



Snowy Hydro Limited Kurri Kurri Power Station Biodiversity Management Plan

Revision No.: 6.1

Revision Date: 21 November 2025

snowyhydro

Acknowledgement of Country

Snowy Hydro acknowledges the traditional custodians of Wonnarua Country, where this Management Plan applies. We pay our respects to Elders of the past, present, and emerging for they have, are, and will leave their footprints behind and continue to share their history, culture and traditions.

Document Control

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Revision	Date	Description	Prepared	Checked	Reviewed	Approved
Amended Final	23 Dec 2021	Updated in response to DPIE comments	E Weatherstone C Whyte	M Consterdine C Thomson	M Luger	K Ivanusic
Amended Final 2	14 Jan 2022	Updated in response to DPIE comments			M Luger	K Ivanusic
Amended Final 2	21 Feb 2022	Updated in response to Environmental Representative comments			M Luger	K Ivanusic

The initial management plan was prepared by Jacobs and Snowy Hydro, and approved by the Department for the Hunter Power Project (now Kurri Kurri Power Station). Details of the review process are detailed in the document history table above. Subsequent versions of the approved management plan have been updated by Snowy Hydro in consultation with the Department's Environmental Representative as required and the reasons for the management plan updates are detailed in the table below.

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Approved Management Plan Revision History:

Approved Revision	Revision Date	Description of Changes	Author	Date Approved
01	15 Feb 2022	Previously referred to as Amended Final 2 and endorsed by the Department and the ER	E Weatherstone	21 Feb 2022
02	20 Jul 2022	Amended Final 2 updated to reflect design and proposed vegetation clearance management measures. Vegetation clearance checklists updated to include all relevant mitigation measures	R Vazey	21 Jul 2022
03	10 May 2023	Document updated in response approval of Modification 1 on 1 March 2023	R Vazey and A van der Kroft	29 May 2023
04	29 Dec 2023	Updated in response to approval of Modification 2 on 16 November 2023	A van der Kroft	13 Feb 2024
05	29 Nov 2024	Updated to include commissioning activities	A van der Kroft	18 Dec 2024
06	18 Aug 2025	Formatting and content updated for the KKPS operational stage	T Thompson	23 Sep 2025
6.1	21 Nov 2025	Updated in response to DPHI review of Revision 6	T Thompson	22 Dec 2025

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1.0 Introduction

This Biodiversity Management Plan (Biodiversity MP) has been prepared for the Kurri Kurri Power Station (KKPS) as a subplan to the overarching Operations Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) for the facility.

The objective of this Biodiversity MP is to provide a point of reference to ensure the effective implementation of KKPS' biodiversity related commitments, reporting, controls and mitigation measures specified in:

- The KKPS Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Any written directions from the NSW Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI Secretary);
- The conditions of NSW Infrastructure Approval SSI-12590060 (SSI Approval);
- The conditions of Environment Protection Licence 21627 (EPL21627);
- The conditions of the Federal EPBC Approval 2021/8888 (EPBC Approval), and;
- Applicable legislation.

As a requirement of SSI Approval Condition B33, Snowy Hydro Limited (Snowy Hydro), as the proponent of KKPS, must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan in consultation with BCS (now the Biodiversity Conservation Division of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, DCCEEW), and to the satisfaction of the DPHI Secretary. Snowy Hydro must also implement the approved Biodiversity MP.

Previous versions of the Biodiversity MP have been developed and approved for construction and commissioning activities of KKPS, however as per Condition C21 of the SSI Approval (Staging of Plans) this version of the Biodiversity Management Plan is for the KKPS operations.

The Biodiversity MP is applicable to the whole KKPS site and aims to minimise potential impacts to biodiversity through:

- Identifying the key biodiversity issues that require operational control measures
- Detailing measures to manage operational impacts on biodiversity
- Assigning responsibilities for operational biodiversity impact management
- Providing sufficient information to assist with auditing the implementation of the Biodiversity MP
- Ensure KKPS workers are aware of the biodiversity values adjacent to the site to they may avoid or minimise potential impacts
- Operating KKPS in accordance with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), SSI Approval, and the mitigation measures identified in this Biodiversity MP.

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1.1 Environmental Management Framework

Snowy Hydro's integrated management system incorporates Health, Safety, Environment, Quality and Asset Management frameworks to meet business requirements. The system is referred to within Snowy Hydro as the Clean, Green and Safe (CGS) Management System, and conforms to:

- ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems
- ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems
- ISO 45001 Occupational Health & Safety Management System
- ISO 55001 Asset Management Systems

Snowy Hydro currently maintains certification of its CGS Management System to ISO9001, ISO14001, and ISO45001.

This Biodiversity MP and the overarching OEMP are underpinned by, and align with the wider CGS Management System.

2.0 Overview

2.1 Location

KKPS is located at Loxford, near Kurri Kurri, New South Wales (NSW), within the Cessnock City Council Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 2.1**, and **Figure 2.2**). The facility has been constructed on the site of the former Kurri Kurri Aluminium Smelter, which operated from 1969 to late 2012, closing in 2014.

Figure 2.3 presents the SSI & EPBC Approval boundary for KKPS, overlaid with the EPL boundary.

The site address is 1 Hart Road, Loxford, and is approximately 1.2km from the M15 Hunter Expressway. The site is accessed via Hart Road.

Further details on the location of KKPS can be found in the KKPS OEMP.

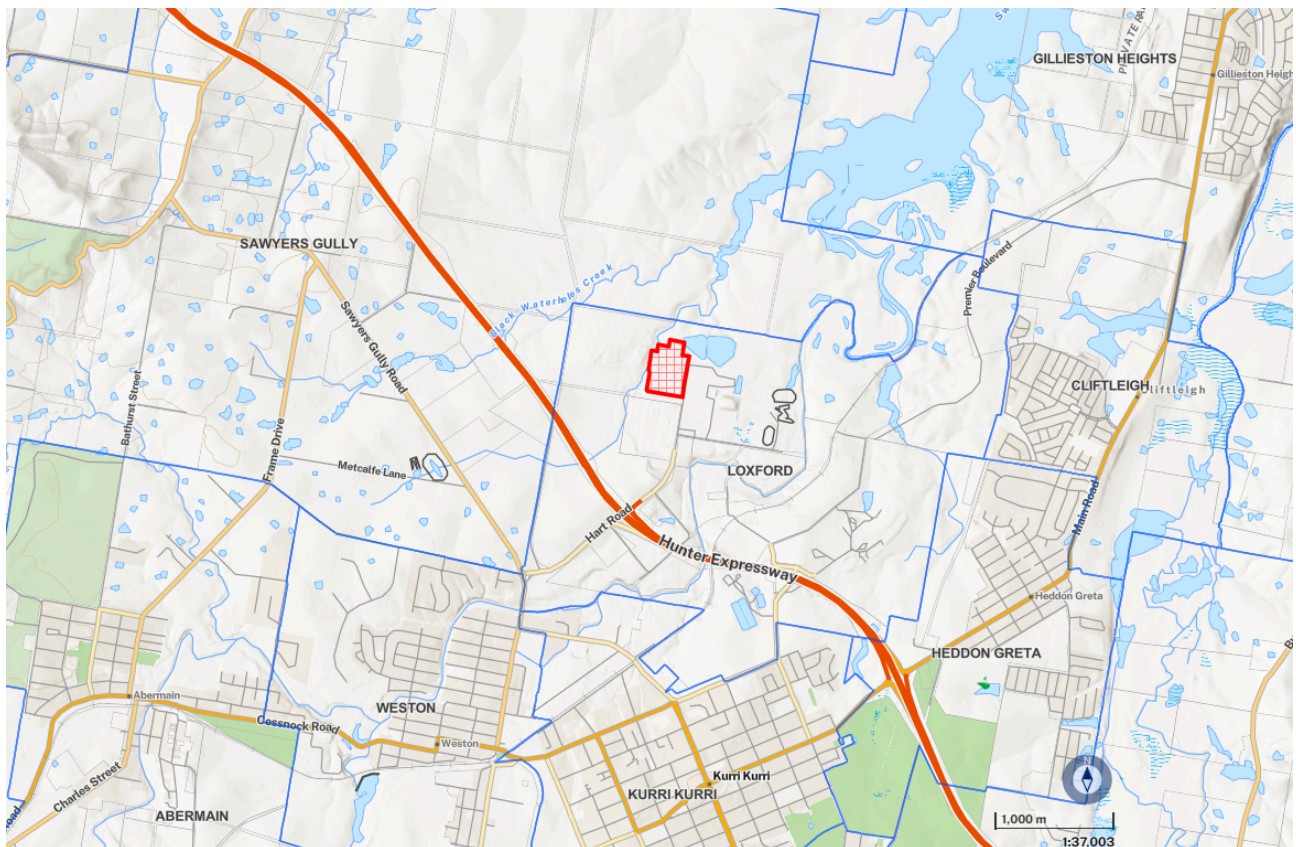


Figure 2.1: Location of the Kurri Kurri Power Station within the regional context (image source: NSW Spatial Services, SDT Explorer)

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Figure 2.2: Local context of Kurri Kurri Power Station (image source: NSW Spatial Services, SDT Explorer)

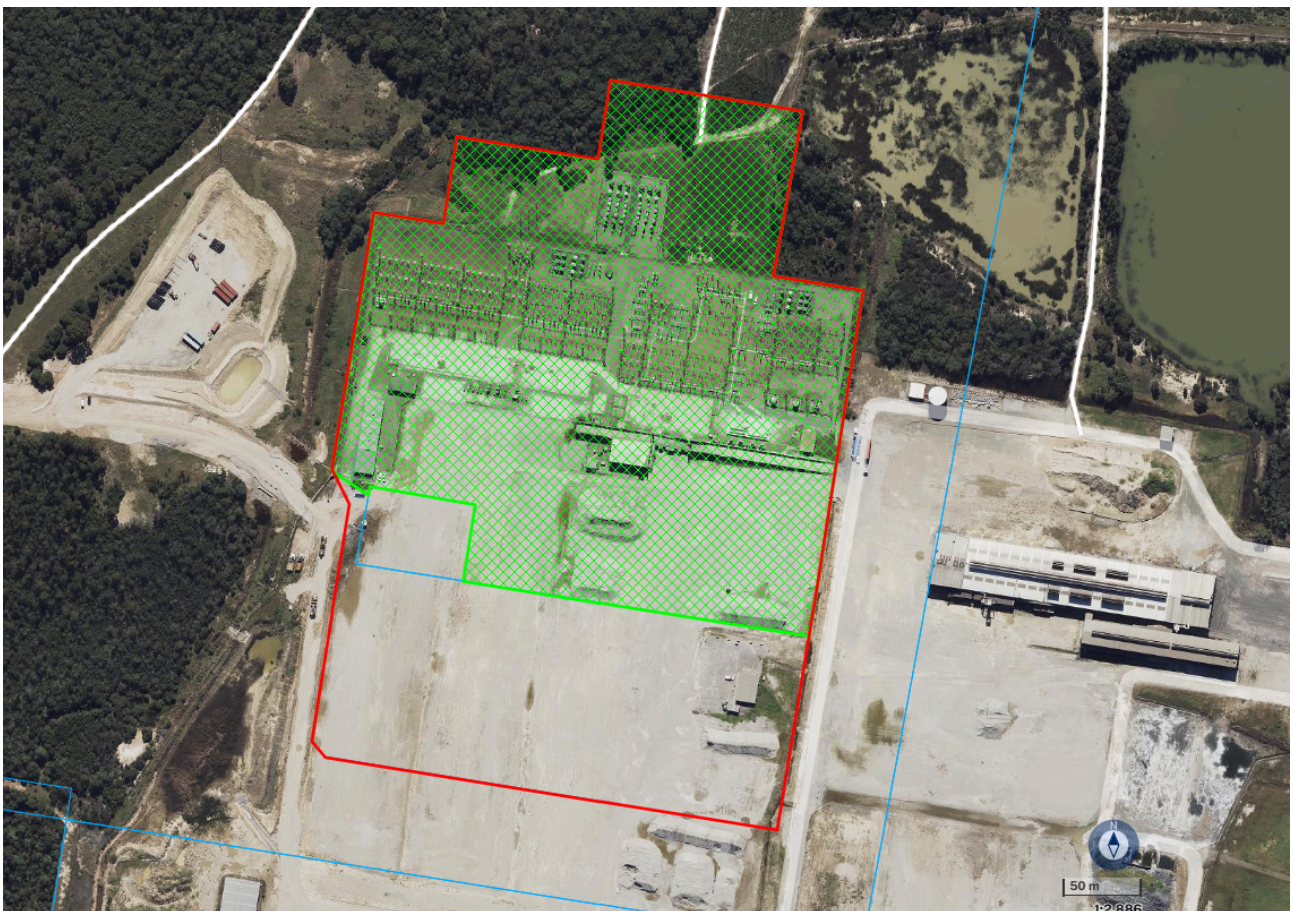


Figure 2.3: Kurri Kurri Power Station boundaries as identified in the SSI and EPBC Approvals (red outline), and EPL21627 (green hatch), (image source: NSW Spatial Services, SDT Explorer)

