EIS Volume 1 Chapter 5

Legislative and Planning Framework

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5. Legislative and Planning Framework

5.1. Introduction

This chapter addresses the main legislative requirements for the Project, including Project approvals and permits / licences for specific activities. It describes the key legislation relevant to the Project and identifies the relevant policies, standards and Codes of Practice that will be applied to Project activities.

The chapter also provides an assessment of the Project against the Planning and Design Code, the Planning Strategy and State Planning Policies.

5.2. EIS Guidelines

The EIS Guidelines require an assessment of the planning, environmental and energy-related statutory requirements as set out in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: EIS Guidelines addressed in the Legislative and Planning Framework chapter

EIS Guidelines and Assessment Requirements	Assessment level
Planning and Environmental Legislation and Policies *Assessment requirement 16:* A range of planning, environmental and energy related statutory requirements would need to be met for the construction and operation of the proposed development.	
• 16.1: Describe the proposed transmission line in terms of its consistency with the relevant Development Plans, Planning and Design Code, the Planning Strategy and the State Planning Policies.	Standard
• 16.2: Describe the proposed transmission line in terms of its consistency with relevant State and Commonwealth legislation.	Standard
• 16.3**:** Outline any other Commonwealth or State Government initiatives that may relate to the proposed transmission line, including greenhouse issues, principles of ecologically sustainable development, power generation, and the conservation or protection of the biological environment. Describe the proposal in terms of its consistency with these initiatives.	Standard
• 16.4**:** Identify any potential implications of the proposed transmission line for International Conventions and Agreements to which the Commonwealth of Australia is a party.	Standard
Consistency with Government Policy The *Development Act 1993* requires the EIS to state consistency with the expected effect of the proposed development: • with the relevant Development Plan, Planning and Design Code and Planning Strategy • with the objects of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, the general environmental duty and relevant environment protection policies; and • with the objects of the *River Murray Act 2003*, the Objectives for a healthy River Murray and the general duty of care	

Aspects of assessment requirements identified in Table 5-1 above which are not addressed in this chapter are listed in Table 5-2 together with the applicable chapter.

Table 5-2: Aspects of assessment requirements addressed in other chapters

Assessment Requirement	Chapter
16.3 Commonwealth or State Government initiatives that may relate to the proposed transmission line including power generation.	Chapter 2 Project Justification
16.3 Commonwealth or State Government initiatives that may relate to the proposed transmission line including the conservation or protection of the biological environment.	Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna

5.3. State Environmental Assessment and Approval Process

5.3.1. Major Development Status – *Development Act 1993*

The assessment status of the Project as a major development was determined by the Minister for Planning under the *Development Act 1993.* ElectraNet applied to the Minister for the Project to be declared a major development on 5 February 2019. Major development status was granted by the Minister and gazetted on 27 June 2019.

Under Part 4 Division 2 of the Development Act, if a development is considered to be of economic, social or environmental importance to the State, the Minister can declare a proposed development or land use to be a 'major development'. The Minister may make this declaration if they believe it is appropriate or necessary for proper assessment of the proposed development. The major development declaration triggers a thorough State-run assessment process with opportunity for public comment, before any decision is made on whether the proposal warrants an approval.

ElectraNet sought a declaration of major development status for the Project as it was considered that:

- This was the best assessment process to ensure a single, integrated and streamlined assessment of the development by all relevant authorities, agencies and stakeholders.
- The significant level of public interest expected required a broader consideration of issues, concerns and impacts and potentially a more rigorous process than that provided by alternative approval pathways.
- A major development declaration would provide certainty for ElectraNet about the process to be undertaken and the timing, which would be a benefit to planning and construction schedules.

5.3.2. Transition to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

The Development Act has been in the process of being replaced over time by the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (PDI Act) which was fully implemented on 19 March 2021. The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2017* (the transitional provisions) provide guidance for how major developments declared under the Development Act will be managed through the transition phase.

The transitional provisions provide that the Development Act will continue to apply to major developments where the major development declaration has been made prior to the operational commencement of the PDI Act (i.e. prior to 1 July 2019). As the Project was declared a major development on 27 June 2019, the provisions of the Development Act will continue to be relevant to the assessment of the Project EIS.

5.3.3. Development Application and EIS Guidelines

Following the declaration of major development status, a Development Application (DA) for the Project was formally submitted to the Minister for Planning by ElectraNet on 18 July 2019.

The purpose of the DA was to assist with scoping potential impacts and provide information which would enable a decision on the appropriate level of assessment required for the Project. The DA included a description of the Project, its location, and a preliminary assessment of the potential environmental, social or economic effects and how those effects could be managed. The DA was referred to the State Planning Commission (SPC) to assist them in the formulation of guidelines for the preparation of the major development assessment. Liaison on development of the guidelines was also undertaken with the Commonwealth government in relation to EPBC Act matters.

The SPC determined that the appropriate level of detailed assessment was an EIS. This is the level of assessment generally required for more complex proposals, where there is a wide range of issues requiring in-depth investigation.

The formal assessment Guidelines for the preparation of the EIS were released by the Minister on 20 November 2019. The Guidelines set out the major issues associated with the proposal, the degree of their significance and outline the way in which these issues should be dealt with in the EIS.

This EIS has been prepared in accordance with the EIS Guidelines (refer Appendix B).

EIS Assessment Process

The Development Act and EIS Guidelines ensure that proponents of developments prepare an EIS which provides a clear, detailed and comprehensive analysis of the proposed development, the environment (physical, biological and socio-economic), in which it will be located, the likely impacts of the development and how those impacts will be addressed. An overview of the assessment and approval process is shown in Chapter 1 Introduction at Figure 1-4.

The South Australian Government's assessment process commenced upon ElectraNet's submission of this EIS for the Project to the Minister for Planning and Local Government in March 2021. The EIS will be placed on exhibition for public comment for a period of at least six weeks (30 business days). The EIS is also being referred to local councils and other relevant government agencies (e.g. the Environment Protection Authority SA (EPA SA), Department of Environment and Water (DEW)) during this period.

Public meeting(s) chaired by a person appointed by the Minister and attended by ElectraNet will be held in a location(s) in the vicinity of the Project to assist interested parties in preparing a submission and to inform them about the proposal and assessment process[1]. The public meeting(s) will include presentations from ElectraNet and provide attendees with the opportunity to ask questions on the Project and the EIS consultation process. Further detail on stakeholder engagement undertaken for the Project is provided in Chapter 6 Stakeholder Engagement.

Written submissions from the community are invited during the EIS consultation process. All written submissions received will be made available for public inspection, and will be referred by SA Government to ElectraNet at the end of the public exhibition period for formal response. A Response Document prepared by ElectraNet will address the submissions received and provide any relevant additional or updated information in response to the issues raised in submissions. The Response Document may include amendment to the EIS as a result of consultation, or indicate changes to the original proposal in response to issues raised. Further public consultation may be required if substantial changes are proposed.

The EIS (including the Response Document) will then be assessed by State Planning Commission and an Assessment Report provided to the Minister for Planning and Local Government for a decision. The Assessment Report and the Response Document will also be made publicly available (including to councils) for a period to be determined by the Minister.

From 1 July 2019, under the PDI Act transitional provisions, the SA Minister for Planning makes the final decision on whether to approve the Project under section 48 of the Development Act having regard to Regulation 11(3). As outlined in the EIS Guidelines, when making the final determination of whether to approve the Project and any conditions that will apply, the Minister must have regard to:

- provisions of appropriate Development Plans or Planning and Design Code
- Development Act and Regulations

[1] The final number of meetings to be held will be determined in accordance with PLUS-AGD requirements.

- the Building Code of Australia (if relevant)
- the South Australian Planning Strategy (including the Integrated Land Use and Transport Plan)
- the EIS, Response Document and Assessment Report
- the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (if relevant)
- any other relevant government policy and / or legislation.

5.3.4. Commonwealth assessment

The Project has also been declared a controlled action under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*, and therefore comes within the ambit of the EPBC Act Bilateral Agreement for Environmental Assessment agreed between the Commonwealth and SA. The effect of this agreement is to allow a single set of impact assessment documents to be prepared. Accordingly the South Australian Government Assessment Report for the EIS will be provided to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, who will make a separate decision under Part 9 of the EPBC Act in relation to the controlled action (refer Section 5.6.1 for further detail).

5.4. Consistency of the Project with State Government Policy

The EIS guidelines require that the EIS assess the consistency of the expected effects of the proposed Project with the:

- relevant Council Development Plan, Planning and Design Code and Planning Strategy
- objects of the *Environment Protection Act 1993,* the general environmental duty and relevant environment protection policies
- objects of the *River Murray Act 2003*, the Objectives of a Healthy River Murray and the general duty of care.

5.4.1. Planning policies

An assessment of the consistency of the Project with the State Planning Policies, State Planning Strategy and Region Plans, the Planning and Design Code is provided in the planning assessment at Section 5.7. Due to implementation of Phase 3 of the Code on 19 March 2021 there are no relevant Council Development Plans to consider.

5.4.2. Environment protection

The *Environment Protection Act 1993* (EP Act) provides the regulatory framework for the management of pollution and general environmental protection in SA. The object of the EP Act is to protect the environment, promote the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) and ensure that all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment, having regard to ESD principles.

The EP Act provides for a general environmental duty, sets out activities of environmental significance which require licencing and environment protection policies developed for specific issues.

Duty of environmental care

The Act establishes a general duty of environmental care in relation to development activities requiring that all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to prevent or minimise environmental harm if potentially polluting activities are undertaken.

Environment Protection Policies

A number of Environment Protection Policies (EPPs) are also established under the EP Act setting out requirements, standards, goals and guidelines matters such as air and water quality, and noise. These EPPs and their relevance to the Project are discussed below.

Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015

The Water Quality EPP aims to achieve the sustainable management of waters, by protecting or enhancing water quality while allowing economic and social development.

Construction activities have the potential to affect to surface water flows and water quality (refer Chapter 10 Physical Environment). ElectraNet will undertake activities in accordance with the EPP, as outlined in Chapter 10 Physical Environment. ElectraNet will abide by the general environmental duty of care by taking appropriate measures in relation to activities that may impact on water quality.

Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016

The main objective of the Air Quality EPP is to protect air quality and reduce the emission of air pollutants.

This EPP is relevant to several aspects of the Project particularly in relation to the generation of dust from construction activities (refer Chapter 13 Air Quality). ElectraNet will undertake activities in accordance with relevant requirements of the Air Quality EPP and conform to general duty of environmental care obligations regarding emissions of air pollutants.

Environment Protection (Noise) Policy 2007

The Noise EPP provides a legal framework for the assessment of a wide range of noise issues, balancing social, economic and environmental considerations in the management of noise.

Several aspects of the Project relating to construction activities are expected to generate noise (refer Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration). While the Noise EPP does not apply to construction activities related to public infrastructure, the EPP will be used as a guide to ensuring impacts from noise are minimised, in line with the general environmental duty of care.

Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010

The main objective of the Waste to Resources EPP is to achieve sustainable waste management by applying the waste management hierarchy consistently with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

This EPP is relevant to waste management aspects of the Project (refer Chapter 19 Waste Management). ElectraNet will undertake the Project in accordance with the EPP, including implementation of the waste hierarchy and appropriate management and transport of waste.

