1
Description of the approved action	Section 1.1
Location of the project	Section 1.2
Person accepting responsibility for the report – signed declaration	Section 1.5
Dates for the reporting period of the report	Section 1.3
Date of preparation of the report.	Review panel (Page 2)
The compliance report should demonstrate that all conditions of the EPBC approval have been considered and addressed, and list the conditions of the EPBC approval, including any variations to those conditions, noting if compliance or non-compliance with each condition has been achieved.	Table 3.1
If a management plan is required under an approval condition, the specifics in a management plan that support an approval condition should be detailed in the compliance report and material should be provided demonstrating that the requirements of that plan have been implemented	Table 3.1

The following designations have been used to record findings in this Report:

Compliant: ‘Compliance’ is achieved when all the requirements of a condition have been met, including the implementation of management plans or other measures required by those conditions.

Non-compliant: A designation of ‘non-compliance’ should be given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition, including the implementation of management plans and other measures, have not been met.

Not applicable: A designation of ‘not applicable’ should be given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition fall outside of the scope of the current reporting period. For example, a condition which applies to an activity that has not yet commenced.

3. PROJECT COMPLIANCE

The compliance (or otherwise) of PEC with the Conditions of Approval and the requirements of approved Management Plans (as relevant) are presented in Table 3.1.

Results of the assessment demonstrate that PEC has complied with all Conditions of Approval except one (15a) and has complied with all Management Plan requirements.

Table 3.1: Compliance Status

Condition No.	Condition of Approval	Compliance Status	Evidence / Justification
COMPLIANCE REPORT			
1	The approval holder must not clear outside the transmission line corridor unless such clearing is limited to locations with no habitat of protected matters.	Compliant	All clearance activities have been undertaken in accordance with the
1(a)	Within the transmission line corridor, the approval holder must not clear more than: 201 ha of habitat for Black-eared Miner	Compliant	Clearance in Black-eared Miner habitat is currently 95.8 ha
1(b)	Within the transmission line corridor the approval holder must not clear more than: 250 ha of habitat for Regent Parrot (eastern subspecies)	Compliant	Clearance in Regent Parrot habitat is currently 100.8 ha
2	For the protection of protected matters the approval holder must:		
2(a)	Implement conditions 1, 6, 7, 11 in Part A and 22, 23, 27, and 28 in Part B of the State Development Approval, where these conditions relate to monitoring, managing, avoiding, mitigating, recording, or reporting on, impacts to protected matters	Compliant	The conditions of the State Development Approval have been implemented with final development consent provided by the South Australian Minister for Planning.
2(b)	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any proposed change to the State development approval that may relate to protected matters within 2 business days of formally proposing a change or within 5 business days of becoming aware of any proposed change	Compliant	No changes to the State development approval were sought during the reporting period
2(c)	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any change to the State development approval conditions that may relate to protected matters, within 10 business days of a change to conditions being finalised	Compliant	No changes to the State development approval were sought during the reporting period

3	To compensate for the residual significant impact on Black-eared Miner and Regent Parrot, within 3 months of the date of this approval, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must submit an Offsets Strategy for approval by the Minister.	Compliant	<p>The Offset Strategy: Black Eared Miner was provided to DCCEEW (Mr Vaughn Cox) on 23 May 2023.</p> <p>The Offset Strategy: Regent Parrot was provided to DCCEEW (Mr Vaughn Cox) on 23 May 2023.</p> <p>DCCEEW have undertaken an initial review and requested more information. Updated Offset Strategies are currently being prepared for subsequent submission and approval.</p>
4	The Offsets Strategy must:	Compliant	The Black Eared Miner and Regent Parrot Offset Strategies approved 21/12/23 by DCCEEW.
4(a)	Identify suitable environmental offsets for the impacts on Black-eared Miner and Regent Parrot, that meet the requirements of the Environmental Offsets Policy to the satisfaction of the Minister		
4(b)	Include summary information on the impacted areas and detailed baseline information on the proposed offset(s) and commit to achievable ecological benefits, and timeframes for their achievement, for the proposed offset(s)		
4(c)	Describe the monitoring program(s) to be implemented that will determine progress towards, attainment of and maintenance of the ecological benefits for the listed threatened species and communities at the proposed offset(s)		
4(d)	Specify how and at what frequency offset(s) management results, monitoring program findings and assessments of ecological benefits will be reported to the Department and the public		
4(e)	Detail how the offset(s) will be protected, and ecological benefits maintained, in perpetuity		