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2.3 Site Operations

KKPS is a 660MW open cycle gas fired power station that operates as a 'firming' generation facility. It is capable of supporting the transition away from fossil fuel baseload generation, through the security of supplying electricity during periods of low and intermittent generation from renewable generators to maintain a reliable and stable National Electricity Market (NEM). It can also support the NEM at short notice and during times of peak demand, including unplanned supply shortages at other baseload generation facilities.

Further detail regarding the site operations of KKPS can be located in the KKPS OEMP.

2.4 Key Site Components and Features

Full details of the key site components of KKPS can be located in the KKPS OEMP.

A site layout of KKPS is provided below in **Figure 2.4**.

2.5 Environmental Policy

Snowy Hydro's Environmental Policy is reviewed and updated regularly and can be found in the Snowy Hydro document management system, intranet site (the Grid), and on the public Snowy Hydro website. The link to the public website is provided below.

<https://www.snowyhydro.com.au/about/corporate-governance/>

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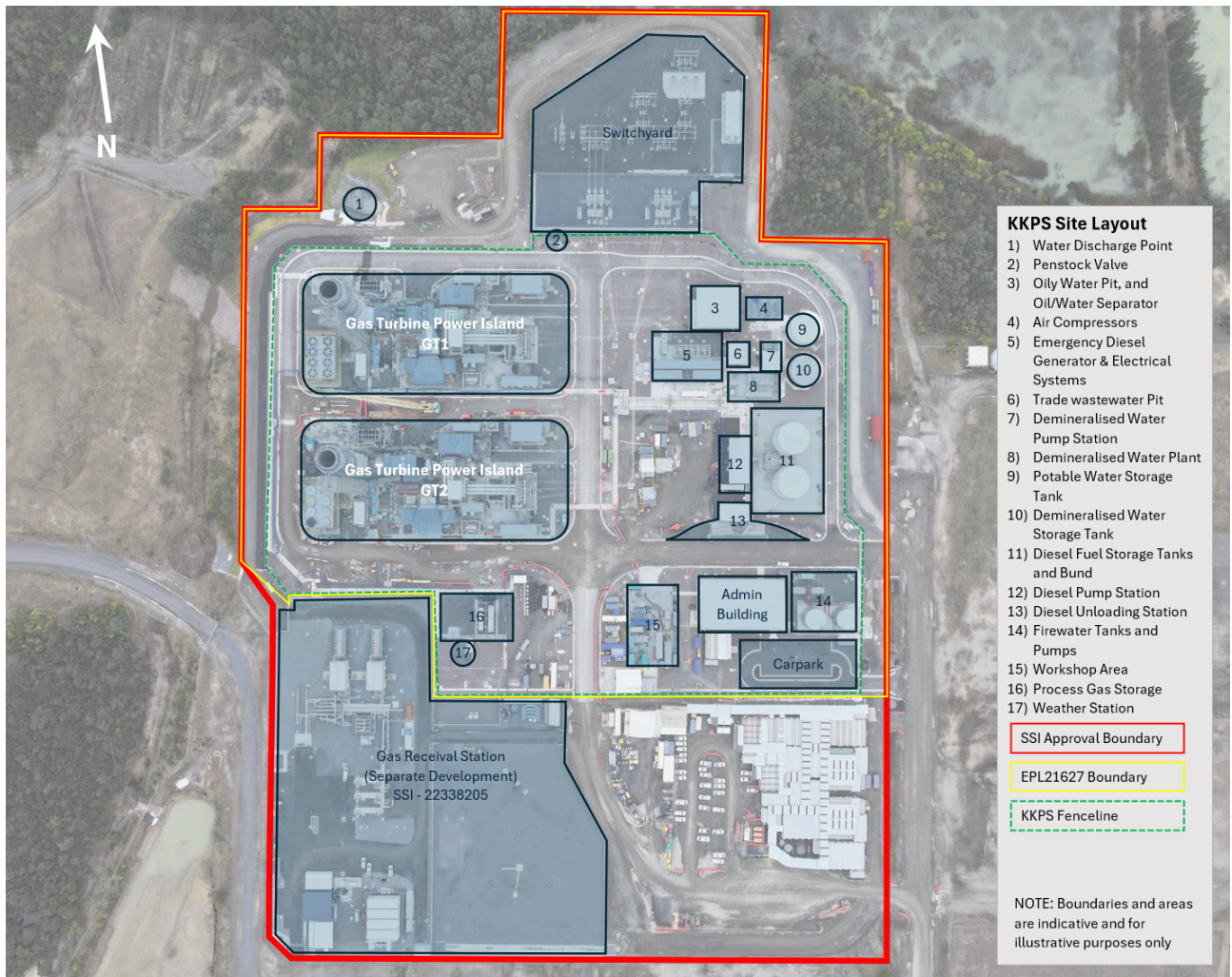


Figure 2.4: Kurri Kurri Power Station Site Layout

3.0 Legislative Compliance

3.1 Applicable Legislation, Standards and Guidelines

This Biodiversity MP has been developed in accordance with the following applicable legislation:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*

Further details on relevant legislation applicable to KKPS can be found in the OEMP.

3.2 SSI Approval Conditions

The biodiversity management requirements, and the requirements of the Biodiversity MP specified by Conditions B33 and B34 of the SSI Approval are provided in **Table 3.2**. Several requirements of these conditions no longer/do not apply during KKPS operations, and have grey text to improve clarity on the applicable requirements.

The applicable administrative conditions of the SSI Approval (Conditions A1 to A24), are summarised in **Table 3.1**, as they remain applicable to this management plan. The full detail of these administrative conditions, and where these conditions are addressed is included in the KKPS OEMP.

Table 3.2: Biodiversity related approval conditions

Condition	Description	Where/how addressed
PART A: ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS		
A1 to A24	• Obligation to minimise harm to the environment (A1) • Terms of Approval (A2 to A5) • Lapse of Approval (A6) • Limits on Approval (A7) • Limits on Operations (A8 to A12) • Statutory Requirements (A13 to A14) • Notification (A15) • Structural Adequacy (A16) • Demolition (A17) • Protection of Public Infrastructure (A18) • Operation of Plant and Equipment (A19) • Environmental Representative (A20 to A24)	KKPS OEMP
PART B: ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS - GENERAL		
BIODIVERSITY		
B33	Biodiversity Management Plan Prior to commencement of construction, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Proponent must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must	This Plan
B33(a)	be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced biodiversity expert/s	Document Control section
B33(b)	be prepared in consultation with the BCS	Section 3.3
B33(c)	describe the short, medium and long-term measures to be undertaken to manage vegetation and fauna habitat on the site	Section 5.0
B33(d)	describe how biodiversity offsets required in condition B34 will be retired	See condition B34 below
B33(e)	describe measures to be implemented within the site to minimise: i) the amount of clearing; ii) impacts on fauna, including undertaking pre-clearance surveys and maximising the salvage of resources for habitat enhancement; iii) impacts on threatened flora and fauna species or ecological communities within the development footprint and its surrounds; iv) the spread of weeds and fungal pathogens; v) the generation and dispersion of sediment to watercourses; and vi) light spill from night works	Section 4.0 & Section 5.0 Section 4.0, & Section 5.0 Section 4.0 & Section 5.0 Section 5.0 Section 5.0 Section 5.0
B33(f)	include a program to monitor, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the measures	Section 6.0
B33	The Proponent must implement the approved Biodiversity Management Plan	Ongoing

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Condition	Description	Where/how addressed																
B34	Prior to the commencement of any construction activity that would impact on any of the vegetation communities or species identified in Tables 7 and 8 below, the Proponent must retire biodiversity credits of a number and class specified in Tables 7 and 8 below in consultation with the BCS and to the satisfaction of BCT. The retirement of these credits must be carried out in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and can be achieved by:	Biodiversity credits have been retired in accordance with B34(b).																
B34(a)	acquiring or retiring 'biodiversity credits' within the meaning of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016;	Not applicable due to selection of option (b) below																
B34(b)	making payments into an offset fund that has been developed by the NSW Government; or	Biodiversity credits have been retired in accordance with B34(b).																
B34(c)	funding a biodiversity conservation action that benefits the threatened entity impacted by the development, consistent with the 'Ancillary Rules: Biodiversity conservation actions'.	Not applicable due to selection of option (b) above																
B34	Written evidence of the retirement of these credits must be provided to the Department prior to commencing construction activity.	Written evidence has been provided to the Department.																
B34	Table 7: Ecosystem Credit Requirements <table><tr><th>Vegetation Community</th><th>PCT ID</th><th>Credits Required</th></tr><tr><td>Parramatta Red Gum – Narrow-leaved Apple – Prickly-leaved Paperbark shrubby woodland in the Cessnock-Kurri Kurri area</td><td>1633</td><td>13</td></tr></table> Table 8: Species Credit Requirements <table><tr><th>Species</th><th>Credits Required</th></tr><tr><td>Earp's Gum</td><td>74</td></tr><tr><td>Southern Myotis</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Regent Honeyeater</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>Common Planigale</td><td>9</td></tr></table>	Vegetation Community	PCT ID	Credits Required	Parramatta Red Gum – Narrow-leaved Apple – Prickly-leaved Paperbark shrubby woodland in the Cessnock-Kurri Kurri area	1633	13	Species	Credits Required	Earp's Gum	74	Southern Myotis	9	Regent Honeyeater	14	Common Planigale	9	Biodiversity credits have been retired in accordance with B34(b).
Vegetation Community	PCT ID	Credits Required																
Parramatta Red Gum – Narrow-leaved Apple – Prickly-leaved Paperbark shrubby woodland in the Cessnock-Kurri Kurri area	1633	13																
Species	Credits Required																	
Earp's Gum	74																	
Southern Myotis	9																	
Regent Honeyeater	14																	
Common Planigale	9																	