Activities of environmental significance

Schedule 1 of the EP Act prescribes particular activities as being of environmental significance which require licensing under the EP Act[2]. The potential prescribed activities for the Project are listed in Table 5-3 and are further discussed in Chapter 7 Project Description, Chapter 10 Physical Environment, Chapter 14 Air Quality and Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration. A licence under the EP Act will be obtained for such activities, if required.

[2] EP Act Schedule 1 activities are also reflected in the provisions requiring referral of proposals to agencies under Schedules 8 and 22 of the *Development Regulations 2008*, Schedule 9 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Regulations 2017* and Part 9.1 of the Code.

Table 5-3: Potential prescribed activities of environmental significance

EP Act Schedule 1	Activity	Project activity / comment
2 Manufacturing and Mineral Processing	*(5) Concrete batching works* - the conduct of works for the production of concrete or concrete products that are manufactured or are capable of being manufactured by the mixing of cement, sand, rock, aggregate or other similar materials, being works with a total capacity for production of such products exceeding 0.5 cubic metres per production cycle.	Up to 3 concrete batching plants may be required to provide concrete for tower foundations.
3 Resource recovery, waste	*(5) Activities involving listed wastes* (a) an activity producing listed waste—the conduct of an activity in which a listed waste is produced as waste or becomes waste	Small quantities of listed wastes (e.g. waste oil from equipment maintenance) may be produced during construction activities
8 Other	*(2) Fuel burning* - the conduct of works or facilities involving the use of fuel burning equipment, including flaring (other than flaring at petroleum production, storage or processing works or facilities that do not have a total storage capacity or total production rate exceeding the levels respectively specified in clause 1(5)) or incineration, where the equipment alone or in aggregate is capable of burning combustible matter— (a) at a rate of heat release exceeding 5 megawatts	Temporary construction camps may require generators (however it is unlikely the fuel burning capacity would exceed 5 MW)
	(3) Helicopter Landing Facilities - the conduct of facilities designed for the arrival and departure of helicopters, but excluding— (a) facilities at an aerodrome licensed under Part 6; or (b) facilities at which helicopter arrivals or departures take place on not more than 10 days per year; or (c) facilities that are situated more than 1 kilometre from residential premises not associated with the facilities; or (d) facilities at the site of an activity authorised under the *Mining Act 1971*, the *Petroleum Act 2000*, *the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982* or the *Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act 1982*.	The Project may utilise helicopters during both construction and operation. The number and location of helicopter landing facilities (if utilised) are to be determined, however they will not be located less than 1 km from residential premises.

5.4.3. River Murray protection

The *River Murray Act 1993* aims to protect, restore and enhance the River Murray and its natural resources (including water, soil, ecosystems and heritage associated with the River) and imposes a duty of care on all people to ensure that their actions do not cause harm to the River.

The Act also establishes a list of Objectives for a Healthy River Murray (the ORMs) which set out the desired outcomes for improved river health, environmental flows, water quality and the human dimension (encompassing a broad range of River Murray values of importance to the community).

The *River Murray Regulations 2017* establish River Murray Protection Areas which designate the areas in which applications for certain types of licences and permits must be referred to the Minister for the River Murray before being granted.

The transmission line corridor is located 5 km north of the main channel of the River Murray and its immediate environs will be unaffected by Project related activities. The eastern end of the corridor is located within the upper extent of the River Murray Protection Area established under the Act (refer Figure 5-1), however there are no current requirements for approvals under the legislation which are applicable to the Project.

The application of *State Planning Policy 17: Special Legislative Scheme River Murray Act 2003* to Project activities is discussed further in Table 5-9.

The applicable River Murray protection overlays in the Planning and Design Code are discussed in the planning assessment in Section 5.7.4.

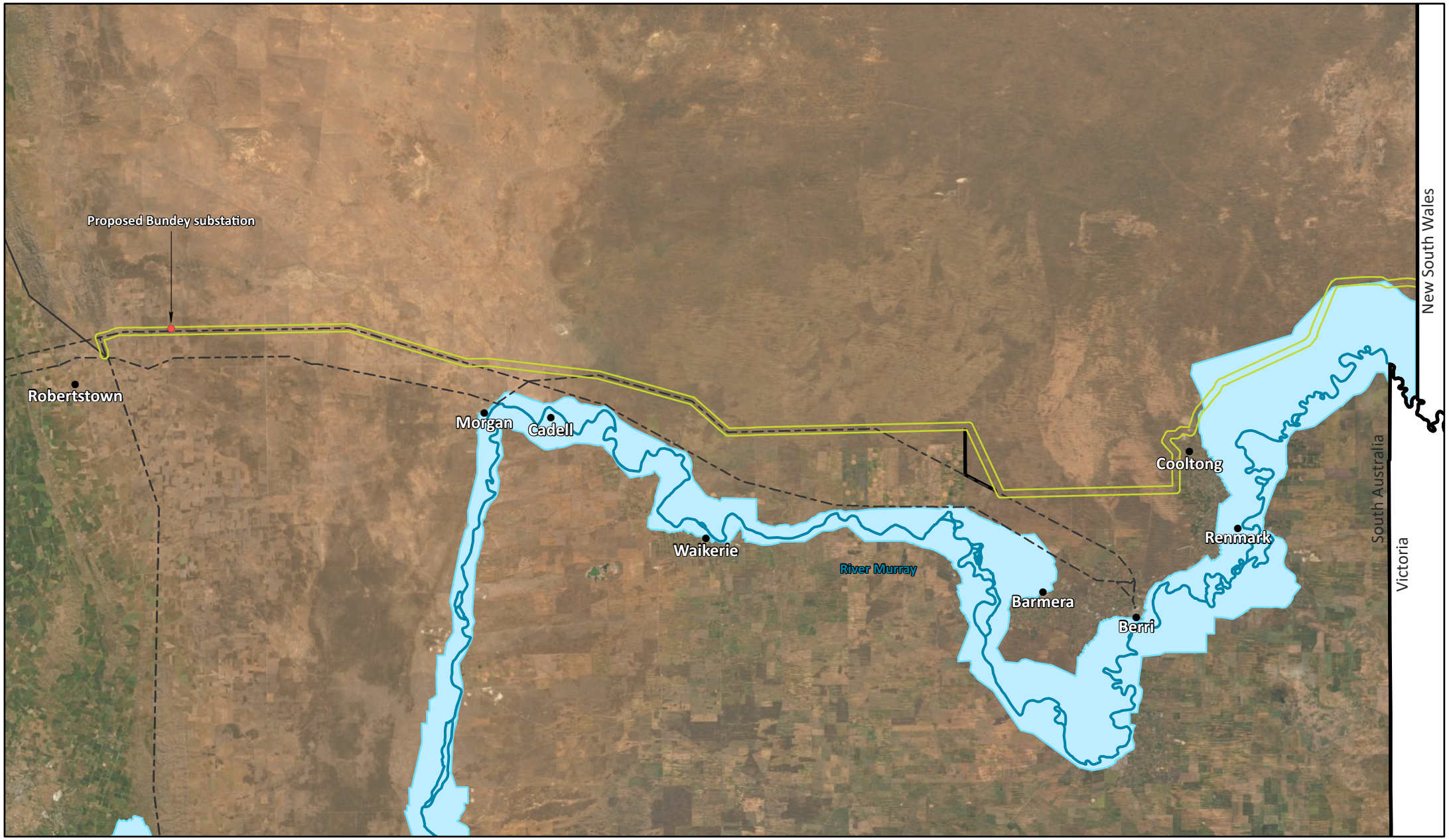


Figure 5-1
River Murray Protection Area

5.5. Other relevant South Australian legislation and approvals

In addition to the legislation discussed in Section 5.4, the Project will require a range of approvals under other relevant legislation. A description of the processes for activity approvals has not been included as in most cases the process generally requires an application to be lodged for assessment and decision, leading to a permit or licence.

The list of approvals and legislative requirements identified in Table 5-4 is indicative of the types of approvals that may be required but is not a conclusive or exhaustive list.

Table 5-5 lists relevant State Codes of Practice and Guidelines which have been referred to and / or considered in the EIS to guide the assessment of Project activities.

Table 5-4: Summary of other relevant South Australian legislation

Legislation	Objective	Relevance to the Project	Approvals / legislative requirements	Administering agency	EIS chapter
Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988	Provides protection for any Aboriginal sites, objects or remains (whether previously recorded or not).	The area of the Project includes items and places of Aboriginal heritage (see Chapter 12, Cultural Heritage).	No Aboriginal site, object or remains may be damaged, disturbed or interfered with unless prior approval has been obtained from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation. Cultural heritage surveys are being undertaken with the Traditional Owners and ElectraNet will continue to work with these groups to ensure that Project activities comply with the Act.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage
Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Act 2002 *Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Regulations 2017*	Imposes a general duty of care on a person who uses or disposes of agricultural and certain veterinary chemical products and fertilisers.	Weed and pest plant control will be required to ensure horticultural and agricultural practices are not disrupted as a result of Project activities.	Compliance with regulations No specific approvals required	Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA)	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna Draft Construction Environment Management Plan
Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 (Also see National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS) in Table 5-6)	To assist in achieving ecologically sustainable development in the State by addressing issues associated with climate change, in particular through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in renewable energy.	Provides emissions reduction targets for the State. Achievement of the Act's objectives includes assessment of emissions related to the export and import of electricity via interconnectors. Emissions will arise from combustion of fuel by Project vehicles, plant and equipment and land clearing.	Policy context No specific approvals required	Department for Environment and Water	Chapter 2 Project Justification Chapter 14 Air Quality

Legislation	Objective	Relevance to the Project	Approvals / legislative requirements	Administering agency	EIS chapter
Crown Land Management Act 2009	To manage and regulate Crown lands.	The Project traverses areas of Crown land or land held under licence from the Crown.	Approval is required to surrender or transfer a Crown lease, or to grant an easement over Crown land or land held under licence from the Crown. Consent of all parties is required for grant of an easement over Crown land e.g. native title and pastoral lessees	Department for Environment and Water	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure
Dangerous Substances Act 1979 *Dangerous Substances (General) Regulations 2017*	To regulate the keeping, handling, transporting and the conveyance, use, disposal and quality of dangerous substances.	There is a wide variety of circumstances in which dangerous substances (such as diesel, fuel, oil and LPG) would be used during the Project.	Licences may be required to keep or transport dangerous substances.	Department of Treasury and Finance	Chapter 7 Project Description Draft Construction Environment Management Plan
Electricity Act 1996 *Electricity (General) Regulations 2012* *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2010*	To regulate the electricity supply industry and to provide for the development of safety and technical standards for electrical installations. Specify the requirements for vegetation clearance around transmission lines.	Clearance distances between vegetation and powerlines must be maintained in accordance with the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2010*.	New licences, or a variation of an existing licence, may be required to carry out work near electrical infrastructure. Amendments to the vegetation clearance regulations will be required to account for 330 kV transmission lines as these are not currently part of the South Australian electricity network.	Department for Energy and Mining Essential Service Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) Office of the Technical Regulator) (DEM-OTR)	Chapter 7 Project Description Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna
Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 *Fire and Emergency Services Regulations 2005*	Provides for the prevention, control and suppression of fires and for the handling of certain emergency situations	There is a duty to prevent or inhibit the outbreak of fire on land, create and maintain firebreaks, trim vegetation	Permits may be required in relation to fire bans and hot work.	South Australian Country Fire Service	Chapter 18 Hazards and Risk Management
Heavy Vehicle National Law (South Australia) Act 2013	Implements a national scheme for facilitating and regulating the use of heavy vehicles on roads	National regulations prescribe mandatory standards for heavy vehicles using public roads	Compliance with regulations Regulations applies to all heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes.	National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR)	Chapter 16 Traffic and Transport
Heritage Places Act 1993	Provides for the identification and conservation of places and objects of non-Aboriginal heritage significance.	An assessment for potential sites of non-Aboriginal heritage has been undertaken to determine potential impacts.	Permit may be required to recover archaeological heritage objects if they are discovered during activities.	Department for Environment and Water	Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage

Legislation	Objective	Relevance to the Project	Approvals / legislative requirements	Administering agency	EIS chapter
	Establishes the South Australian Heritage Council.				
Land Acquisition Act 1969	Provide for the acquisition of land on just terms allowing an authority to acquire land or the right to place any easement, right of way or other licence on the land.	The Act allows ElectraNet to acquire land, either by mutual agreement or by compulsory acquisition. Note: ElectraNet's position is that compulsory acquisition is a last resort and all available options need to be identified, explored and ruled out before it should be considered.	Determination of compensation for landholders to be undertaken consistent with the principles of compensation under the Act. Note: under the *Electricity Act 1996*, the Minister responsible for that Act must first authorise the acquisition in writing.	Attorney-General's Department	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure
Landscape South Australia Act 2019	Promote sustainable and integrated management of the State's landscapes and make provision for the protection of the State's natural resources	Provisions of relevance to the Project are those addressing land management, water resource management and pest plant and animal control.	Permits may be required to undertake a water affecting activity e.g. drilling wells. Owners of land are obliged to control or destroy certain pest plants and animals declared under the Act.	Department for Environment and Water Northern and Yorke Landscape Board Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board	Chapter 7 Project Description Chapter 10 Physical Environment Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna.
Local Government Act 1999	Provide Councils with broad powers to make decisions and deliver services.	Councils have responsibility for ensuring appropriate maintenance and repair of public roads.	Councils may make agreement to recover costs for roadwork to repair damage to a road.	Local Councils	Chapter 16 Traffic and Transport
Mining Act 1971	Provides for licensing of exploration for and extraction of minerals.	There are several Exploration Licences and other mining tenements issued under the within 10 km of the proposed corridor	No specific approval required ElectraNet will consult with holders of relevant tenements prior to the commencement of construction activities.	Department for Energy and Mining	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure
National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996	Makes provision for the operation of the national electricity market. Applies the National Electricity Law (NEL) (refer Table 5-7). The NEL is the schedule to the Act which establishes the	Construction of an electricity transmission line	No specific approval required	Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC)	Chapter 2 Project Justification

Legislation	Objective	Relevance to the Project	Approvals / legislative requirements	Administering agency	EIS chapter
	governance and enforcement framework and key obligations surrounding the NEM and the regulation of access to electricity networks.				
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972	Establishes the system of conservation reserves in South Australia and provides protection for native plants and animals.	National parks and conservation reserves exist within the EIS Project Area.	Licence, lease or agreement may be required through areas controlled by the Minister under the Act.	Department for Environment and Water	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna
Native Title (South Australia) Act 1994. (Also see Commonwealth native title legislation in Table 5-6)	To recognise and protect native title.	There are determined areas of native title and native title claims over the area of the Project. A registered Indigenous Land Use Agreement is also in place.	ElectraNet is in the process of negotiating appropriate agreements with the relevant native title groups and Traditional Owners that will be impacted by the Project.	Attorney-General	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure
Native Vegetation Act 1991 *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*	Applies to the management and clearance of native vegetation on private and public land in South Australia. Establishes the Native Vegetation Council (NVC) and Native Vegetation Fund. Provides for native vegetation heritage agreements (VHA) between the State and land owners	The Project will require the clearing of native vegetation. Significant environmental benefit (SEB) measures are proposed for this clearance. There are VHAs in place along sections of the transmission line alignment.	Consent is required under the Act to clear native vegetation unless the clearing activity meets circumstances prescribed under the Regulations. Under Regulations 12 and 13, vegetation clearance for major developments that are approved under an EIS (that was referred to the NVC for comment) is permitted, provided that it is undertaken in accordance with the development consent and an approved management plan (or a payment into the Native Vegetation Fund) which results in a significant environmental benefit.	Department for Environment and Water Native Vegetation Council	Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure

Legislation	Objective	Relevance to the Project	Approvals / legislative requirements	Administering agency	EIS chapter
			Registered VHAs will require variation to remove the area required for the proposed transmission line easement		
Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989	To provide for the management and conservation of pastoral land, including the monitoring, prevention of harm and rehabilitation of this land.	The Project will require the use of pastoral land for linear infrastructure.	ElectraNet may need approval to use pastoral land for other than pastoral purposes.	Department of Primary Industries and Regions	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure
Plant Health Act 2009	Protects plants from pests and regulates their movement into and within South Australia:	Project vehicles and equipment will be moving through the Riverland which may be subject to plant disease quarantine restrictions (e.g. fruit fly)	The Minister may declare quarantine areas that restrict movement of persons, vehicles, machinery or equipment.	Department of Primary Industries and Regions	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure
Road Traffic Act 1961	To consolidate and amend certain enactments relating to road traffic; and for other purposes	The Project is expected to require the transport of over-dimensional loads (e.g. to the Bundey substation site)	ElectraNet may require an oversize or over-mass vehicle exemption and / or restricted access approval in respect to heavy vehicles and over-sized loads being delivered to site.	Department for Infrastructure and Transport	Chapter 16 Traffic and Transport
Work Health and Safety Act 2012 *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012*	To provide for the health, safety and welfare of persons at work and eliminate risks	Health and safety management aspects of the Project are discussed in Chapter 21 Environmental Management.	ElectraNet have a duty to ensure that the workplace is safe and that employees and the public are safe from injury and risks to health.	SafeWork SA	Chapter 21 Environmental Management

Table 5-5: Relevant State Codes of Practice and Guidelines and other regulatory instruments referred to in the EIS

Document	Purpose	EIS Chapter
Air and Water Quality Guideline – concrete batching guideline (EP ASA 2016) (EPA 427/16)	Provides information to those involved in the management and operation of concrete batching plants, to assist with compliance with the *Environment Protection Act 1993*	Chapter 10 Physical Environment Chapter 14 Air Quality
Bunding and spill management guideline (EPA 080/16)	Provides guidance on the use of bunds and spill containment systems for storage of liquids above ground	Chapter 10 Physical Environment

Document	Purpose	EIS Chapter
Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land in South Australia	Establishes the performance measures for fire management on public land in South Australia	Chapter 18 Hazards and Risk Management
Discovery of Aboriginal Sites and Objects (Fact sheet)	Provides guidance on management of discovery of Aboriginal sites or objects during project works	Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage
Environmental management of dewatering during construction activities (EPA 1093/18)	Provides guidance on the environmental management of dewatering during construction activities	Chapter 10 Physical Environment
Evaluation distances of effective air quality and noise management (EPA 2019)	Provides recommended evaluation distances from polluting activities, within which potential adverse impacts on sensitive receivers need to be assessed:	Chapter 14 Air Quality
Guidelines for the Assessment and Remediation of Site Contamination (EPA 2019)	Provides information to ensure the assessment and remediation of site contamination is conducted to an appropriate standard in South Australia.	Chapter 10 Physical Environment
Guideline for the Use of the Environment Protection (Noise) Policy 2007 (EPA 2009)	Provides a clause-by-clause explanation, and include examples to assist in understanding and using the Noise EPP	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration
Industry Guideline – Construction environmental management plan guidelines (EPA 1095/19)	Describes the impacts of construction activities and the information that should be included in a construction environmental management plan (CEMP) to ensure activities will be managed to avoid or mitigate environmental or nuisance impacts.	Chapter 10 Physical Environment Chapter 21 Environmental Management Framework
Project Planning and Aboriginal Heritage (Fact sheet)	Provides guidance on planning processes to manage the potential for impact on Aboriginal heritage during project works.	Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage
South Australian Firebreaks, Fire Access Tracks and Sign Standards Guidelines	Provide a consistent approach in the establishment and maintenance of firebreaks and tracks used for fire access for government agencies and private landholders	Chapter 18 Hazards and Risk Management
Stormwater Management for Wash Bays (EPA 517/16)	Provides guidance on the management of potential stormwater pollution associated with the operation of permanent or temporary wash bay facilities	Chapter 10 Physical Environment
Stormwater Pollution Prevention Codes of Practice: Building and Construction Industry (1999)	Addresses a range of potential pollution sources from a variety of building and construction industry practices, and issues related to construction activities that are subject to the approval of relevant authorities.	Chapter 10 Physical Environment

5.6. Commonwealth Environmental Assessment and Approval

5.6.1. *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)

The EPBC Act is the primary Commonwealth legislation regulating environmental matters. Under the EPBC Act, any action that is likely to have a significant impact on a 'matter of national environmental significance' (MNES) requires approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment (i.e. a 'controlled action'). MNES defined in the EPBC Act which are potentially relevant to the Project include:

- Ramsar wetlands of international importance
- listed threatened species and communities
- listed migratory species.

If a proponent believes that there is a possibility that a proposed project may result in a significant impact to a MNES, they must refer the project to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to determine whether a proposed action will need formal assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. The referral document is the principal basis for informing the Commonwealth Minister's decision as to whether approval is necessary and, if so, the type and level of assessment that will be undertaken. The referral is then released to the public, as well as relevant State, Territory and Commonwealth ministers, for comment on whether the project is likely to have a significant impact on a MNES.

ElectraNet submitted a referral for the Project to DAWE for assessment on 17 June 2019. On 17 July, the South Australian component of the Project was declared to be a 'controlled action' and therefore subject to assessment under the EPBC Act. The relevant MNES identified for the controlled action was 'Listed threatened species and communities.

Bilateral Agreements under the EPBC Act

The EPBC Act provides for bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and the states in relation to environmental assessment and approvals processes, which allow state processes to be accredited for assessments or approvals required under the EPBC Act. Pursuant to this, the Commonwealth and South Australian governments signed a Bilateral Agreement on environmental assessment in 2014 which allows the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment to rely on specified South Australian environmental assessment processes when assessing controlled actions under the EPBC Act.

The Major Development / EIS process under the South Australian Development Act (outlined at Section 5.3.3) is a specified process under the Bilateral Agreement, meaning that this EIS and the Assessment Report will be used by the Commonwealth Minister to make a decision on the project against the requirements of the EPBC Act.

The effect of the Bilateral Agreement is that the Project will undergo a thorough but streamlined assessment process in co-ordination with DAWE. One environmental impact assessment document (EIS) will be prepared, one period of public consultation will be undertaken and one Response / Supplementary document prepared to satisfy the legislative requirements of each jurisdiction.

Following the State assessment processes (described in Section 5.3.3) the South Australian government will provide an Assessment Report to the Commonwealth Minister, who will then make a (separate) decision whether or not to approve the proposed action under Part 9 of the EPBC Act.

DAWE has provided input into the preparation of the Guidelines formulated by the SPC in regard to issues related to the EPBC Act and MNES (refer Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna).

5.6.2. Other Commonwealth legislation

The purpose and objectives of other relevant Commonwealth Government legislation are identified in Table 5-6, and the implications of these Acts for the Project are addressed where relevant throughout the EIS.

Table 5-7 lists relevant Commonwealth Standards, Codes of Practice and Guidelines which have been referred to and / or considered in the EIS to guide the assessment of Project activities.