5	<p>The approval holder must implement the Offset Strategy approved by the Minister. The approval holder must commence implementation of the offsets specified in the approved Offset Strategy within three months of the approval of the Offset Strategy, or another time as agreed in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must not energise the transmission line unless the Offsets Strategy has been approved by the Minister in writing, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister</p>	Compliant	<p>The Black Eared Miner and Regent Parrot Offset Strategies are currently being implemented. Approval received 23/11/23 from DCCEEW for energisation of transmission line.</p>
6	<p>The approval holder must submit for the Minister's approval, within 12 months of the date of approval of the Offset Strategy, an Offset Management Plan for each of the offset sites specified in the approved Offset Strategy. Each Offset Management Plan must, to the satisfaction of the Minister, meet the requirement of the Environmental Offsets Policy and the Environmental Management Plan Guidelines, and must include the following:</p>	N/A	<p>The PEC Offset Management Plans currently being developed.</p>
6(a)	<p>A summary of the residual impacts to protected matters that will be compensated for by the offset. This summary must include the area(s) of habitat for protected matters and its condition and quality at all impact sites which the particular offset is to address</p>		
6(b)	<p>The relevant protected matters and a reference to the EPBC Act approval conditions to which the particular Offset Management Plan refers</p>		
6(c)	<p>A table of commitments made in the Offset Management Plan to achieve the ecological benefits for relevant protected matters, and a reference to where the commitments are detailed in the Offset Management Plan</p>		
6(d)	<p>Reporting and review mechanisms, and documentation standards to inform others annually regarding compliance with management and environmental commitments, and attainment and maintenance of ecological benefits, as specified in the Offset Management Plan</p>		

6(e)	An assessment of risks to achieving the ecological benefit(s) and what risk management strategies will be applied to address these		
6(f)	A monitoring program, which must include		
6(f)(i)	evidence that effectively determine progress towards, attainment of and maintenance of the ecological benefits for the protected matters		
6(f)(ii)	measurable performance indicators to monitor attainment of the ecological benefits for the protected matters		
6(f)(iii)	trigger values for corrective actions		
6(f)(iv)	the timing and frequency of monitoring to detect trigger values and changes in the performance indicators		
6(g)	proposed corrective actions to ensure ecological benefits for the protected matters are attained or maintained, if trigger values are reached or performance indicators not attained		
6(h)	links to referenced plans and applicable conditions of approval (including State approval conditions) if any		
7	The approval holder must implement each approved Offset Management Plan	N/A	The PEC Offset Management Plans currently being developed.

8	If the Offset Management Plan for each of the offset sites specified in the approved Offset Strategy has not been approved by the Minister in writing within 18 months of the approval of the Offset Strategy, and the Minister notifies the approval holder that one or more submitted Offset Management Plans is/are not suitable for approval, the Minister may, at least two months after so notifying the approval holder, approve a version of the Offset Management Plan revised by the Department. The approval holder must implement each approved Offset Management Plan for the remainder of the life of the approval	N/A	The PEC Offset Management Plans currently being developed.
9	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the date of:		
9(a)	commencement of the action within 10 business days after the date of commencement of the action	Compliant	Commencement of the Action was 01 June 2022, and the Department were notified in writing of the commencement on 08 June 2023.
9(b)	first energising within 10 business days after the date on which first energising occurs	N/A	The transmission line and associated project infrastructure is awaiting energisation with NSW as of the date of this Report
10	If the commencement of the action does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the prior written agreement of the Minister	Compliant	Commencement of the action occurred as notified in Condition 9(a)
11	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records	Compliant	This EPBC Compliance Report documents an overview of compliance activities. Records can be provided upon request.
12	If the Department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the Department within the timeframe specified in the request	N/A	No requests for the provision of electronic compliance records from DECCEEW were received during the reporting period
13	The approval holder must:		Plans are provided at: https://www.electranet.com.au/projects/south-australian-energy-transformation/