Condition	Description	Where/how addressed
PART C: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING		
Environmental Management		
C5	Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs Within 3 months, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, of: a) the submission of an incident report under condition C6 below; b) the submission of an audit report under conditions C15 to C19 below; and c) the approval of any modification to the conditions of this approval; or d) a direction of the Secretary under condition A2 of Schedule 2; the Proponent must review and, if necessary, revise the studies, strategies or plans required under the conditions of approval to the satisfaction of the Secretary. Where this review leads to revisions in any such document, then within 4 weeks of the review the revised document must be submitted to the Secretary for approval, unless otherwise agreed with the Secretary. <i>Note: This is to ensure the strategies, plans and programs are updated on a regular basis, and incorporate any recommended measures to improve the environmental performance of the development.</i>	Section 7.0
COMPLIANCE		
C6	Incident Notification, Reporting and Response The Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website immediately after the Proponent becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the 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 4.	Section 4.3.2 in the KKPS OEMP
C7	Non-Compliance Notification The Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after the Proponent becomes aware of any non-compliance.	Section 6.5.3 Section 4.3.2a in the KKPS OEMP
C8	A non-compliance notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of approval 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 4.3.2a in the KKPS OEMP
C9	A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a noncompliance.	Section 6.5.3 Section 4.3.2a in the KKPS OEMP

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Condition	Description	Where/how addressed
C10	Compliance Reporting Compliance Reports of the development must be carried out in accordance with the Compliance Reporting Requirements outlined in the Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (2020) or its latest version.	Section 4.3.2b in the KKPS OEMP
C11	Compliance Reports must be submitted to the Department in accordance with the timeframes set out in the Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (2020) or its latest version, unless otherwise agreed to by the Secretary.	Section 4.3.2b in the KKPS OEMP
C12	The Proponent must make each Compliance Report publicly available within 60 days of submitting it to the Secretary, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary	Section 4.3.2b in the KKPS OEMP
C13	Notwithstanding the requirements of the Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (2020) or its latest version, the Secretary may approve a request for ongoing annual operational compliance reports to be ceased, where it has been demonstrated to the Secretary's satisfaction that an operational compliance report has demonstrated operational compliance.	Section 4.3.2b in the KKPS OEMP
C14	Notification of Department Prior to commencing the construction, operations, upgrading or decommissioning of the development or the cessation of operations, the Proponent must notify the Department via the Major Projects website portal of the date of commencement, or cessation, of the relevant phase. If any of these phases of the development are to be staged, then the Proponent must notify the Department in writing prior to commencing the relevant stage, and clearly identify the development that would be carried out during the relevant stage.	Section 4.3.3 in the KKPS OEMP
ACCESS TO INFORMATION		
C20	Before the commencement of construction until the completion of all rehabilitation required under this approval, the Proponent must: a) make the following information and documents (as they are obtained, approved or as otherwise stipulated within the conditions of this approval) publicly available on its website: i) the EIS; ii) all current statutory approvals for the development; iii) all approved strategies, plans and programs required under the conditions of this approval; iv) the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation or decommissioning of the development is to be staged; v) regular reporting on the environmental performance of the development in accordance with the reporting requirements in any plans or programs approved under the conditions of this approval;	Section 6.1 in the KKPS OEMP

Condition	Description	Where/how addressed
	vi) a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, reported in accordance with the specifications in any conditions of this approval, or any approved plans and programs; vii) a summary of the current phase and progress of the development; viii) contact details to enquire about the development or to make a complaint; ix) a complaints register, updated monthly; x) the Annual Reviews of the development; xi) audit reports prepared as part of any Independent Environmental Audit of the development and the Proponent's response to the recommendations in any audit report; xii) any other matter required by the Secretary; and b) keep such information up to date, to the satisfaction of the Secretary.	
UPDATING AND STAGING OF STUDIES, STRATEGIES AND PLANS		
C21	To ensure the studies, strategies and plans for the development are updated on a regular basis and incorporate any required measures to improve the environmental performance of the development, the Proponent may submit revised studies, strategies or plans required for the development under the conditions of approval at any time. With the agreement of the Secretary, the Proponent may also submit any study, strategy or plan required under the conditions of this approval on a staged basis.	Section 7.0
C22	The Secretary may approve a revised strategy or plan required under the conditions of approval, or the stage submission of these documents, at any time. With the approval of the Secretary, the Proponent may prepare the revised or staged strategy or plan without undertaking consultation with all parties nominated under the applicable conditions in this approval. Notes: - While any study, strategy or plan may be submitted on a progressive basis, the Proponent must ensure that the existing operations on site are covered by suitable studies, strategies or plans at all times. - If the submission of any study, strategy or plan is to be staged, then the relevant study, strategy or plan must clearly describe the specific stage to which the study, strategy or plan applies, the relationship of this stage to any future stages, and the trigger for updating the study, strategy or plan.	Section 7.0

3.3 Consultation

The SSI Approval requires the Biodiversity MP to be prepared in consultation with the Biodiversity Conservation Division NSW DCCEEW. A summary of this consultation is provided in **Appendix A**.

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4.0 Biodiversity Impacts

As previously noted, this Biodiversity MP covers the operational stage for KKPS. During KKPS operations, there is a negligible level of direct impact to biodiversity due to the approved clearing of native vegetation and habitat during preconstruction activities at KKPS. It is to be noted however that these activities did not impact on land that has been declared as an area of outstanding biodiversity value in under section 3.1 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)*.

The majority of the KKPS Site (approx 90%) was located on previously cleared land of historical industrial land use. Of the remaining 10%, accounting for an area of 1.54 hectares, 1.09 hectares consisted of regrowth and ground layer vegetation within maintained power easements or fire asset protection zones. The construction impact to the 0.4 hectares of intact vegetation was determined as minor with the planning of KKPS to be constructed on the former Kurri Kurri Aluminium Smelter site.

4.1 Plant Community Type

The construction of KKPS resulted in the removal of 1.54 hectares of native vegetation within the KKPS site, and within the required 10 metre wide Asset Protection Zone (APZ), and consisted of the Plant Community Types (PCT's) described in **Table 4.1**, and depicted in **Figure 4.1**.

Table 4.1 PCT's removed during the construction of KKPS

PCT No.	Description	Area
PCT 1633	Parramatta Red Gum – Narrow-leaved Apple – Prickly-leaved Paperbark shrubby woodland in the Cessnock-Kurri Kurri area	1.49 ha
PCT 1737	Typha rushland	0.05 ha
Total:		1.54 ha

Of the 1.49 ha of PCT 1633 that occurred on KKPS, 1.09 ha occurred within existing power easements and APZ areas, and was described to be in low condition as the vegetation was regularly maintained. The intact vegetation, outside the power easement, contained the remaining 0.40 hectares.

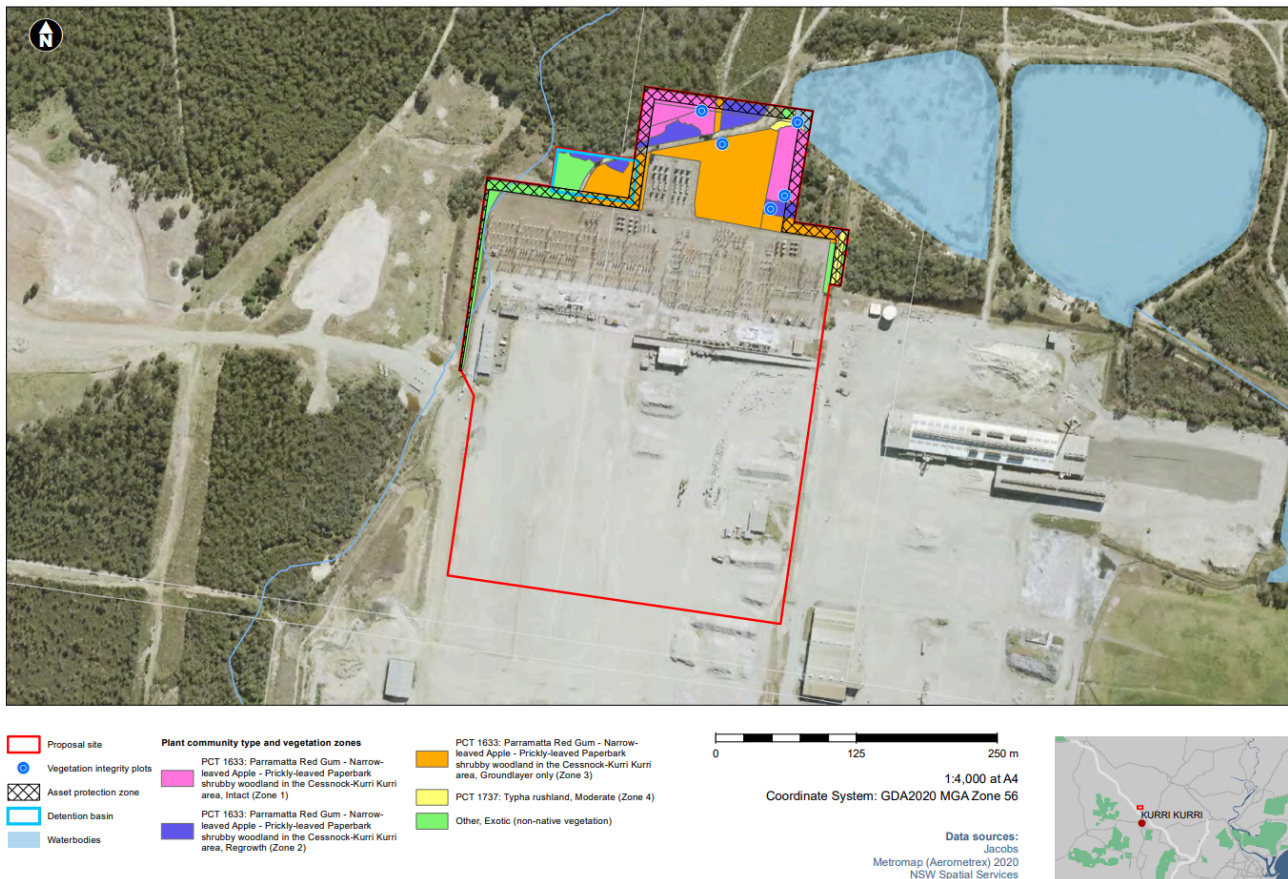


Figure 4.1: Plant Community Types and vegetation zones that existed on the KKPS site

4.2 Threatened Ecological Communities

One Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) has been impacted by the construction of KKPS, which is the 1.49 ha of PCT 1633 (Parramatta Red Gum – Narrow-leaved Apple – Prickly-leaved Paperbark shrubby woodland in the Cessnock-Kurri Kurri area) described in **Section 4.1** above, and depicted in **Figure 4.2**.