Table 5-6: Relevant Commonwealth legislation and approvals requirements

Act	Objective	Relevance to the Project	Approvals / legislative requirements	Administering agency	EIS Chapter
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984	To preserve areas and objects under threat, which are of particular significance to, or in accordance with, Aboriginal tradition	The area of the Project includes items and places of Aboriginal significance.	No approvals required. However, there is a general duty to comply with the requirements of the Act	Department of the Environment and Energy	Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage
Airspace Act 2007 *Airspace Regulations 2007* *Civil Aviation Act 1988* *Civil Aviation Regulations 1988* *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*	The Civil Aviation Act and the Airspace Act outline the Commonwealth Government's policy with respect to classification, designation, administration and management of Australian-administered airspace, including aviation safety.	Effects of the Project (presence of transmission towers and powerlines) on aircraft safety and airfield operations.	Ongoing consultation with CASA to ensure that the relevant authorities are aware of the construction works and the final alignment of the transmission line	Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure
Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 *Foreign Investment Policy 2013*	To regulate all foreign investment with respect to the acquisition of rural land; to ensure the Commonwealth Government is notified of any rural land being acquired by 'foreign government investors'.	All land located within the area of the Project is rural land. ElectraNet is considered a Foreign Owned Entity and must comply with this Act and Policy.	Foreign Investment Review Board Approval (FIRB)	Foreign Investment Review Board	Not included in the scope of the EIS
National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS)*	To establish a national framework for Australian corporations to report greenhouse gas emissions, reductions, removals and offsets, and energy consumption and production.	Greenhouse gas emissions have been identified for a range of Project construction activities.	Emissions will be reported under the NGERS as required	Clean Energy Regulator	Chapter 14 Air Quality
Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)	Recognition and protection of native title. Also provides for Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs)	There are determined areas of native title and native title claims over the area of the Project. A registered ILUA is also in place.	ElectraNet is in the process of negotiating appropriate agreements with the relevant native title groups and Traditional Owners that will be impacted by the Project.	Attorney-General (Cth)	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure

Act	Objective	Relevance to the Project	Approvals / legislative requirements	Administering agency	EIS Chapter
Water Act 2007 • Schedule 1 – Murray-Darling Basin Agreement • Murray-Darling Basin Plan (MDBP)	Provides the legislative framework for ensuring that the Murray-Darling Basin—is managed in the national interest, recognising that states in the Murray-Darling Basin continue to manage Basin water resources within their jurisdictions. Establishes the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)	The Study area is located within the Murray-Darling Basin. The MDBA regulates Basin-state government water agencies responsible for water planning and compliance, and river operations. The MDBP provides a coordinated approach to environmentally sustainable water use across the Basin states and ACT, balancing environmental, social and economic considerations.	No approvals required.	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Chapter 10 Physical Environment

Table 5-7: Relevant Commonwealth Standards, Codes of Practice and Guidelines and other regulatory instruments referred to in the EIS

Document	Purpose	EIS Chapter
AS1692: Steel tanks for flammable and combustible liquids	Provides design and construction requirements for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids in steel tanks	Chapter 10 Physical Environment
AS9140: The storage and handling of flammable combustible liquids	Provides technical guidance on the storage and handling of flammable combustible liquids	Chapter 10 Physical Environment
Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail	Sets out the requirements and guidelines for transporting dangerous goods by road or rail	Chapter 10 Physical Environment
Australian Standards AS IEC 61672.1	Provides electroacoustical performance specifications of sound level meters	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration
Australian and New Zealand Guidelines (ANZG) for Fresh and Marine Water (2018)	To facilitate the productive and sustainable use of water resources while still maintaining the biological communities and ecological processes that the resource supports, consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.	Chapter 10 Physical Environment
AUSTROADS Guide to Road Design	Provides designers with a framework that promotes efficiency in design and construction, economy, and both consistency and safety for road users.	Chapter 16 Traffic and Transport
AUSTROADS Guide to Traffic Management	Provides comprehensive traffic management guidance for practitioners involved in traffic engineering, road design and road safety.	Chapter 16 Traffic and Transport

Document	Purpose	EIS Chapter
Building Code of Australia (National Construction Code)	Contains technical provisions for the design and construction of buildings and other structures.	Chapter 7 Project Description
International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation (ICNIRP) Guidelines	Adopted by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) Establishes guidelines for the protection of humans exposed to electric and magnetic fields in the low-frequency range of the electromagnetic spectrum	Chapter 18 Hazards and Risk Management
National Electricity Law (NEL) and National Electricity Rules (NER)	The NEL is the schedule to the *National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996* (refer Table 5-4) The NEL is supported by further regulations and the NER. The NER govern management of power system security by AEMO and applies to the states and territories in the NEM. The NER have the force of law	Chapter 2 Project Justification
National Electricity Network Safety Code	Provides a basic overview of the safety principles applying to design, construction, operation, maintenance, commissioning and decommissioning of electricity networks	Chapter 18 Hazards and Risk Management
National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (Ambient Air Quality NEPM)	Establishes national ambient air quality standards and a national framework for the monitoring and reporting of six common air pollutants,	Chapter 14 Air Quality
National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 (ASC NEPM)	Provides nationally consistent guidance on how to assess and manage contamination.	Chapter 10 Physical Environment

5.6.3. International Conventions and Agreements

The International Conventions and Agreements relevant to the Project generally relate to protection of biodiversity, threatened species and habitats, and migratory species. The protection and management of species and habitats which are the subject of international agreements is administered through the EPBC Act.

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

Australia is a Party to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which is implemented through the national biodiversity strategy and action plan – *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030*. The strategy is the overarching framework for all national, state, territory and local strategies, legislation, policies and actions that target nature. Such strategies include the Threatened Species Strategy, the Australian Weeds Strategy and Australia's Strategy for the National Reserve System, and legislation such as the EPBC Act.

These strategies have informed the assessment of the impacts of the Project on threatened species and biodiversity contained in this EIS.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Australia is a Contracting Party to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention). The broad aims of the Ramsar Convention are to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands and to conserve those that remain. In designating a wetland as a Ramsar site, countries agree to establish and oversee a management framework aimed at conserving the wetland and ensuring its wise use.

Australia has developed National Guidelines for identified Ramsar Wetlands to improve management of Ramsar sites and maintain ecological character, in line with Australia's commitments under the Convention and environmental management responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

The Riverland Ramsar site is located adjacent to the River Murray between Renmark and the Victorian and New South wales borders. The Project area passes through small sections on the northern mapped boundary of the Ramsar site, intersecting a marginal area of upper floodplain.

The Project's implications for the Ramsar site were assessed by DAWE in the EPBC Act referral for the Project and were not considered to be sufficiently significant to require assessment as part of the controlled action. However, the Project has been designed to minimise impacts to important areas of ecological value such as the Riverland Ramsar site through route alignment and other management measures (refer Chapter 4 Route Selection and Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna).

Riverland Biosphere Reserve

Biosphere Reserves are areas of ecosystems which are internationally recognised within the framework of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme. A biosphere reserve includes one or more protected areas and surrounding lands that are managed to combine both conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The designation of Biosphere Reserve is made on the basis of nominations submitted by countries participating in the MAB.

Calperum and Taylorville Stations form part of the Riverland Biosphere Reserve which is considered as being of conservation significance due to the presence of a number of rare and endangered species and ecosystems. The Project is expected to have a negligible impact on the conservation of the environment and sustainable management of the Riverland Biosphere Reserve. Specific impacts on flora and fauna within sensitive ecosystems are addressed in Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna. Potential effects of the Project on other land uses within the Biosphere Reserve are discussed in Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure.

International Migratory Bird Agreements

The Australian Government is signatory to a number of international bi-lateral migratory bird agreements aimed at conserving migratory bird populations and their habitats. These agreements include the Japan–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), China–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA), Republic of Korea–Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention). The agreements provide for the protection and conservation of migratory birds and their important habitats, protection from take or trade, the exchange of information, and building cooperative relationships.

Impacts to fauna species protected under these agreements are expected to be negligible (refer Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna for further discussion).

5.6.4. Principles of ecologically sustainable development

Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) in Australia is defined in the Commonwealth Government's National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (NSESD) (COAG 1992) as:

'using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased'.

The NSESD was adopted by all levels of government in Australia in 1992 and comprises three core objectives and seven guiding principles which are to be read together to achieve a balanced approach in the pursuit of ESD. Since 1992 Commonwealth and State Governments have applied the objectives and principles to strategic and policy frameworks to ensure they are taken into consideration in policy making processes and decision making, development of legislation and design of government programs.

A range of South Australian legislation has adopted the principles of ESD as objectives for their operation including the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* and the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (refer Table 5-4).

A summary of the NSESD objectives and guiding principles and the relevant section of the EIS where these principles are demonstrated is provided in (refer Table 5-8).

Table 5-8: NSESD core objectives and guiding principles

Core Objectives	EIS Chapters
Enhance individual and community wellbeing and welfare by following a path of economic development that safeguards the welfare of future generations	Chapter 2 Project Justification Chapter 17 Socio-economic Environment
Provide for equity within and between generations	Chapter 2 Project Justification
Protect biological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems	Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna
Guiding Principles	
Decision-making integrates long and short-term economic, environmental, social and equity considerations	Chapter 2 Project Justification Chapter 3 Alternatives to the Project Chapter 4 Route Selection Chapter 17 Socio-economic Environment
Threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage and lack of full scientific certainty not used to postpone preventative environmental measures	Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure Chapter10 Physical Environment Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage Chapter 13 Visual Amenity Chapter 14 Air Quality

Core Objectives	EIS Chapters
	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration Chapter 16 Traffic and Transport Chapter 18 Hazards and Risk Management Chapter19 Waste Management Chapter 21 Environmental Management Framework
Consideration of global environmental impacts	Chapter 5 Legislative and Planning Framework
Development of a strong, growing and diversified economy to enhance environmental protection	Chapter 2 Project Justification Chapter 17 Socio-economic Environment
Maintain and enhance international competitiveness in an environmentally sound manner	Chapter 2 Project Justification Chapter 17 Socio-economic Environment
Adoption of cost effective and flexible policy instruments	Chapter 5 Legislative and Planning Framework
Decisions and actions provide for broad community involvement on issues which affect them	Chapter 6 Stakeholder Engagement

5.6.5. Greenhouse gas emission policies

At the Paris Climate Conference in 2015[3] Australia committed to a greenhouse gas emissions target of 26–28% below 2005 levels by 2030, which is being implemented through emission reduction measures, energy efficiency improvement and support for low emissions technologies and practices. The National Greenhouse and Energy reporting Scheme (NGERS) established under the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* provides the methodology for reporting on greenhouse gas emissions.

The South Australian Government *Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025* outlines state-wide targets of more than 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 (from 2005 levels) and net zero emissions by 2050.

The Project will result in release of greenhouse gases through construction activities (e.g. combustion of fuel and land clearing) (refer Chapter 14 Air Quality). Positive outcomes (i.e. emissions reduction) are also anticipated through the interconnection of the NEM with SA by improving access to high quality renewable resources across regions. This will allow renewable energy from SA to provide national benefits and assist SA in meeting its carbon emission and renewable energy targets and facilitate the transition to a lower carbon emissions future (refer Chapter 2 Project Justification for further discussion).