13(a)	submit plans electronically to the Department		
13(b)	unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister publish each plan on the website within 20 business days of the date:		
13(b)(i)	the plan is approved by the Minister or		
13(b)(ii)	of the approval of the plan by the South Australian Government if the plan requires approval by the South Australian Government		
13(c)	exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or provided to a member of the public		
13(d)	keep plans published on the website until the end date of this approval		
14	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under a plan and conditions of this approval, is prepared in accordance with the Department's <i>Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data</i> (2018) and submitted electronically to the Department in accordance with the requirements of the plan.	N/A	No requirements
15	The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12 month period following the date of commencement of the action, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the Minister, for a period of 15 years. The approval holder must:	Non-Compliant	<p>This Report is the second PEC compliance report and due to administrative oversight, the publication and notification requirements of this condition were not within required period in accordance 15(a). ElectraNet is actioning routine process for annual reporting.</p> <p>The report will be published at: https://www.electranet.com.au/projects/south-australian-energy-transformation/</p>
15(a)	publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12 month period		
15(b)	notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website and provide the weblink for the compliance report within 5 business days of the date of publication		

15(c)	keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires		
15(d)	exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website		
15(e)	where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication		
16	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than 2 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify:		
16(a)	any condition which is or may be in breach	Compliant	ElectraNet has notified DCCEEW of the non-compliance of submitting this Annual Compliance report within required time period.
16(b)	a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance		
16(c)	the location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or non-compliance. In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available		
17	The approval holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 10 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying		
17(a)	any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future	Compliant	No incidents or non-compliances with conditions or plans have been reported in this reporting period.

17(b)	the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance		
17(c)	the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder		
18	The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted at least once every 5 years	N/A	No independent audit of compliance with the conditions undertaken during the reporting period
19	For each independent audit, the approval holder must:		
19(a)	provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department		
19(b)	only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department	N/A	No independent audit of compliance with the conditions undertaken during the reporting period
19(c)	submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria		
20	The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of receiving the Department's approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the website until the end date of this approval	N/A	No independent audit of compliance with the conditions undertaken during the reporting period
21	Within 30 days after the completion of the action, the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data	N/A	Action remains ongoing as of the date of this Report

4. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AND NEW RISKS

4.1. New Environmental Risks

This section of the Report identifies and discusses any new environmental risks that have become apparent during the reporting period (e.g., new pest or diseases, new information on groundwater levels, unexpected erosion etc.).

Where a new risk has been identified, an analysis of the consequences and likelihood of potential impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) or to the likelihood (or otherwise) of achieving compliance with Conditions of Approval and/or Management Plan requirements has been undertaken.

No new environmental risks were identified during the reporting period.

4.2. Corrective Actions

4.2.1. Previous Non-Compliances

There are no previous instances of non-compliance to address.

4.2.2. Current Non-Compliances

During the assessment, one non-compliance was identified. This relates to internal processes identifying due date for reporting. ACTION: implement workflow for recurring reporting task.

5. REFERENCES

DAWE. 2014. *Annual Compliance Report Guidelines*, <https://www.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/annual-compliance-report-guidelines-revised.pdf>, Australian Government Department of the Environment.

DAWE (2022). *Conditions of Approval (EPBC 2019/8468)*, Approval decision by Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Cth), Canberra.

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ElectraNet (2020). *EIS Document Information: EIS Volume 1 and 2*, Prepared for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, Planning and Land Use Services (SA), Adelaide.

The South Australian Government (2022). *Government Gazette, Adelaide, Thursday, 6 January 2022*.