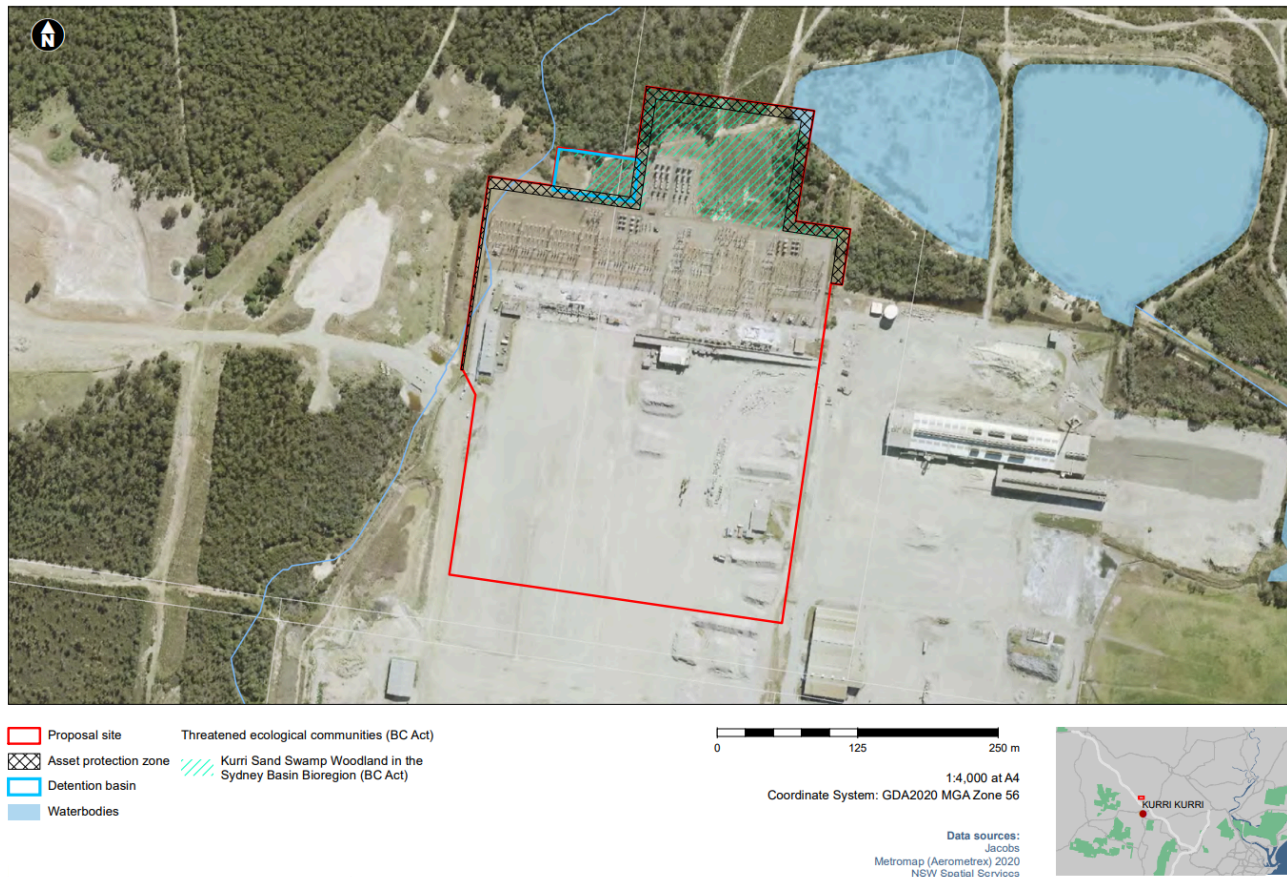


Figure 4.2: Threatened ecological communities that existed on the KKPS site

4.3 Threatened Flora

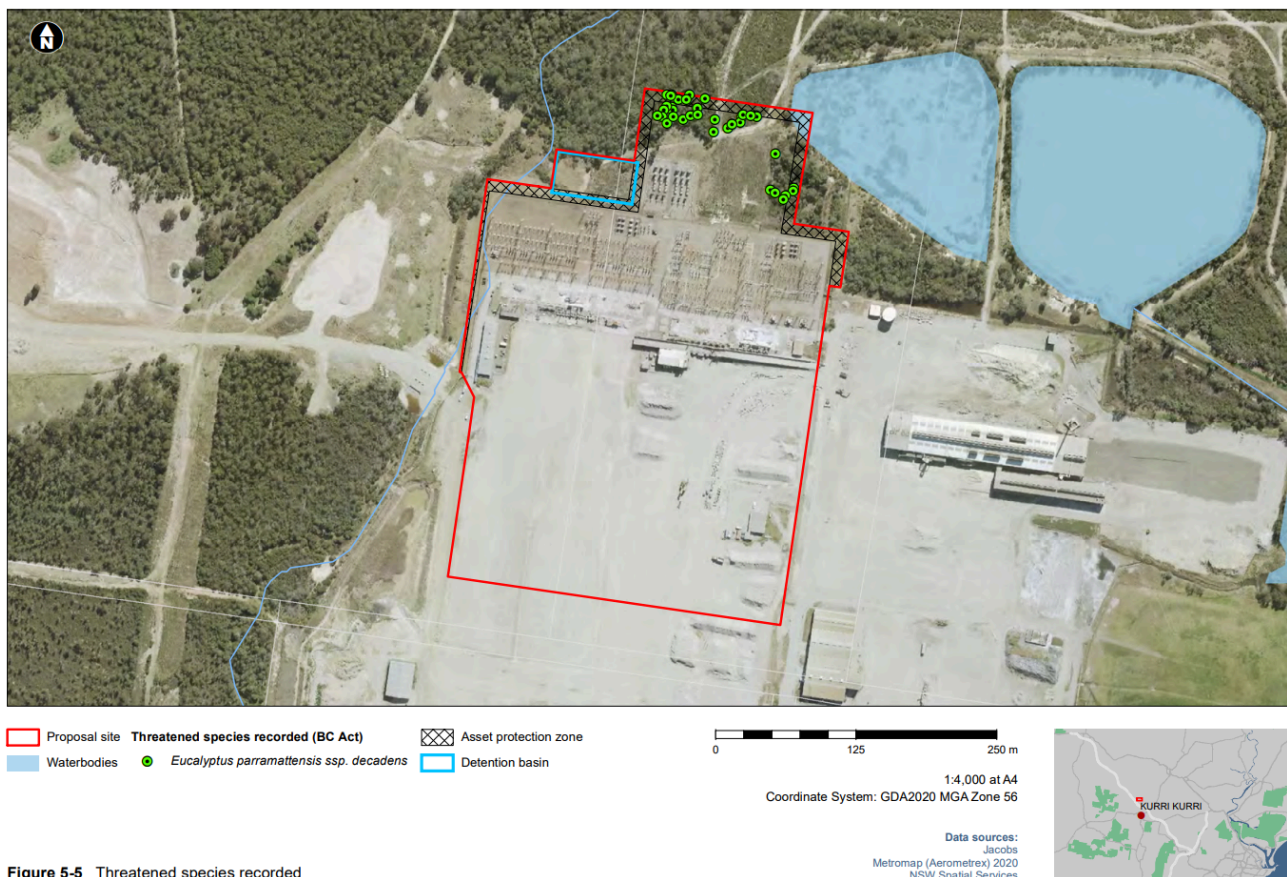
One threatened plant species, *Eucalyptus parramattensis subsp. decadens* (Earps Gum), listed as vulnerable under both the EPBC Act (Cth) and the BC Act (NSW) occurs in proximity to the operational area of KKPS. As a result of the construction of KKPS, a total of 37 individual Earp's Gum were directly impacted.

The direct impact to Earp's Gum associated with the construction of KKPS is summarised in **Table 4.2**, and their locations indicated in **Figure 4.3**.

Table 4.2: Impacts to *Eucalyptus parramattensis subsp. Decadens* (Earp's Gum)

Species Name	Common Name	EPBC Act Listing	BC Act Listing	Sensitivity to Gain Class ¹	Serious and Irreversible Impact candidate	No. Plants impacted
<i>Eucalyptus parramattensis subsp. decadens</i>	Earp's Gum	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	High	No	37

Note 1: Sensitivity to Gain Class refers to how a threatened species or ecological community is expected to respond to management actions aimed at increasing its population or improving its habitat



4.4 Threatened Fauna

One threatened fauna species, the Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*), was positively identified during fauna surveys, and one threatened fauna species, the Common Planigale (*Planigale maculate*), was assumed present based on the availability of suitable habitat within the approved KKPS boundary. These species are both listed as vulnerable under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW).

In the woodland encroaching on KKPS, the Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) has mapped breeding habitat, and the Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) has mapped foraging habitat, however neither have been identified within the KKPS site. A section of identified Regent Honeyeater habitat was required to be removed during the construction of KKPS in the north west extent of the switchyard area.

The direct impact to threatened species associated with the construction of KKPS is summarised in **Table 4.3**, with locations indicated in **Figure 4.4**.

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Table 4.3: Impacts to threatened species

Species Name	Common Name	EPBC Act Listing	BC Act Listing	Sensitivity to Gain Class ¹	Serious and Irreversible Impact candidate	Area impacted
<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Southern Myotis	–	Vulnerable	High	No	0.40 ha
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	High	Yes	0.40 ha
<i>Planigale maculata</i>	Common Planigale	–	Vulnerable	High	No	0.40 ha

Note 1: Sensitivity to Gain Class refers to how a threatened species or ecological community is expected to respond to management actions aimed at increasing its population or improving its habitat



Figure 4.4: Threatened fauna species polygon for the pre-construction KKPS site.

The Southern Myotis was positively identified foraging over the North Dam (surge pond) which is located to the immediate north east of KKPS. This habitat will not be removed or impacted by the Project, though mitigation techniques will be implemented. The surge pond, and a section of the Typha rushland (PCT1737), represent potential foraging habitat consisting of pools more than 3 metres wide. Vegetation within 200 metres of these suitable watercourses (including areas of PCT 1633, and PCT 1737) are associated with the Southern Myotis. There are tree hollows associated with

the intact vegetation zone (Zone 1 PCT 1633) and therefore potential for roosting by this species. The impact to the Southern Myotis habitat within the KKPS operational area is estimated at 0.40 hectares. This species breeds in early spring, having one young in November or early December, clearing of native vegetation should be avoided during this time (September to December).

For the Common Planigale, the species polygon included the area of intact woodland associated with Vegetation Zone 1 (0.40 hectares). This habitat contains microhabitat features considered important for this species, including woody debris, tall groundcover vegetation, and structural complexity including shrubs, and trees. In contrast the regrowth and ground layer vegetation has been previously cleared, there is no remaining woody debris, and very simple structural complexity. This habitat is not expected to be preferred by this small mammal species, due to the lack of shelter and cover. During the breeding period for the Common Planigale (between October to January), clearing of native vegetation should be avoided during this time.

Based on available literature and current knowledge of habitat preferences for the Regent Honeyeater in the Hunter Valley, the habitat within the KKPS operational area will not be considered important, despite overlaying a portion of the important habitat mapping, as it contains no key foraging species, with exception of a low number of Stringybark. Therefore, there are no significant impacts predicted to foraging habitat for the Regent Honeyeater as a result of the minor clearing that was required for KKPS. Approximately 0.40 hectares of habitat suitable for the Regent Honeyeater will be impacted by the Project. Breeding mostly occurs during spring and summer, from August to January for this species. Clearing of native vegetation should be avoided during this time.

4.5 Biodiversity Offsets

Ecosystem and species biodiversity offset credits based on clearing of all vegetation on the Project Site are shown below in **Tables 4.4** and **4.5**. All biodiversity offset credits for KKPS have been retired via payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund under section 6.30(1) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The Department has acknowledged this payment has been made and obligations fulfilled in a letter dated 24 Jan 2022. No further credits are required to be retired.

Table 4.4: Ecosystem Credit Requirements

Vegetation Community	PCT ID	Credits Required
Parramatta Red Gum – Narrow-leaved Apple – Prickly-leaved Paperbark shrubby woodland in the Cessnock-Kurri Kurri area	PCT 1633	13

Table 4.5: Species Credit Requirements.