5.7. Planning Assessment

The Project has been assessed for consistency with the following State, regional and local planning instruments:

- relevant State Planning Policies
- applicable regional plans (which are volumes of the South Australian Planning Strategy)
- the Planning and Design Code.

5.7.1. Assessment conclusions

The Project has been assessed as consistent with the objectives of the applicable State Planning Policies and the policies of the relevant Region Plans.

[3] United Nations Climate Change Conference, Paris, France, 30 November 12 – December 2015

Assessment against the provisions of the Code demonstrates that the Project is an envisaged form of development and that potential impacts of the Project in relation to biodiversity, native vegetation and the interface between the Project and adjoining land uses can be satisfactorily managed.

Any potential adverse environmental impacts should be weighed against other positive environmental aspects of the project, particularly the long-term benefits to the region and the State through establishment and operation of renewable energy facilities both within South Australia and New South Wales, contributing to a lower carbon emissions future.

5.7.2. Assessment against State Planning Policies

The State Planning Policies (SPPs) were released on 1 January 2019 and define South Australia's planning priorities, goals and interests at a State level. The policies set out a framework for land use in SA and are the highest level of policy in the new planning system, addressing the economic, environmental and social planning priorities for the State (SPC 2019a and 2019b).

The SPPs relevant to the Project are:

- Policy 1: Integrated Design
- Policy 2: Design Quality
- Policy 4: Biodiversity
- Policy 5: Climate Change
- Policy 7: Cultural Heritage
- Policy 8: Primary Industry
- Policy 10: Mineral and Energy Resources
- Policy 12: Energy
- Policy 17: Special Legislative Scheme *River Murray Act 2003.*

Table 5-9 assesses the consistency of the Project with the SPPs which are considered relevant to the Project.

Table 5-9: Assessment of the Project against relevant State Planning Policies

State Planning Policy	EIS Assessment
Policy 1: Integrated Planning	
Objective: To apply the principles of integrated planning to shape cities and regions in a way that enhances our livability, economic prosperity and sustainable future.	The interconnection of electricity infrastructure between SA and NSW supports the concept of integrated planning, increasing SA's access to the National Electricity Market, and accommodating an increase in renewable energy production which can then be exported to the national market. The development will also deliver essential services and infrastructure for existing businesses, improving energy security and assisting to lower electricity prices.
Policy 2: Design Quality	
Objective: To elevate the design quality of South Australia's built environment and public realm.	The proposed alignment seeks to minimise the social and environmental impacts of the Project and has been selected to take into account the interface with other land uses. The Project is also expected to deliver positive economic benefits. The construction process will support job growth in regional areas of SA, whilst the interconnector will support the growth of SA's renewable energy industry by providing access to the National Electricity Market.
Policy 4: Biodiversity	

State Planning Policy	EIS Assessment
Objective: To maintain and improve our state's biodiversity and its life supporting functions.	The Project design and siting has been informed by a number of specialist studies which consider the impact of the development on the ecology of environmentally sensitive areas. The proposed alignment has been selected to minimise impacts on and protect identified high value areas of biodiversity. Where practical, the route corridor follows existing road networks to minimise impacts to existing habitats and native vegetation. Micro-siting towers and conductors will provide flexibility in the final location of infrastructure, which will further assist with managing disturbance and adverse impacts on environmentally sensitive areas.
Policy 5: Climate Change	
Objective: Provide for development that is climate ready so that our economy, communities and environment will be resilient to climate change impacts.	The Australian Energy Market Operator Integrated System Plan (ISP) identifies 'Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) as priority areas for renewable developments. The REZ's are therefore key to the continued transition of the National Electricity Market to a greater mix of renewables, in line with lower carbon emission targets. The proposed transmission corridor is substantially located within the Riverland REZ and the development involves the installation of transmission infrastructure, including new powerlines and substations to support the increase in electricity to be generated by renewable energy facilities. The interconnection with NSW will enable SA to further increase its production of renewable energy (beyond local demand) for supply to the national market. The increased production and use of renewable energy will assist to reduce Australia's national greenhouse gas emission levels.
Policy 7: Cultural Heritage	
Objective: To protect and conserve heritage places and areas for the benefit of our present and future generations.	The findings of the cultural heritage investigations discussed in Chapter 12 confirm that the development is unlikely to adversely impact on any known places of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage value. Any sites discovered through Project activities will be protected from damage by the requirements set out in cultural heritage management plans.
Policy 8: Primary Industry	
Objective: A diverse and dynamic primary industry sector making the best use of natural and human assets.	The primary objective of this SPP is to support South Australia's diverse primary industry sector, in recognition of the industry's important role as a major generator of economic activity and employment. The proposed alignment has been sited to make use of existing infrastructure easements, road reserves, property boundaries, existing tracks and other disturbed areas wherever possible. Accordingly, the development has been designed to minimise disturbance to land which supports (or is capable of supporting) primary industries. Micro-siting of towers and location of the easement will be undertaken with landholders to maximise continuity and opportunity for primary industry activities.
Policy 10: Key Resources	
Objective: To protect key resources that contribute to our state's economy and provide valued employment opportunities.	This SPP seeks to support the growth in the mineral and energy resource sectors. As previously discussed, the interconnector will facilitate the growth of the renewable energy sector by providing access to the National Electricity Market.
Policy 12: Energy	
Objective: To support the ongoing provision of sustainable, reliable and affordable energy options that meet the needs of the community, business and industry.	The interconnector will facilitate the transition and growth in South Australia's renewable energy market and will also increase the reliability, security, accessibility and affordability of energy supply for South Australian communities, business and industry.
Policy 17: Special Legislative Scheme River Murray Act 2003	
Objective: To protect, restore and enhance the River Murray in order to sustain the physical, economic and social well-being of	SPP 17 is a 'Special Legislative Scheme' established under section 63 of the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

State Planning Policy	EIS Assessment
the community and facilitate the economic development of the state.	Consistent with the objectives of SPP 17, the proposed alignment has been sited to avoid adverse impacts on the River Murray. The transmission line corridor is located 5 km north the main channel of River Murray and avoids impacts to associated floodplain and wetland systems.

5.7.3. Assessment against the State Planning Strategy and Region Plans

The EIS guidelines require an assessment of the consistency of the Project with the South Australian Planning Strategy.

The Planning Strategy was developed in accordance with section 22 of the Development Act and outlines the State government's direction for land use change and development for the period 2010 – 2036. Various volumes of the strategy cover the different geographic regions of the State in the form of Region Plans. These Region Plans set out how the State government proposes to balance population and economic growth, with the need to preserve the environment and protect the heritage, history and character of regional communities.

Regional Plans for each region are also required under the PDI Act, consistent with the relevant State Planning Policies. As part of the transition to the PDI Act, the Region Plans applicable to the Project (Mid North, Murray and Mallee, and Far North) prepared under the Development Act will continue to apply until the new Regional Pans are prepared and adopted.

The local government areas (LGAs) in the region of the Project and the applicable Region Plans are summarised in Table 5-10. The location of the relevant LGAs is shown in Figure 5-2.

Table 5-10: Local Government Areas and applicable Region Plans

Local Government Area	SA Planning Strategy Region Plan
Regional Council of Goyder	Mid North Region Plan May 2011
Mid Murray Council	Murray and Mallee Region Plan January 2011
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	
Berri Barmera Council	
Renmark Paringa Council	
Land Not Within a Council Area (Pastoral Unincorporated Areas and the Unincorporated Riverland Areas)	Far North Region Plan July 2010

Table 5-11 provides an assessment of the Project against the relevant Principles and Policies prescribed within each of the applicable Region Plans.

Table 5-11: Assessment of the Project against applicable Region Plans

Region Plan Principle	EIS Assessment
Principle: Recognise, protect and restore the region's environmental assets	
Mid North RP Principle 1 • *Policies 1.1, 1.8, 1.9, 1.11, 1.12,1.13 & 1.14*	This principle and associated policies seek to ensure that biodiversity, water ecosystems and areas of conservation, landscape and environmental significance, are preserved and protected from inappropriate development. The proposed alignment has been selected to minimise the effects of the Project on the ecologically significant Calperum and Taylorville Stations (Riverland Biosphere Reserve) and the Riverland Ramsar site. This route will also minimise disturbance to established native vegetation and adverse impacts to biodiversity by utilising existing disturbed areas (e.g. existing tracks) where practicable and co-locating infrastructure. Micro-siting of towers will allow flexibility in the final location of infrastructure, further assisting with managing disturbance and impacts on existing vegetation and habitat for significant species.
Murray and Mallee RP Principle 1 • *Policies 1.1, 1.5, 1.6, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, 1.16, and 1.17*	
Far North RP Principle 1 • *Policies 1.1, 1.7, 1.8, 1.10, 1.12, 1.13, & 1.14*	

Region Plan Principle	EIS Assessment
	The Project infrastructure will be a dominant feature in the landscape in some locations, however the proposed alignment has been selected to minimise where practicable the visual impact of the infrastructure on sensitive receptors and generally avoids populated areas.
Principle: Identify and protect places of heritage and cultural significance, and desired town character	
Mid North RP Principle 3 • *Policies 3.1 and 3.3* Murray and Mallee RP Principle 4 • *Policies 4.1 and 4.5* Far North RP Principle 5 • *Policies 5.1 and 5.3*	Cultural heritage policies in the Region Plans seek to protect and preserve places of heritage and cultural value, including national, state and local registered sites, and areas of Aboriginal cultural significance. Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys have been undertaken in consultation with Traditional Owners prior to any ground disturbance and Cultural Heritage Management Plans will be in place to ensure sites of cultural heritage are avoided, and procedures are implemented for managing discoveries. Sites which are discovered during planning and design can be generally avoided through selective placement of towers and access tracks. The proposed alignment avoids non-Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
Principle: Create conditions for the region to become resilient to the impacts of climate change	
Mid North RP Principle 4 • *Policies 4.3 and 4.4* Murray and Mallee RP Principle 2 • *Policies 2.6 and 2.7* Far North RP Principle 6 • *Policy 6.3*	The identified policies seek to accommodate new developments and infrastructure projects which provide for alternative and innovative energy generation (including wind and solar technologies). The proposed infrastructure route is substantially located within the Riverland and Mid North Renewable Energy Zones[4] and involves the installation of transmission infrastructure to support growing electricity generation by renewable energy facilities. The interconnection with NSW will also enable SA to further increase renewable energy production beyond local demand, for supply to the national market, thereby reducing national greenhouse gas emission levels.
Principle: Foster sustainable alternative energy and water supply industries	
Far North RP Principle 14 • *Policies 14.1 and 14.2*	This principle relates solely to far north regions of SA. As discussed above, the proposed development will establish essential infrastructure required to support the establishment of renewable energy facilities within the Far North region of SA.
Principle: Protect and build on the region's infrastructure	
Mid North RP Principle 5 • *Policy 5.7* Murray and Mallee RP Principle 5 • *Policies 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5* Far North RP Principle 7 • *Policy 7.2*	The policies associated with this principle seek to protect existing corridors and areas where important infrastructure (including electricity infrastructure) is located. Various policies (including Policy 5.4 of the Murray and Mallee Region Plan and Policy 5.7 of the Mid North Region Plan) also seek to promote the establishment of renewable energy developments. Policy 5.3 of the Murray and Mallee Region Plan also seeks to 'provide for strategic electricity infrastructure corridors for augmentation and extension of the transmission network'. Policy 5.5 seeks to ensure new infrastructure is located to minimise adverse interface impacts on residential areas and other sensitive receptors. Where practical to do so, the infrastructure will be co-located with existing 132 kV lines, and will make use of property boundaries and existing roads and access tracks. The route has also been selected to minimise interaction with populated areas, such as townships along the River Murray. The proposed development involves the establishment of strategic infrastructure which will support the establishment of renewable energy facilities within each region.
Principle: Reinforce the region as a preferred tourism destination	
Murray and Mallee RP Principle 7 • *Policy 7.1*	This principle seeks to protect, enhance and promote assets within these regions that attract tourists and are of value to the community. Natural and

[4] Refer Section 2.4.2 and Figure 2-5

Region Plan Principle	EIS Assessment
Far North RP Principle • *Policy 10.1*	rural landscapes assets relevant to the Project including the Riverland Biosphere Reserve, River Murray, the Ramsar-listed wetlands and local areas of cultural and / or heritage significance related to the commercial, pastoral and mining history of the region. As noted above, a key objective for the preferred route selection was to minimise the visual impact of the development on scenic landscapes, avoid areas of cultural and heritage significance and minimise impacts on conservation and environmentally sensitive areas.