Species	Credits Required
Earp's Gum	74
Southern Myotis	9
Regent Honeyeater	14
Common Planigale	9

4.6 Consideration of Displaced Fauna

Of the 1.54 ha vegetation removed during the construction of KKPS, only 0.4 ha exhibited complex structural elements, mature trees and logs that may have been occupied by resident or transient fauna. The Biodiversity Development Assessment Report for KKPS noted the potential for the vulnerable Common Planigale and Squirrel Glider to be present in this area, with several other fauna species confirmed to be present. All species (potential, or identified), are considered likely to disperse into adjoining habitat outside the areas directly impacted by KKPS.

Comparable habitat is available and widespread surrounding the Project Site, with expansive areas of contiguous habitat to the north. Any dispersal of a small number of native mammals into this adjoining habitat is considered unlikely to place significant pressure on existing resident fauna, due to the expanse of habitat available. The small area of habitable vegetation to be disturbed (0.4 hectares) will only be occupied by a few individuals of the species discussed. On this basis further mitigation and monitoring of resident fauna in adjacent habitats has been deemed as not required for KKPS as previously approved in earlier versions of the Biodiversity MP.

There are no further proposals to translocate threatened plant species from KKPS, therefore a licence to translocate a threatened species under Section 132 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* is not required.

The likelihood of a threatened fauna species being captured on the operational KKPS site and requiring relocation is considered very low. If at all required, Snowy Hydro will engage a suitably qualified ecologist to provide the necessary advice, to ensure all appropriate actions are implemented to prevent potential harm or stress to the animal. Refer to **Appendix B**.

4.7 Weeds and Pathogens

Invasive weed species, including high threat weeds such as *Andropogon virginicus* (Whiskey Grass), *Cortaderia selloana* (Pampas Grass) and *Hyparrhenia hirta* (Coolatai Grass), were noted in the edges of the intact forest, regrowth forest and along cleared tracks and land, although in very low abundance within the intact forest. Future weed incursion onto the KKPS operational site and adjoining habitats is possible, although, based on observation with the intact areas of forest, this is predicted to be low.

Although operational activities will have minimal direct impact on the spread of weed species, KKPS will implement a regular program of inspection and weed management activities to minimise the risk of weeds establishing in areas of site and spreading into surrounding areas.

Removal techniques, such as hand removal, will be dependent on the identified weed species, and the appropriate management of weed disposal is to be conducted.

Wherever possible, removal or treatment of weeds will be undertaken prior to seed developing, which for most species occurs during the warmer months (summer). Therefore, early spring is generally a suitable time for weed management activities. This will reduce the likelihood of propagation material

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spreading and creating new infestations both within the site and in other areas. Where this is not possible, and weed removal must take place at a time when seed production has commenced, seeds are to be removed from plants as far as practical prior to removal of the plant.

Hand removal will be undertaken where herbicide treatment may impact on sensitive areas, such as crops or native grasses. Hand removal will be undertaken when soils are moist and must be thorough to ensure removal of all roots. Herbicide application should ideally be undertaken during the growing season, however, not during extended dry periods.

Pathogens are agents that cause disease in flora and fauna and are usually living microorganisms such as bacterium, virus, or fungus. Pathogens can be spread on footwear, vehicles and machinery. Precautions to limit the spread of pathogens will be considered if required, should these measures be determined necessary during KKPS operations.

4.8 Aquatic Habitat

KKPS is located on the fringe of the Hunter River floodplain. There are no watercourses that are located in or through the site. Watercourses which occur in proximity to KKPS however include:

- An unnamed ephemeral tributary of Black Waterholes Creek, located immediately to the west of KKPS, which flows from south to north.
- Swamp Creek, 900 metres to the east of the Project Site, which flows in a generally northward direction
- Both Black Waterholes Creek and Swamp Creek drain to Wentworth Swamp about 1.5 kilometres north of KKPS, which drains to the Hunter River at Maitland.

KKPS will have a minimal impact to aquatic environments via site water discharges from an EPA licenced discharge point located on the northern periphery of KKPS. No significant impacts to important waterways, wetlands and/or key fish habitats are expected. The water quality of site discharges shall be monitored as per the requirements of EPL21627, to assess ongoing water quality trends.

5.0 Management and Mitigation Measures

As indicated in **Section 4**, impacts to biodiversity at KKPS have primarily occurred during the construction of KKPS, with the ongoing impacts caused by KKPS operations expected to be minimal. Irrespective of the level of impact, the management and mitigation measures described in **Table 5.1** will be implemented to further ensure any potential impacts to biodiversity are mitigated appropriately.

Table 5.1: Biodiversity management measures

Aspect	Description
<i>Protection of remaining remnant native vegetation and threatened flora</i>	- Ensure the operational boundary is clearly identifiable so that impacts to remaining vegetation do not occur. - Where there is potential for operational activities to interact with high-quality vegetation, particularly Threatened Plant Species, identifiable exclusion areas will be established. During these activities periodic monitoring will be undertaken to ensure no impacts are occurring. - All plant, equipment and other materials will be stored/positioned in locations that will not impact on native vegetation. - Relevant information on environmentally sensitive areas surrounding KKPS operations will be made aware to KKPS workers
<i>Preventing disturbance of sensitive flora and fauna</i>	- Native fauna shall be left alone, unless there is the potential for the fauna to be harmed by site activities. Where fauna is injured, or has the potential to be harmed by KKPS activities, advice and assistance shall be obtained from a qualified ecologist. - Any vegetation removal that may be required to be undertaken shall be done during daylight hours. - KKPS will utilise the assistance of a local wildlife rescue organisation in the event of injured wildlife being identified at KKPS in accordance with Appendix B - Operational lighting at KKPS will ensure light spillage to offsite areas, particularly vegetated area is minimised as much as reasonably practical in accordance with AS/NZS4282 - <i>Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting</i>
<i>Vegetation removal, and the relocation of flora and fauna,</i>	- Removal of established native vegetation as a result of KKPS operations will be conducted in following the engagement of a suitably qualified ecologist, and in accordance with the advice they provide to ensure best practice removal methods are implemented. - The Fauna Rescue and Relocation Procedure outlined in Appendix B will be followed in the event of injured, or at risk native fauna is identified at KKPS
<i>Unexpected finds of native species or threatened species</i>	- The Unexpected Finds Procedure (Appendix C) shall be utilised in the event of the unexpected presence of a threatened species at KKPS. - Any previously unidentified threatened species finds at KKPS (flora and fauna) shall be notified to the NSW DCCEEW's Environment & Heritage group.
<i>Weed management</i>	- Weed management activities at KKPS will be undertaken by suitably qualified and/or experienced personnel at regular intervals to ensure weeds do not become established at KKPS, or have the ability to spread to the surrounding environment. - Weed management techniques shall be determined based on the effective management methods for the weed species to be targeted. Methods may

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	include herbicide treatment, and/or manual removal techniques • Application of herbicides for weed management shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Act 1999. Application of herbicides shall not be done during windy conditions or before forecast rainfall to prevent offsite impacts via spray drift or runoff. • Regular inspections or KKPS will be undertaken to ensure weed management practices remain effective. • Should weed infestations be observed in lands within 200m of KKPS, Snowy Hydro will consult with the neighbouring landholder and determine an appropriate management approach.
<i>Pathogen management</i>	• Appropriate pathogen management measures will be considered and implemented as required should these measures be determined necessary during KKPS operations.
<i>Inspections and monitoring</i>	• Biodiversity credits have been retired in accordance with Condition B34(b) of the SSI Approval. No further targeted biodiversity monitoring, other than for ongoing weed management, is anticipated, unless determined as necessary by Snowy Hydro. • Internal Audits, and periodic independent compliance audits will be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the management measures and compliance with this Biodiversity MP and the SSI Approval. • Investigation and follow up of any complaints raised by members of the public, and/or incidents in relation to biodiversity management
<i>Works in and around sensitive areas</i>	• Any works that are required to be conducted in or around sensitive habitats such as aquatic habitats and riparian zones must ensure appropriate erosion and sediment controls are implemented in accordance with 'Blue Book' requirements (Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction, Volume 1 (Landcom, 2004) and Volume 2D (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water 2008) • Effective implementation of sediment and erosion controls, such as bunding and sediment traps, to manage exposed soil surfaces and stockpiled materials to prevent sediment laden discharges to offsite areas.

6.0 Compliance Management

Specific aspects of the compliance tracking program used to provide oversight for compliance at KKPS is provided in the OEMP.

Environmental compliance at KKPS is demonstrated in Annual Compliance Reports submitted to DPHI and DECCWW addressing compliance reporting obligations in the SSI and EPBC Approvals, and the Annual Return to the NSW EPA.

Within Snowy Hydro, compliance is reported monthly to the operations executive committee and then to the Snowy Hydro Board. The reports to the operations executive include any identified non-compliances with the conditions of the SSI Approval, EPBC Approval, EPL21627, or any other applicable compliance obligation.

6.1 Monitoring and Reporting

Regular monitoring and inspections of the management and mitigation measures outlined in this Biodiversity MP shall occur at a regular frequencies, and will include, however not be limited to:

- General site based inspections of KKPS included as a routine task for KKPS Production Technicians to ensure the site remains free of excessive weeds. As a minimum, specific inspections are conducted on a daily basis, with numerous ad-hoc opportunities to observe site conditions by all site personnel.
- Targeted inspections conducted by Snowy Hydro personnel, or an external party to ensure existing biodiversity management measures remain effective and fit-for-purpose. These are conducted on at least a quarterly basis with additional inspections undertaken as required.
- Environmental auditing and assurance activities to assess ongoing compliance with the requirements of this Biodiversity MP, and applicable Snowy Hydro policies and procedures
- Investigation of biodiversity related incidents, to identify causes, preventative actions and improvement opportunities, as well as tracking identified actions to ensure timely and effective implementation.

Records of scheduled/formal inspections shall be retained in various systems including Ellipse (maintenance management system), Enablon (event management system), and/or AODocs (document management system).

Snowy Hydro has fulfilled the obligations to offset biodiversity impacts by permanently retiring biodiversity credits in accordance with SSI Approval condition 34(b) by electing to make payment to the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. As an outcome an ongoing biodiversity monitoring program is not warranted for KKPS operations.

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6.2 Auditing

Auditing and assurance activities are undertaken to assess the effectiveness of environmental controls, and ongoing compliance with the KKPS OEMP and associated subplans, applicable SSI Approval conditions, EPBC Approval conditions and EPL21627.

Audits and assurance activities at KKPS include:

- Regular site based inspections
- Internal audits
- External audits, consisting of;
 - SSI Independent Compliance Audits
 - SSI Independent Site Hazard Audits
 - EPBC Independent Audit
 - Environmental Management System Audits

Auditing and assurance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the KKPS OEMP.

6.3 Training

Formal training is developed in accordance with Snowy Hydro's Training and Development Procedure, and is administered in the company's Learning Management System (LMS) which maintains training requirements for individuals and completion records of training attended.

Personnel working at KKPS receive training relevant to their role and the required skills to fulfil their role in a competent manner. Environmental training and awareness activities that are facilitated include:

- Snowy Hydro Environmental Induction
- KKPS Site Induction
- Environmental Compliance Training
- Specialised Environmental Training
- Targeted Environmental Awareness Packages
- Daily Pre-start Meetings

Further detail on environmental related training and awareness packages are described in the KKPS OEMP.