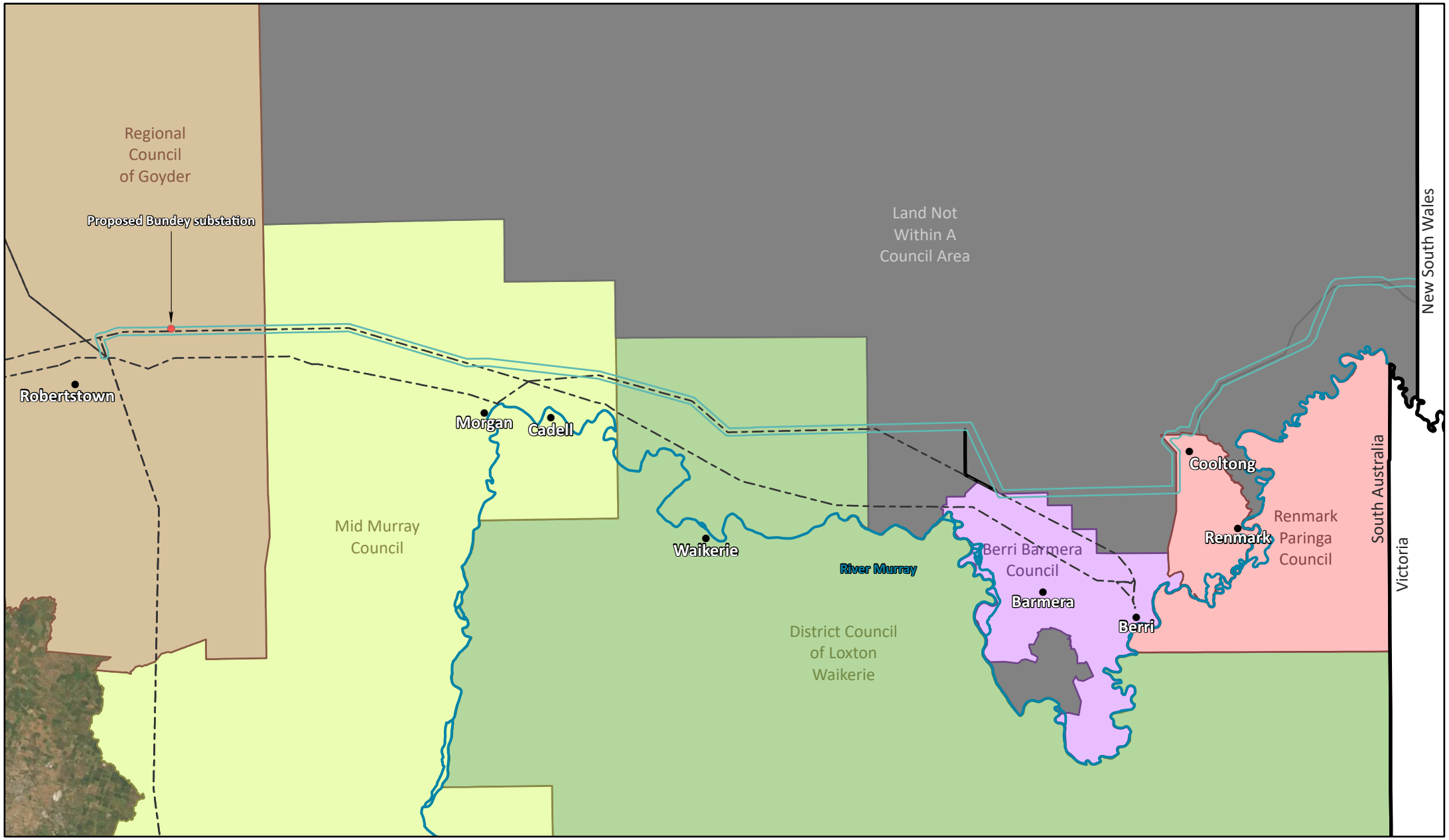


Figure 5-2
LGAs and Out of Council Areas in the region of the Project

5.7.4. Assessment against the Planning and Design Code

The Planning and Design Code under the PDI Act is the statutory policy document which guides the types of development and land uses that are – or are not – envisaged within a particular area through various objectives, principles and policies.

Planning and Design Code

The Code was introduced in three phases and is the guiding policy document for the PDI Act. As each phase commenced the relevant Development Plans for that area were 'turned off' and the Code 'turned on'. The Code contains the framework for the assessment of development incorporating Zones, Sub zones, Overlays and General Development Policies which incorporate Desired Outcomes (DOs) and Performance Outcomes (POs).

In Phase 1 of the PDI Act transition, the Development Plan for Land Not Within a Council Area (Eyre, Far North, Riverland and Whyalla) was replaced by the Code effective from 1 July 2019. As part of Phase 2, Development Plans for the Regional Council of Goyder, District Council of Loxton Waikerie, Berri Barmera Council and the Renmark Paringa Council have also been replaced by the Code effective from 31 July 2020. The final phase was Phase 3 where the Mid Murray Council Development Plan was replaced by the Code on 19 March 2021,

The planning assessment for the Project has been undertaken is in accordance with the Phase 3 Code (version 2021.2) published on the SA Planning Portal on 19 March 2021. An assessment of the consistency of the Project with the Code and the State Planning Strategy is at Section 5.7.

Assessment context

The assessment considered the Zones, Overlays and Policies set out in the Code that are traversed by the proposed transmission line corridor (comprising a 500 metre buffer either side of the proposed alignment) as set out in Table 5-12.

Table 5-12: Summary of Zones, Overlays and Policies applicable to the Project

Zones, Overlays and Policies	
Planning and Development Code	
Zone	Conservation Zone Remote Areas Zone Rural Zone Rural Horticulture Zone Rural Intensive Enterprise Zone
Overlays	Dwelling Excision Hazards (Acid Sulfate Soils) Hazards (Bushfire – General Risk) Hazards (Bushfire – Medium Risk) Hazards (Bushfire – Outback) Hazards (Bushfire – Regional) Hazards (Flooding – General) Heritage Adjacency Key Outback and Rural Routes Limited land Division Murray-Darling Basin Native Vegetation Prescribed Watercourses Ramsar Wetlands River Murray Flood Plain Protection Area State Significant Native Vegetation Areas

Zones, Overlays and Policies	
	Water Resources
General Development Policies	Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Facilities Interface Between Land Uses Transport, Access and Parking

The relevant zones under the Code are shown in Figure 5-3 and the assessment against the relevant Zones is set out in Table 5-13.

The assessment against the Overlay provisions and the General Development policies of the Code is set out in Table 5-14.

Table 5-13: Assessment against Planning and Design Code – Zones

Assessment	Addressed in the EIS
PLANNING AND DESIGN CODE (Version 2021.2 – published on 19 March 2021)	
Conservation Zone – Desired Outcome 1; Performance Outcome: 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4	
The Conservation Zone generally encompasses areas of the proposed transmission line corridor which traverse environmentally sensitive areas. The Conservation Zone encompasses small sections of the transmission line corridor traversing the Loxton Waikerie LGA (Pooginook Conservation Park), the Pastoral Unincorporated Area and the Unincorporated Area Riverland (Cooltong Conservation Park, Calperum / Taylorville Stations and Chowilla Game Reserve) applies to some land within the Mid Murray Council (e.g. White Dam Conservation Park). DO 1 seeks to ensure development is sensitively designed to conserve and enhance the natural environment and natural ecological processes, whilst also providing opportunities for public experiences of environmentally valued areas through low-impact recreational and tourism development. The proposed electricity infrastructure does not jeopardise the ability for the Zone to accommodate the various small-scale low-impact land uses contemplated by PO 1.1 and PO 1.2. PO 3.1 also seeks to ensure development is designed to avoid adverse impacts on important habitats, nesting or breeding areas, as well as areas for the migration patterns of fauna, whilst PO 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4 require development to be sensitively designed to minimise adverse visual and environmental impacts. Project infrastructure located within the Conservation Zone, or in proximity to the Conservation Zone, is proposed to follow the alignment of the existing roadways and existing 132 kV lines as far as possible to minimise additional disturbance to environmentally sensitive areas. The transmission line corridor has been selected to follow existing infrastructure corridors and avoid areas of high value conservation and cultural significance as much as possible, whilst recognising the challenges of traversing 205 km east – west across multiple council areas and varying landscape. The ecological assessment undertaken for the Project has assisted in siting to minimise the loss of native vegetation, and management measures will ensure that Project activities will not result in the spread of pest plants into surrounding areas. The visual impact assessment evaluates the visual impact of the infrastructure when viewed from various sensitive receptors from within the 'Theoretical Zone of Visual Influence' (TZVI). The assessment concludes that visual impacts related to the Project have been mitigated through a detailed route selection process which avoids (where possible) visual receptors (e.g. views from key public vantage points) and visually sensitive landscapes, design of Project elements to reduce visual massing, and alignment with other existing transmission and other infrastructure corridors. The limited number of tourists to the conservation areas are likely to be sensitive to changes to the visual landscape, however the low frequency of views of the transmission line will reduce the magnitude of the impact.	Chapter 4 Route Selection Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna Chapter 13 Visual Amenity
Rural Zone – Desired Outcome 1; Performance Outcome: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 9.1, and 10.1	
The Rural Zone covers the western end of the transmission line corridor within the Regional Council of Goyder, together with majority of the alignment traversing land within the Loxton Waikerie LGA and a small section in the north of the Berri Barmera LGA. The Rural Zone also applies to most of the western end of the transmission line corridor traversing the Mid Murray LGA. DO 1 contemplates that land within the Zone will (amongst other things), accommodate energy generation from renewable sources. Renewable energy facilities are also listed within designated performance feature (DPF) 1.1 as envisaged forms of development. PO 9.1 seeks to ensure that renewable energy facilities are designed and sited to minimise the significant fragmentation or displacement of existing primary production activities. Consistent with these provisions, one of the Project's objectives is to support the establishment and ongoing operation of renewable energy facilities and to provide new opportunities for renewable energy and other energy projects to connect to the National Electricity Market. The proposed transmission line alignment follows existing roadways and powerlines to minimise impacts on existing primary production land and potential for fragmentation or displacement of existing primary production will be further minimised through micro-siting of tower locations in consultation with land owners.	Chapter 3 Project Justification Chapter 7 Project Description Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure Chapter 13 Visual Amenity