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6.4 Biodiversity Management Responsibilities

During normal operating hours, KKPS is staffed by a Plant Manager, Planning Officer, and a team of Production Technicians. The Plant Manager holds overall responsibility for the management and safe operation of KKPS, including biodiversity management.

Local support for KKPS is provided at all times, with the KKPS Production Technicians available on a rostered on-call basis.

Environmental, Safety, Production and Engineering support is provided by the relevant Snowy Hydro teams based locally or Cooma as required.

Detail on the roles and responsibilities for environmental management, which includes biodiversity management, is provided in the KKPS OEMP.

6.5 Reporting and Notification Requirements

6.5.1 Incidents - Internal Reporting

Incidents at KKPS are managed in accordance with Snowy Hydro's Incident Management Procedure, and classified in accordance with the Safety and Environment Incident Classification Matrix. Incident management procedures are accessible on the Snowy Hydro Intranet, which provide guidance on internal notification and investigation requirements.

Any incident or near hit, including non-compliances and community complaints, should be reported in the event management system and communicated with the appropriate stakeholders.

6.5.2 Environmental Incidents - External Reporting

The response to a pollution incident causing or threatening material harm to the environment is detailed in the KKPS Emergency Response Handbook (ERH). The ERH serves as the KKPS Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP), which is a document required by all holders of an Environment Protection Licence (EPL) under Part 5.7A of the POEO Act. A publicly available version of the PIRMP (internet based version) is also available on the Snowy Hydro website.

For full details on the external reporting requirements for environmental incidents, please refer to the KKPS OEMP.

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6.5.3 Non-compliance Notification - SSI Approval

As per Condition C7 of the SSI Approval, Snowy Hydro must notify the DPHI Secretary via the Major Projects Portal of any non-compliance with the conditions of the SSI Approval, within seven days after becoming aware of the non-compliance. The details required for this notification are provided in condition C8 of the SSI Approval.

Note that this excludes any non-compliances that have already been notified via the Major Projects Portal as an incident.

Further details on non-compliance notification requirements are provided in the KKPS OEMP.

6.5.4 Non-compliance Notification - EPBC Approval

As per Condition 8 of the EPBC Approval, Snowy Hydro must notify the Federal Department responsible for administering the EPBC Act (presently the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) in writing of any incident, as defined by the terms of the approval, non-compliance with the conditions of the EPBC Approval or non-compliance with commitments made in any plans required under the EPBC Approval as soon as practicable, but no later than two business days after becoming aware of the non-compliance. The details required for this notification and follow up requirements are provided in conditions 8 and 9 of the EPBC Approval.

Further details on non-compliance notification requirements are provided in the KKPS OEMP.

6.5.5 Statutory Environmental Reporting and Notifications

At KKPS, there are numerous statutory environmental reporting and notification requirements. Further detail on the statutory environmental reporting and notification requirements can be found in the KKPS OEMP.

6.6 Record Keeping

Records must be kept for all monitoring, investigation, communication, agreements, incidents, reports and any other matter that has the potential to be referred to in the future. Documentation and records relating to site operations shall be retained in accordance with Snowy Hydro's Information Asset Management Procedure.

Condition M1 of EPL21627 specifies the results of any monitoring required by the licence must be retained for a minimum of four years. These documents and records must be available onsite in hard copy or electronically within the Snowy Hydro Document Management System.

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6.7 Community Enquiries, Complaints and Feedback

Snowy Hydro maintains several avenues for members of the community to make contact in relation to any aspect of KKPS. In addition to a dedicated telephone complaints line required by condition M7 of EPL21627, Snowy Hydro can also be contacted by email and via post.

Contact details for community complaints, enquiries and other feedback relevant to KKPS are:

Telephone: 1800 766 333 (freecall)

Email: info@snowyhydro.com.au

Post: PO Box 332
Cooma NSW 2630

These contact details are advertised to the public on the Snowy Hydro website, in the White Pages telephone directory. The telephone number is also provided in the KKPS PIRMP.

The provision of the above contact details also satisfies the requirements of Condition C20(a)(viii) of the SSI Approval.

Full details can be found in the KKPS OEMP.

7.0 Document Review

The KKPS OEMP and associated subplans, including this Biodiversity MP, are not static documents, and are regularly reviewed and updated as required to reflect changes in environmental management requirements and/or statutory obligations. Updates to this Traffic MP may be made in response to:

- scheduled reviews of the OEMP, and/or associated subplans
- regulatory changes
- internal or external audit recommendations
- issues identified in Annual Compliance Reports or EPL Annual Returns
- staff and organisational changes
- incidents and investigation outcomes; and
- new initiatives in environmental management.

The SSI Approval specifies (Condition C5) that within three months of the following listed triggers, Snowy Hydro shall review and, if necessary, revise the OEMP, and relevant studies, strategies or plans required under the SSI Approval. If the review of the relevant document(s) leads to an updated revision, the document(s) will be submitted to DPHI Secretary for approval via the Major Projects Portal within 4 weeks of the document review.

The specified triggers listed under Condition C5 of the SSI approval to review applicable document(s) are:

- DPHI notification of an incident that has caused or threatened material harm (condition C6)
- The submission of an Independent Environmental Audit (conditions C15-C19)
- DPHI granting approval to a modification of any condition in the SSI Approval, or
- A direction from the DPHI Secretary

Notwithstanding the above triggers, Conditions C21 and C22 of the SSI Approval allows for Snowy Hydro to submit revised studies, strategies or plans required for KKPS under a condition of the SSI Approval at any time, and for the DPHI Secretary to approve these at any time.

With the agreement of the DPHI Secretary, the Proponent may also submit any study, strategy or plan required under the conditions of this approval on a staged basis. With the approval of the DPHI Secretary, the Proponent may prepare the revised or staged strategy or plan without undertaking consultation with all parties nominated under the applicable conditions in this approval.

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Appendix A: Consultation Record

Consultation Record and Response for the Construction/Commissioning Stages, including relevancy for the Operational Stage

Agency	Feedback	Response and Section Reference (construction & commissioning)	Response and Section Reference (operations)
BCD (formerly BCS) Now NSW Environment & Heritage	1. Additional fauna management measures should be considered for the tree clearing protocols. Table 3-1 Management and mitigation measures (<i>now Table 5.1</i>) in the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) outlines the management measures which are to be implemented to minimise the impacts of the vegetation clearing on fauna. A Vegetation Pre-clearing Checklist and a Vegetation Clearing (during works) Checklist are presented in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively. BCD considers that additional tree clearing protocols should be added to the BMP to ensure clearing activities at the site follow best practice methods. These protocols are described below.		Noted. During KKPS operations there will be no clearing activities to occur. Removal of established native vegetation as a result of KKPS operations will be conducted in following the engagement of a suitably qualified ecologist, and in accordance with the advice they provide to ensure best practice removal methods are implemented.
	Recommendation 1 Scheduling the clearing works for a time of year to avoid the breeding seasons of identified potential threatened species and other fauna that may breed on site.	There is no scope to alter the schedule of clearing or the commencement of construction for the Project. Further to this, there are very limited opportunities for threatened fauna species to breed on the site, due to a paucity of tree hollows and logs. The pre-clearing survey will target identification of any constructed bird nests on the site to be avoided or managed during the clearing works to further ensure that impacts to breeding fauna can be avoided or mitigated. Amendments have been to Table 3-1 to address the recommendations specifically.	See Table 5.1

Agency	Feedback	Response and Section Reference (construction & commissioning)	Response and Section Reference (operations)
	Comparative habitat assessments should be conducted on clearing sites and proposed release sites to ensure that habitat features are available in the released sites.	All vegetation to be cleared borders an extensive area of comparative habitat in the proposed Regrowth Kurri Kurri offset area which will be maintained and managed by others. All fauna will be released at sites with suitable habitat features and vegetation composition to what has been removed. Table 3-1 has been updated.	
	Release sites should be identified and mapped prior to clearing and all appropriate approvals granted by the landholders	All release sites will be in vegetation at least 100 m north of the Project Site, approval will be obtained from the landowner (if required) prior to release. All locations will be captured by a handheld GPS unit as per updated Table 3-1	
	Tree clearing should not be conducted above 35°C for the interests of animal welfare	Noted. This additional control has been added to Table 3-1	
	Communication with rescue agencies and local veterinarians prior to the commencement of clearing to confirm the availability of resources for any captured/ injured fauna that is unable to be released	Noted. This additional control has been added to Table 3-1	
	Clearing should be conducted sequentially and directionally towards areas of refuge to prevent the creation of vegetation islands	Noted. This additional control has been added to Table 3-1	
	Ensure that trees felled are positioned so that hollows are facing upwards and out to allow fauna to escape overnight.	Noted. This additional control has been added to Table 3-1	

Agency	Feedback	Response and Section Reference (construction & commissioning)	Response and Section Reference (operations)
	2. How will captured fauna be relocated? Table 3-1 Management and mitigation measures and Appendix 3 (Fauna Rescue and Relocation Procedure) of the BMP provides some details on the protocols to be applied for any captured fauna (including threatened species) during the pre-clearing surveys, such as re-releasing in adjoining habitat, stopping work if a significant species and utilising WIRES or similar organisation etc., however; BCD considers that further details are required. Although BCD generally does not support relocation / translocation of captured threatened fauna due to impacts on resources, potential disease implications, and social disruption of other animals already utilising available habitat, the 'good intentions' of such measures are acknowledged. The proponent should specify in detail what will happen to displace threatened fauna in greater detail, and if it proposes relocation / translocation then the BMP should provide an appraisal of what the potential impacts of such relocations / translocations may be and what measures (e.g. monitoring) will be employed to minimise any detrimental effects on existing faunal populations and adjacent habitat. Any relocation / translocation of wildlife should be done in accordance with 'Translocation operational policy' (DPIE 2019), and translocation of threatened species will likely require a license under section 132 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> or a threatened species licence, under Part 2 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 if species are being relocated to areas outside the approved development consent area. The BMP needs to include these details.		Noted. During KKPS operations there will be no clearing activities, therefore the capture and relocation of fauna during these activities is also no longer applicable. Should injured or at risk fauna be identified at KKPS during operations, the Fauna Rescue and Relocation Procedure outlined in Appendix B will be followed (See Table 5.1)
	Recommendation 2	The Project will remove about 1.5	

Agency	Feedback	Response and Section Reference (construction & commissioning)	Response and Section Reference (operations)
	BCD recommends that the Biodiversity Management Plan should provide a more detailed appraisal of what the potential impacts of any relocations / translocations of displaced fauna (particularly threatened species) may be on adjoining habitat and what measures (e.g. monitoring) will be employed to minimise any detrimental effects on existing faunal populations that utilise such areas	hectares of vegetation in different condition states, including low modified and maintained vegetation below an existing power easement. Of this impact, only around 0.4 hectares exists as intact vegetation with complex structural elements, mature trees and logs that may be occupied by resident or transient fauna. The BDAR discusses the potential, albeit low likelihood of the Common Planigale and Squirrel Glider. The Yellow-footed Antechinus was confirmed in the Project Site, as well as the Common Ringtail Possum. These mobile fauna species are considered likely to successfully disperse into the adjoining habitat outside of the Project Site during the clearing works. Comparable habitat is available and widespread surrounding the Project Site, with expansive areas of contiguous habitat to the north. Any dispersal of a small number of native mammals into this adjoining habitat is considered unlikely to place significant pressure on existing resident fauna, due to the expanse of habitat available. The small area of vegetation to be disturbed (0.4 hectares) will only be occupied by a few individuals of the species discussed. On this basis further mitigation and monitoring of resident fauna in adjacent habitats is deemed not to be required for this Project.	