Assessment	Addressed in the EIS
PO 2.1 addresses the provision of suitable vehicle access to the development. The Project will require access tracks to provide access to tower sites for construction and maintenance of the transmission line. Access would preferentially use existing public and private roads and tracks to avoid disturbance. Existing access tracks may be upgraded (if required) and new access tracks may be constructed in areas where there are no existing tracks. Easement access will be the subject of consultation with landholders as part of easement negotiations. In accordance with PO 2.2 the infrastructure traversing the Rural Zone will be located on generally flat land, and minimal earthworks will be required to install the infrastructure. Micro-siting will also be used to manage visual and environmental impacts. PO 10.1 seeks to ensure that large buildings are appropriately designed to reduce their visual impacts on scenic and rural vistas. Although PO 10.1 seeks substantial setbacks from public roads, the transmission line corridor has been intentionally sited to follow disturbed areas in the vicinity of existing transmission lines, public roads and other access tracks to minimise the clearance of native vegetation. On balance it is considered that the environmental benefits resulting from this approach to route selection outweigh the mitigation of visual impacts which would be achieved by setbacks from public roads. Transmission lines are not uncommon in rural landscapes and there are several existing transmission lines already located within this Zone. The scale of the project and the nature of the surrounding landform are expected to result in some impact on landscape vistas within the Zone, however the proposed alignment has been selected to take into account and reduce the extent of visual impacts, in accordance with the intent of PO 10.1. Only one major road (the Goyder Highway) is crossed by the transmission line corridor. Location of the proposed transmission line corridor in disturbed and remote areas also assists within the management of visual impacts, as required by PO 10.1. On this basis, the proposed development is aligned with the Desired Outcomes of the Rural Zone.	
Remote Areas Zone – Desired Outcome 1; Performance Outcome – 1.1, 2.1 and 2.2	Chapter 4 Route Selection Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure Chapter 13 Visual Amenity
The majority of the proposed transmission line corridor within the Pastoral Unincorporated Area and a small section in the Unincorporated Area Riverland, is situated within the Remote Areas Zone. The establishment of electricity transmission infrastructure is generally consistent with the forms of development referenced within the Desired Outcome for the Zone, which includes various renewable energy facilities for the generation and storage of energy. PO 2.1 requires that development is sited and designed to protect natural features and the conservation value of the area. Sections of the transmission line corridor in the Zone will traverse the southern margins of the Riverland Biosphere Reserve which accommodates Taylorville and Calperum Stations however the proposed alignment has been selected to minimise environmental impacts on native flora and fauna found within Calperum Station. PO 2.2 for this Zone seeks to ensure that large buildings are appropriately designed to reduce their visual impacts on scenic and rural vistas – refer to discussion for Rural Zone PO 10.1 above.	
Rural Horticulture Zone – Desired Outcome 1, 2 and 3; Performance Outcome: 1.1; 2.1,2.2; 10.1 and 11.1	Chapter 13 Visual Amenity
A small section of the transmission line corridor (approximately 9.5 km in length) is located within the Rural Horticultural Zone in the area of Cooltong and follows the LGA boundary separating the Pastoral Unincorporated Area and the Renmark Paringa Council. The Desired Outcomes and PO1.1 and 1.2 for the Zone seek to accommodate intensive horticultural land uses, and associated value-adding enterprises and activities. The proposed infrastructure does not jeopardise the ability for the Zone to function in its intended manner. The proposed infrastructure will also support the establishment of renewable energy facilities, as referenced in PO 10.1. PO 2.1 addresses the provision of suitable vehicle access to the development. Access to the section of the transmission line corridor in this Zone will likely be via existing roads and tracks to minimise new disturbance. Any new access will be in consultation with landholders.	

Assessment	Addressed in the EIS
PO 2.2 seeks to ensure development is sited on flat land to avoid adverse visual impacts created by excessive earthworks. The section of the infrastructure traversing the Rural Horticultural Zone follows the alignment of an existing unsealed roadway and is also located on relatively flat land. The extent of earthworks required to establish the infrastructure will be negligible and will be further minimised through opportunities for micro-siting. The visual impact of the infrastructure has been evaluated from the viewpoint of various sensitive receptors from within the TZVI which is calculated to be a distance of 6.2 km from the transmission towers. Modelling of Project infrastructure shows that while the vast majority of the receptors within the TZVI will not have views of the transmission lines, the community of Cooltong within the Rural Horticultural Zone will likely experience a higher degree of visual impact. This impact is expected to be mitigated by the presence of existing electricity distribution infrastructure, and vegetation shielding in the vicinity of most properties.	
Rural Intensive Enterprise Zone - Desired Outcome 1; Performance Outcome: 1.1, 2.2	
A large section of the proposed transmission line corridor approximately 26 km in length traverses the Rural Intensive Enterprise Zone at the western end of the alignment in the Regional Council of Goyder and the Mid Murray LGA. A new 330 / 275 kV substation will also be located within the Rural Intensive Enterprise Zone near Bundey. The site will accommodate primary plant (with the tallest structure being 25 – 30 m in height) and will include gantries, switch gear, 330 / 275 kV transformers, control buildings, lighting and lightning masts, telecommunications tower (approximately 50 m high) enclosed by palisade fencing. The substation will be located approximately 14 km north-east of Robertstown. The Rural Intensive Enterprise Zone is intended to accommodate a range of intensive agricultural production and processing facilities, together with supporting ancillary industries which are considered to be important economic and employment assets for South Australia. The establishment of sensitive land uses which may be incompatible with the contemplated forms of development specified in PO 1.1 is discouraged. It is considered that the proposed infrastructure is highly compatible with the list of envisaged uses outlined within DPF 1.1 and will not jeopardise the ability for the Zone to function in its intended manner. In accordance with PO 2.2, the transmission line and substation traversing this zone will be located on relatively flat land, and adverse visual impacts associated with excessive earthworks will be avoided. It is also noted that the transmission line traversing the Rural Intensive Enterprise Zone will follow the alignment of an existing disturbed area which accommodates an existing roadway and transmission lines, whilst the substation is remotely positioned away from local towns and scenic roads.	Chapter 7 Project Description Chapter 13 Visual Amenity

Table 5-14: Assessment against the Planning and Design Code – Overlays and General Policies

Overlays and General Policies	Assessment	Addressed in the EIS
Infrastructure and Renewable Energy <u>General Development Policies</u> • Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Facilities • DO 1 • PO 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 4.1, 4.2., 5.1, 13.1, 13.2	The Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Facilities provisions of the Code encourage the efficient provision of infrastructure to support renewable energy facilities in a manner that minimises hazard, is environmentally and culturally sensitive and manages adverse visual impacts. The proposed transmission line supports the establishment and operation of renewable energy facilities which are envisaged forms of development within the Rural Zone. These objectives are also consistent with State-wide initiatives to support renewable energy facilities and associated infrastructure, as highlighted in the relevant Region Plans (refer Table 5-11) and zone and policy provisions within the Code (refer Table 5-13). Interconnection with NSW will support the State's renewable energy objectives in SA by encouraging increased production of renewable energy and export to the National Electricity Market.	Chapter 3 Project Justification Chapter 4 Route Selection Chapter 9 Land Use and Tenure Chapter 13 Visual Amenity

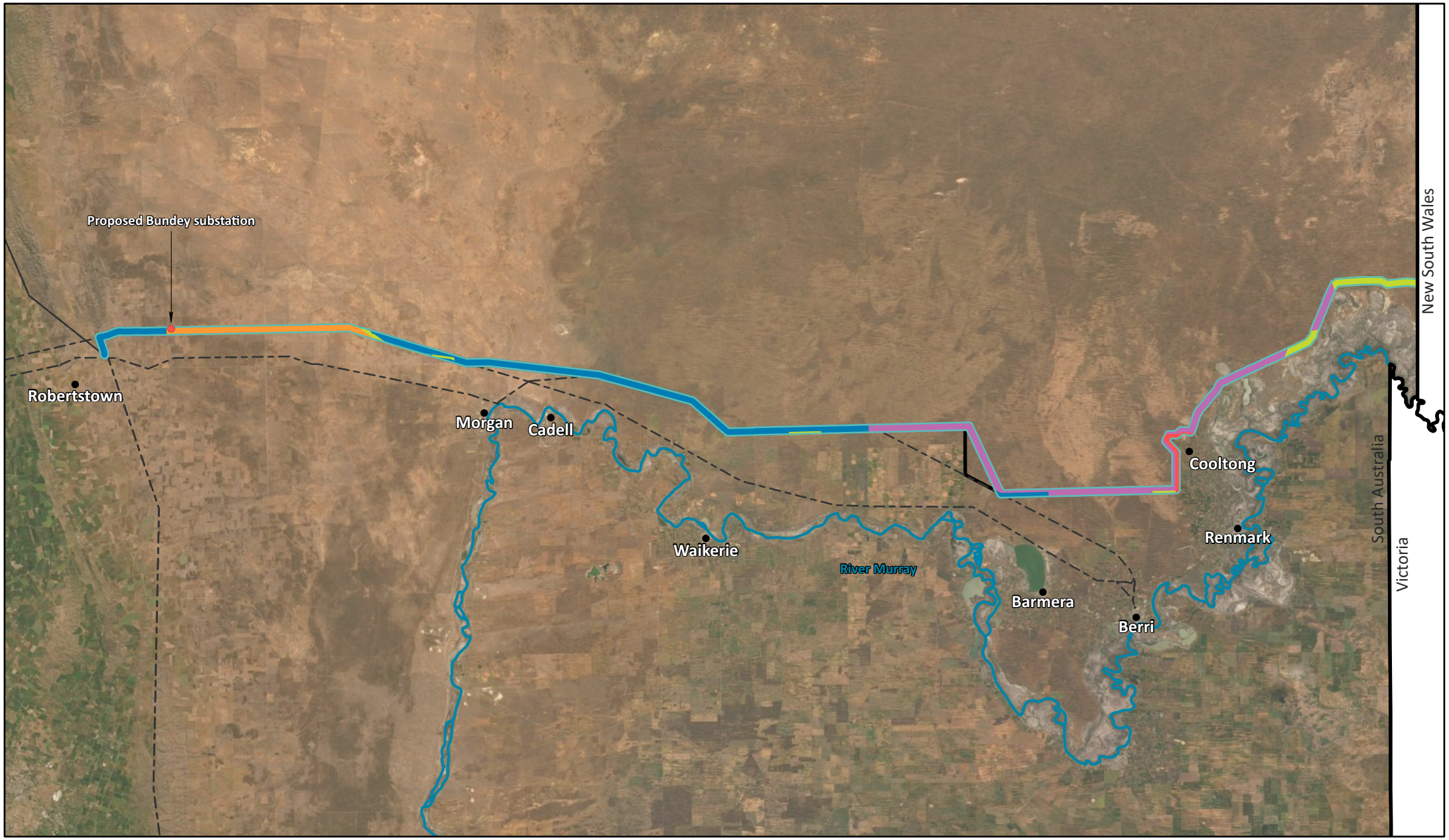
Overlays and General Policies	Assessment	Addressed in the EIS
	The alignment and substation have been sensitively sited to minimise visual impacts consistent with PO 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. In particular, the transmission line corridor will follow the alignment of existing 132 kV lines, as well as other disturbed areas (such as sealed and unsealed roadways) where practical to do so. The infrastructure route and proposed substation are remotely positioned away from local towns and scenic roads and existing vegetation will provide some visual screening. The visual amenity assessment in Chapter 13 considers the visual impact of the infrastructure when viewed from various sensitive receptors from within the 'Theoretical Zone of Visual Influence'. The assessment concludes that the route has been selected to minimise visual impacts and the Project will not unreasonably impact on the amenity or character of the existing landscapes found within the area of the Project. Route selection has sought to ensure the transmission line corridor is separated as far as practicable from dwellings, public areas, tourism accommodation and aircraft landing strips as required by PO 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 and that visual impact is minimised as far as practicable through location and design. The final design and micro-siting process will also consider these constraints, as appropriate. Construction activities will be undertaken in accordance with a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and a Construction Environmental Management Plan to ensure environmental impacts are avoided or minimized. This is consistent with PO 13.1 and 13.2.	Chapter 19 Waste Management Draft CEMP (Appendix P)
Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Overlays • Ramsar Wetlands • Native Vegetation • State Significant Native Vegetation Areas	The proposed transmission line corridor passes through a marginal area of upper floodplain on the northern margins of the Ramsar Wetland and is therefore subject to assessment against the Ramsar Wetland. The Ramsar Wetlands Overlay contains Performance Outcomes relating specifically to the protection of this wetland environment, including existing vegetation and the breeding, feeding, migration and resting areas of ecologically significant migratory or resident wildlife. The proposed alignment has been sited and designed to minimise adverse impacts on the Ramsar Wetlands, as summarised below: • The Riverland Ramsar site receives relatively low visitation from migratory shorebirds compared to other sites in SA. Wetland areas near the transmission line corridor do not hold water for most of year and accordingly, water birds will not be present at most times. • The transmission line corridor is generously separated from the Ramsar Wetlands and the River Murray, and the majority of the transmission line will follow the alignment of an existing disturbed area accommodating an existing access track, to minimise impacts of the infrastructure. • Associated tower span widths will be placed to avoid direct impacts to the wetlands and native bird species. Less than 2.5 km of the corridor is located within 500 m of the wetland. • The potential for bird strike will be further reduced by strategically placing markers / deflectors on certain sections of the transmission line near waterbodies, which have shown to be successful in reducing bird deaths. • Vehicle access points will be surfaced with permeable materials and sufficiently separated from the wetlands to minimise adverse impacts. Sections of the proposed transmission line corridor are subject to an assessment against the Native Vegetation and the State Significant Native Vegetation Areas (SSNVA) Overlays of the Code. The Desired Outcome for both overlays is to protect, retain and restore areas / significant areas of native vegetation. State Significant areas of native vegetation primarily in the vicinity of the transmission line corridor are associated with Pooginook Conservation Park, Cooltong Conservation Park, Taylorville Station,	Chapter 11 Flora and Fauna