Agency	Feedback	Response and Section Reference (construction & commissioning)	Response and Section Reference (operations)
	All relocations and translocations of wildlife must be done in accordance with the 'Translocation operational policy' (DPIE 2019), and any appropriate licensing under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> or <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> be obtained.	It is not proposed to translocate any threatened plant species from the Project Site and therefore a licence to translocate a threatened species under Section 132 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 is not required. While there may be capture and relocation of fauna outside of the Project Site during the clearing works, this activity will be conducted under the Project approval and will be necessary for the carrying out of the development consent. While the likelihood of a threatened fauna species being captured and requiring relocation to adjacent habitat is considered very low, nonetheless prior to the clearing works, the Proponent will apply for a threatened species licence under Part 2 of the BC Act, to ensure that if this event occurs, that the appropriate licence is in place. Additional detail has been provided to consider impact to displaced fauna (see Section 2.5).	
	3. Weed populations within 200 metres of the area managed under the management plan should be managed / controlled. The BMP refers to the management and control of high threat weed species, which BCD consider the main environmental weeds within the boundaries of the BMP managed site. If these species, or other environmental weeds occur on adjoining roads or adjacent land within 200 metres of the of the areas the BMP applies to, they represent potential source populations (i.e. seeds) to future or ongoing management of the site. If such		Weed management activities at KKPS will be undertaken by suitably qualified and/or experienced personnel at regular intervals to ensure weeds do not become established at KKPS, or have the ability to spread to the surrounding environment. Should weed infestations be observed in lands within 200m of KKPS, Snowy

Agency	Feedback	Response and Section Reference (construction & commissioning)	Response and Section Reference (operations)
	weed infestations occur, they should also be managed / controlled, where achievable. This may require a co-ordinated approach with neighbouring landholders, if not on land owned by the proponent. Access and management of environmental weeds not on land owned by the proponent must secure the permission of the relevant owner before undertaking any works, including access.		Hydro will consult with the neighbouring landholder and determine an appropriate management approach. See Table 5.1
	Recommendation 3 Infestations of all environmental weeds within 200 metres of the areas managed under the Biodiversity Management Plan should be managed / controlled. Management / control of such weeds may need to include a co-ordinated approach with neighbouring landholders, if not on land owned by the proponent.	The location of weeds will be mapped within a 200 metre radius of the Project Site to monitor future possible Project related infestations. Regular follow up and treatment of weeds in adjoining areas of the Project, including vegetation within a 200 metres radius of the Project, where it is evident that the weed infestation has occurred post-clearing and is Project-related. This will be informed by the pre- construction weed mapping exercise. Monitoring and the treatment of weeds will occur for a period of six months post-construction. If post-clearing weed infestations become evident (within a 200 metre radius of the project Site) and are deemed to be Project related, the Proponent will consult with the adjacent landowner to implement control. Table 3-1 Management and mitigation measures including EIS referenced measures has been updated to reflect this additional measure.	

Agency	Feedback	Response and Section Reference (construction & commissioning)	Response and Section Reference (operations)
	4. Biobanking Assessment Method plots should be used for monitoring vegetation and rehabilitation. Section 1.6 of the BMP acknowledges the requirement of monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the measures utilised in the plan to manage biodiversity issues. However, this section along with Table 3-1 and the Appendices provide very little detail to actually how the monitoring will be carried out other than stating that it will be 'periodic'. BCD assumes that this will involve some form of photo -point (camera) monitoring and recording of vegetation status such as cover, dominant species and rehabilitation success, likely utilising the under random transects method. BCD suggests that the collection of full floristics and structural data will provide a more usable data set, rather than just the dominant species, condition etc. This will provide a more useful data set to explain and describe the site condition, detail competition from other vegetation (i.e. weeds), provide early detection of weediness or identify other management issues and provide a greater resource to explain changes to vegetation structure and plant composition over time. This additional data will also compliment any photo monitoring program that the proponent may employ. BCD recommends that the Biodiversity Assessment Method (https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/biodiversity-offsets-scheme/accredited-assessors/biodiversity-assessment-method-2020), utilising the quadrat method, be used to collect long-term monitoring data on the vegetation of the offset site.		Snowy Hydro has fulfilled the obligations to offset biodiversity impacts by permanently retiring biodiversity credits in accordance with SSI Approval condition 34(b) by electing to make payment to the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. As an outcome an ongoing biodiversity monitoring program is not warranted for KKPS operations. Ongoing monitoring will be focussed on the effective implementation of the Biodiversity MP and associated compliance requirements. See Table 5.1 and Section 6.0
	Recommendation 4 BCD recommends that vegetation monitoring is done using the Biodiversity Assessment Method, to be consistent with current best practice.	The Proponent has elected to make payments into the Biodiversity offset fund, in accordance with approval condition B37(B), and therefore does not intend to implement a monitoring program to manage biodiversity issues.	

Agency	Feedback	Response and Section Reference (construction & commissioning)	Response and Section Reference (operations)
		Monitoring as described in this BMP is targeted at compliance in accordance with the mitigation and management actions provided in Table 3-1. The series of appendices provided in this BMP are essentially a checklist to ensure compliance with the construction activities proposed. The wording in the BMP has been amended to include the word 'compliance' to clarify the intent of the monitoring that is proposed. The Project impact is very small (0.4 hectares) and occurs on the southern edge of a large expansive area of comparable vegetation. It is not intended to monitor the long -term condition of the vegetation in the adjoining and surrounding area, and the use of the BAM is deemed not to be required.	

Consultation Record and Response for the Operational Stage

Agency	Feedback	Response and Section Reference (operations)
Conservation Programs, Heritage & Regulation Group (CPHR) of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW)	CPHR has reviewed the BMP and requests the following information to be provided:	
	confirmation that the changes to BMP are due to construction activities ceasing and the operational stage of the project beginning. If so, please confirm whether any further vegetation clearing is planned. Section 5, Table 5.1 of BMP (dated 18 August 2025) describes vegetation removal, however most of the mitigation measures associated with vegetation removal have been omitted in this revised version when compared to the previous BMP (dated 29 November 2024).	Confirmation/clarification provided to CPHR via email on 21 October 2025, regarding the following: - KKPS had not yet commenced operations, however were preparing the suite of operational management plans in anticipation of the commencement of operations in late 2025. - During operations, no further clearing of vegetation will be required. - The reference to vegetation removal described in Section 5, Table 5.1 is intended to ensure there are provisions for any unexpected removal/maintenance of vegetation (for safety, or APZ management for instance), and this is managed appropriately and in accordance with the advice provided by a suitably qualified ecologist.
	- CPHR requests that relevant environmental compliance reports are submitted to huntercentralcoast@environment.nsw.gov.au to confirm biodiversity reporting, inspections, and checklists have occurred, as noted in the previous version of the BMP (dated 29 November 2024), section 4.7. This stated that post-earthworks report, and post construction report will be prepared to address BMP requirements and be made available to DCCEEW. The report would include: - summary of weed control activities undertaken - account of all clearing activities including tracking against clearing limits and threatened species habitat limits - post-clearing biodiversity management compliance reports - account of any relevant incidents and non-compliances	At the time of consultation, construction and commissioning of KKPS is continuing, with the anticipation that construction and earthworks shall continue until late 2025. During this period, the Project will continue to manage biodiversity matters in accordance with the current approved construction and commissioning phase BMP. In light of this, Snowy Hydro's preference is to wait until the construction and earthworks activities are fully complete before preparing the post-earthworks and post-construction report, and submission to DCCEEW.

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Appendix B: Fauna Rescue and Relocation Procedure

This procedure applies to all native and introduced fauna species that are found within the operational area of Kurri Kurri Power Station.

This procedure outlines the correct process to follow for the interaction with fauna at KKPS. This procedure will cover instances where fauna is shocked, trapped, injured, or if eggs or juvenile fauna are discovered.

This procedure will be communicated during the site induction, and as required during pre-start meeting or tool box meeting from time to time.

The Plant Manager and Senior Environmental Advisor, will be responsible to ensure the procedure is followed.

Fauna Rescue and Relocation Procedure

1) Stop work if encounter any fauna within the work area
a) If fauna is not injured, allow it to move out of the work area. b) If fauna will not move out of the work area due to injury or other reasons, contact the Plant Manager, and/or the Senior Environmental Advisor. c) The Plant Manager, Senior Environmental Advisor, or delegate shall contact an ecologist or WIRES for assistance
2) For Injured Fauna – to be handled by a person licenced to handle fauna
a) Minimise stress to fauna – cover fauna with a large blanket or towel. Place in a cotton bag, and contain the animal inside a pet carrier, or similar. b) Retain the animal in a quiet, warm location that is well ventilated. c) The Plant Manager, Senior Environmental Advisor, or delegate will contact an appropriate wildlife rescue service and/or local veterinary surgery. Contacts are: • WIRES (Rescue Hotline) 1300 094 737 • RSPCA (Hunter Shelter) 02 4939 1555 • Vet Care Kurri 02 4937 3744 • Cessnock Veterinary Hospital 02 4991 2377 • Koala Rescue (Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary) 1800 775 625 d) Once the wildlife rescue service arrives at KKPS, they are responsible for the animal. Any decisions regarding the care of the animal will be made by the rescue agency. e) In the event a rescue service and/or local veterinary surgery cannot be contacted, the Plant Manager, Senior Environmental Advisor, or delegate will deliver the injured/captured animal to the rescue agency within 24hrs.

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3) For Threatened Fauna Species

- a) Advise the Plant Manager, and/or the Senior Environmental Advisor and cease all work that may affect the threatened species.
- b) Notify the Environment & Heritage Group (E&H Group) of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment & Water (DCCEEW) and consult with the E&H Group on the proposed management strategy for the species.
- c) The E&H Group will also be notified if an EPBC Act listed threatened species that was not previously identified are found.
- d) Do not recommence work that may affect the threatened species until the E&H Group have given advice to do so.
- e) Relocation of fauna species of conservation significance will be undertaken by WIRES or a suitably qualified ecologist in consultation with the E&H Group.
- f) The Plant Manager, or the Senior Environmental Advisor shall record the location, number, species, and relocation area of the threatened species.

4) For Venomous reptiles, or raptors, other venomous animals

- a) The animal must only be handled by an appropriately trained and registered handler.
- b) If the animal cannot be handled (i.e. venomous reptiles), the exact location of the animal is to be recorded and provided to the appropriate rescue agency and all workers to be excluded from the vicinity.

5) Release Process

- a) If the animal is not injured or stressed, it may be released nearby, in accordance with the following:
 - i) If the species is nocturnal, release will be carried out at dusk.
 - ii) The release area will be as close to the capture location, and outside the KKPS operational area.
 - iii) No releases are to take place during periods of heavy rainfall, unless the wildlife rescue service advises the animal is too stressed to be held any longer.
 - iv) The Plant Manager, or the Senior Environmental Advisor shall document and retain appropriate records of the release.

Appendix C: Unexpected Finds Procedure

About

In the event that a threatened species not previously known to occur on or around Kurri Kurri Power Station (i.e. not identified as potentially occurring during Biodiversity Impact Assessment of the EIS, or previous stages of the site), the unexpected finds procedure shall be followed.

The Unexpected Finds Procedure details the actions to be taken when any unexpected, threatened fauna or flora species is unexpectedly encountered at Kurri Kurri Power Station.

Training & Awareness

Workers involved in site activities that may place them in a position to encounter a new threatened species, such as facilities or ground maintenance, will be trained in the requirements of this procedure. Training may incorporate inductions, toolbox talks, pre-starts and targeted awareness training as required.

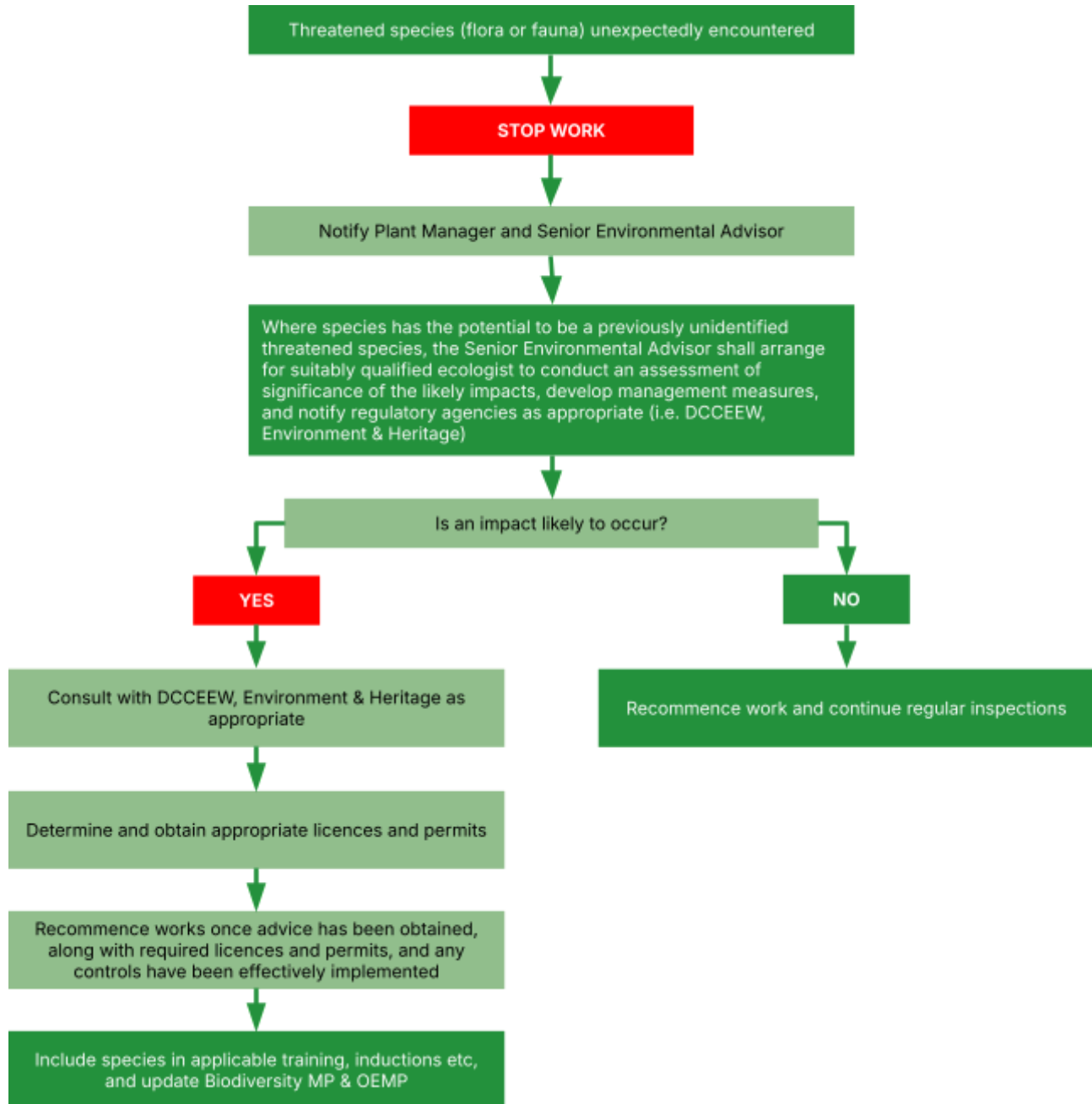
All workers shall be made aware of potential threatened species occurring on site and the unexpected threatened species finds procedure.

This procedure is applicable to all activities conducted by personnel that have the potential to come into contact with threatened species at Kurri Kurri Power Station.

Procedure

Where threatened fauna is unexpectedly encountered, follow the steps outlined in the following flow chart.

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Appendix D: Environmental Representative Endorsements



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Web: www.hbi.com.au

Ian Smith
Project Manager
Snowy Hydro Limited
Monaro Highway
Cooma, NSW, 2630

1 March 2022

REF: WMP FINAL AMENDED

Dear Ian,

RE: Hunter Power Project Biodiversity Management Plan Amended Final 2 (21 February 2022)

I refer to Snowy Hydro Limited's (SHL) submission of the following document required by Condition B33 of the Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station) Infrastructure Approval (SSI 12590060) for review and endorsement by the Environmental Representative:

- Hunter Power Project, Snowy Hydro Limited Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP Amended Final 2, 21 February 2022).

It is noted that:

- The BMP has been developed by Jacobs Group Australia (Jacobs) on behalf of SHL for the works associated with the construction of the project and to address the specific biodiversity management requirements of the Infrastructure Approval.
- A letter dated 15 February 2022 was received from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) allowing review and endorsement by the Environmental Representative in accordance with A23 to occur after DPIE submission but prior to the commencement of construction. The BMP was approved by the DPIE on 19 January 2022.

Following the review, the document is considered to contain information required by the Conditions of Approval (SSI 12590060) in relation to the BMP (Condition B33). Noting the above, as the approved Environmental Representative for the Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station) and as required by Conditions A23(a), the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP Amended Final 2, 21 February 2022) is endorsed.

Snowy Hydro Limited and their contractors must continue to obtain and comply with any relevant approval, licence or permit required for the works; complying with relevant Conditions of Approval as they relate to the works; and appropriate notifications being issued prior to the works.

Yours sincerely



Greg Byrnes
Environmental Representative – Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station)

Leaders in Environmental Consulting

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Isaac Strachan
Health, Safety and Environment Lead
Hunter Power Project - Snowy Hydro Limited
Lot 3, Pier 8/9, 23 Hickson Road
Walsh Bay, NSW, 2000

21 July 2022

REF: BMP FINAL AMENDED

Dear Isaac,

RE: Hunter Power Project Biodiversity Management Plan Amended Final 3 (20 July 2022)

I refer to Snowy Hydro Limited's (SHL) submission of the following document required by Condition B33 of the Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station) Infrastructure Approval (SSI 12590060) for review and endorsement by the Environmental Representative:

- Hunter Power Project, Snowy Hydro Limited Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP Amended Final 3, 20 July 2022).

It is noted that:

- The BMP has been developed by Jacobs Group Australia (Jacobs) on behalf of SHL for the works associated with the construction of the project and to address the specific biodiversity management requirements of the Infrastructure Approval.
- A letter dated 15 February 2022 was received from Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) allowing review and endorsement by the Environmental Representative in accordance with A23 to occur after DPE submission but prior to the commencement of construction. The BMP was approved by the DPE on 19 January 2022.
- An initial version of the BMP was endorsed by the ER on 1 March 2022. This revision of the BMP includes minor changes to the vegetation removal in the Asset Protection Zone in line with the impacts assessed and approved in the EIS and the addition vegetation clearing requirements.

Following the review, the document is considered to contain information required by the Conditions of Approval (SSI 12590060) in relation to the BMP (Condition B33). Noting the above, as the approved Environmental Representative for the Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station) and as required by Conditions A23(a) and A23(c), the amended Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP Amended Final 3, 20 July 2022) is endorsed.

Snowy Hydro Limited and their contractors must continue to obtain and comply with any relevant approval, licence or permit required for the works; complying with relevant Conditions of Approval as they relate to the works; and appropriate notifications being issued prior to the works.

Yours sincerely



Greg Byrnes
Environmental Representative – Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station)

Leaders in Environmental Consulting

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Angela van der Kroft
Environmental Assurance Advisor
Hunter Power Project - Snowy Hydro Limited
Hart Road Loxford NSW 2326

18 December 2024

REF: BMP APPROVED VER 5

Dear Angela,

RE: Hunter Power Project Biodiversity Management Plan Approved Version 5 (29 November 2024)

I refer to Snowy Hydro Limited's (SHL) submission of the following revised document required by Condition B33 of the Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station) Infrastructure Approval (SSI 12590060) for review and endorsement by the Environmental Representative:

- Hunter Power Project, Snowy Hydro Limited Biodiversity Management Plan Approved Version 5 (29 November 2024).

It is noted that:

- The BMP has been developed by SHL for the works associated with the construction of the project and to address the specific biodiversity management requirements of the Infrastructure Approval.
- The BMP was approved by the Department on 19 January 2022.
- This revised version of the BMP has been amended to incorporate the requirements of the commissioning phase..

Following the review, this revised document is considered to contain information required by the Conditions of Approval (SSI 12590060) in relation to the BMP (Condition B33). Noting the above, as the approved Environmental Representative for the Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station) and as required by Conditions A23(a) and A23(c), the amended Biodiversity Management Plan Approved Version 5 (29 November 2024) is endorsed.

Snowy Hydro Limited and their contractors must continue to obtain and comply with any relevant approval, licence or permit required for the works; complying with relevant Conditions of Approval as they relate to the works; and appropriate notifications being issued prior to the works.

Yours sincerely

Alex Gale
Environmental Representative – Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station)

Leaders in Environmental Consulting

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Snowy Hydro Limited – Kurri Kurri Power Station
Biodiversity Management Plan

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Angela van der Kroft
Environmental Manager
Hunter Power Project - Snowy Hydro Limited
Hart Road Loxford NSW 2326

22 September 2025

REF: EMS AMENDED VER 5 FINAL

Dear Angela,

RE: Environmental Management Strategy Approved Version 5 (18 August 2025)

I refer to Snowy Hydro Limited's (SHL) submission of the following revised document required by Condition C1 of the Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station) Infrastructure Approval (SSI 12590060) for review and endorsement by the Environmental Representative:

- Hunter Power Project, Snowy Hydro Limited Environmental Management Strategy Approved Version 5 (18 August 2025).

It is noted that:

- The EMS has been revised by SHL for the works associated with the operation of the project and to address the relevant management requirements of the Infrastructure Approval.
- The EMS was approved by the Department on 25 January 2022.
- The EMS incorporates the Operational Air Quality Management Plan (Version 5 18/08/2025), Operational Noise Management Plan (Version 9 18/08/2025), and Operational Waste Management Plan (Version 3 18/09/2025) as required by C1(e)(i).
- This revised version of the EMS has been amended to incorporate specific requirements of the operation phase.

Following the review, the document is considered to contain information required by the Conditions of Approval (SSI 12590060) in relation to the EMS (Condition C1). Noting the above, as the approved Environmental Representative for the Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station) and as required by Conditions A23(c), the Environmental Management Strategy Approved Version 5 (18 August 2025) and associated subplans is endorsed.

Snowy Hydro Limited and their contractors must continue to obtain and comply with any relevant approval, licence or permit required for the works; complying with relevant Conditions of Approval as they relate to the works; and appropriate notifications being issued prior to the works.

Yours sincerely



Alex Gale
Environmental Representative – Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station)