Overlays and General Policies	Assessment	Addressed in the EIS
	Calperum Station and White Dam Conservation Park. Smaller pockets of SSNVA are also scattered across the proposed transmission line corridor. Native Vegetation PO 1.1 seeks to ensure development is designed to avoid or minimise the clearance of native vegetation. PO 1.2 states that native vegetation removal should avoid the following: • significant wildlife habitat and movement corridors • rare, vulnerable or endangered plants species • native vegetation that is significant because it is located in an area which has been extensively cleared • native vegetation that is growing in, or in association with, a wetland environment. SSNVA PO 1.1 also seeks to minimise the clearance of State Significant native vegetation, except where such clearance is required to promote an appreciation and awareness of wildlife areas, to support the administration and management of a reserve or park established for the protection of wildlife. The Project has been designed to minimise its ecological impacts in accordance with the Native Vegetation and SSNVA Overlay provisions of the Code. The assessment of Project impacts on native vegetation is provided in Chapter 12 Flora and Fauna, with relevant findings summarised below: • Where practical, the proposed route alignment follows existing access tracks, roadways and other cleared areas to minimise disturbance to native vegetation. • The siting and design of the development will allow for the majority of vegetation within the easement to remain undisturbed. Clearing will be restricted to tower construction sites, with limited clearing in some instances to accommodate laydown areas and access tracks. • The discrete nature of vegetation clearance associated with transmission line construction avoids the removal of large continuous areas accommodating old-growth mallee. • Proposed tower sites with native vegetation present will be surveyed prior to confirming final tower locations, and micro-siting towers and infrastructure will assist with minimising impacts of the development. • Route alignment, line design and tower placement will require minimal ongoing vegetation maintenance pruning due to low vegetation heights along the alignment. • Clearance of native vegetation will be subject to approval under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, and a significant environmental benefit payment will be made to partially offset the adverse impacts resulting from native vegetation clearance. • The proposed location for the substation is generally clear of native vegetation.	
Water Resources Overlays • Water Resources • Prescribed Watercourses	The proposed transmission line corridor passes through the northern margins of the River Murray Floodplain and is subject to an assessment against the relevant provisions of the Water Resources, Prescribed Watercourses, River Murray Flood Plain Protection Area and Murray-Darling Basin Overlays of the Code. Where the transmission line corridor traverses the Mid Murray Council it is also subject to the Water Resources Overlay (i.e. where it crosses Burra Creek and other potential water courses), the Hazards (Flooding – General) and Murray-Darling Basin Overlays. The proposed transmission line corridor only crosses one major watercourse at Burra Creek which runs through the	Chapter 10 Physical Environment Draft CEMP (Appendix P)

Overlays and General Policies	Assessment	Addressed in the EIS
• River Murray Flood Plain Protection Area • Murray-Darling Basin • Hazards (Flooding – General)	Mid Murray Council to the River Murray. At its closest point, the transmission line corridor is 5 km north of the main channel of the River Murray. In general terms, the Desired Outcomes for the River Murray Flood Plain Protection and Water Resources Overlays are to ensure the conservation and preservation of important waterbodies and water quality within the riverine environment. The Desired Outcome for the Prescribed Watercourses Overlay is to ensure taking of water from such watercourses is avoided or undertaken in a sustainable manner that maintains their health and natural flow paths. The Murray-Darling Basin Overlay provides for the sustainable water use in the Murray-Darling Basin area. The Desired Outcomes for the Hazards (Flooding-General) Overlay (which primarily seeks to protect people, property, infrastructure and the environment from flood risk), are not considered relevant to the Project and are not assessed further. The proposed alignment traverses outside and does not cross the eastern edge of the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse Area. The nature of the development is such that the infrastructure will not impede the free-flow of flood waters within the floodplain. Water for Project activities will be sourced locally and may include purchasing from pre-existing licenced users including local landholders proximate to the route and local councils. Within the Mid Murray Council, the corridor is also generously separated by from the River Murray by 5 km. This separation distance ensures impacts on water quality of the River Murray will be negligible. The erosion and sedimentation of surface waters during construction is also a relevant consideration due to the alignment location relative to the transmission line crossing at Burra Creek, which can be readily spanned by the 400 m minimum span length. The arid climate, coupled with a flat topography and permeable soils, reduce the likelihood of soil erosion, provided appropriate mitigation measures are implemented. A comprehensive Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be established to manage to manage erosion and preserve water quality.	
Cultural Heritage Overlays • Heritage Adjacency	The Desired Outcome of the Heritage Adjacency Overlay is to ensure that development which is adjacent to areas or places of state or local heritage significant, preserves the heritage and cultural value of those places. A small section of the eastern end of the study area is subject to an assessment against Heritage Adjacency Overlay, and relates to one State Heritage Place located over 500 m from the proposed alignment on the southern side of the Renmark-Wentworth Road. The alignment is generously separated from the only State Heritage Place applicable to the Heritage Adjacency Overlay. There are no Local, State, National or Commonwealth Heritage Places in proximity to the balance of the alignment. The selected route for the development has also been informed by early engagement with key indigenous groups including the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region together with the claimants of western most section of the investigation corridor, which is subject to the Ngaduri Nation #2 Native Title Claim. The most sensitive Aboriginal cultural heritage areas found within the study areas include river crossings and floodplains which reflect the historical importance of water in human settlement. The main activities associated with the construction of the transmission line which have the potential to impact on Aboriginal heritage sites are access track construction, and tower construction.	Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage
Bushfire Protection Overlays	The Desired Outcome for each Bushfire Overlay is to ensure development is appropriately designed to minimise the threat and impact of bushfires on life and property taking into account the increased frequency and intensity of bushfires as a result of climate change.	Chapter 18 Hazards and Risk Management

Overlays and General Policies	Assessment	Addressed in the EIS
• Hazards (Bushfire – Medium Risk) • Hazards (Bushfire – Outback) • Hazards (Bushfire – Regional) • Hazards (Bushfire – General Risk)	The western end of the alignment traversing the Regional Council of Goyder, together with that section of the alignment traversing the District Council of Loxton Waikerie is subject to an assessment of the Hazards (Bushfire - Regional) Overlay. The eastern end of the study area traversing the Pastoral unincorporated area (PUA), the Unincorporated Area (UIA) Riverland, and the Renmark Paringa Council is subject to an assessment against the Hazards (Bushfire – Outback) Overlay. Small sections of the study area traversing the Renmark Paringa Council are also subject to an assessment against the Hazards (Bushfire – Medium) Overlay. The entire length of the alignment traversing the Mid Murray Council is subject to an assessment against the Hazards (Bushfire – General Risk) Overlay. Bushfire mitigation measures for the proposed development are summarised below: • transmission lines are designed to the relevant Australian and International Standards with particular attention given to minimising the risk of the fire start, including protection systems and increased conductor spacing to eliminate risk of 'conductor clashing' • vegetation management (i.e. vegetation clearance) • asset inspection and maintenance via maintenance tracks • operation of the transmission system to lower the fire start risk • monitoring network performance and investigating fault events to determine root cause • preparation of a Fire Management Plan for construction and operation phases of the Project. In addition to the above management practices, powerline easements can also assist with regional fire management by acting as physical, maintained fire breaks or providing alternative improved access arrangements for emergency service vehicles.	
Soils Overlays • Hazards (Acid Sulfate Soils)	The Hazards (Acid Sulfate Soils) Overlay covers several small sections of the eastern extent of the investigation corridor, where low lying and ephemeral drainage areas may exhibit acid sulphate soils. The Desired Outcome seeks to ensure development occurs with minimal disturbance of potential or actual acid sulfate soils and / or the release of acid drainage. Overall, soils in the investigation corridor have a low surface acidity, low to moderate salinity and low acid sulphate soil potential. The greatest likelihood of encountering acid sulphate soils is towards the eastern end of the investigation corridor, in low lying areas particularly near salt lakes. However, it is unlikely that acid sulfate soils will be a hazard for the Project as low-lying areas near salt lakes can be avoided by micro-siting the towers. Other potential impacts to soil quality and quantity from the Project primarily relate to the clearing of land for access tracks and tower sites, earthworks required for the construction of foundations, and the impacts of vehicle movements during construction. To minimise soil disturbance, vegetation clearance will be kept to a minimum, and generally limited to land which needs to be cleared for the construction of foundations. The Construction Environmental Management Plan will include standard sediment and erosion control measures to minimise impacts on soil quality and quantity. The CEMP prepared for the Project will also include control measures to minimise impacts of acid sulfate soils should they be encountered during the construction process.	Chapter 10 Physical Environment
Traffic Overlays	The provisions of the Overlay include Performance Outcomes which seek to ensure that development is designed to accommodate safe and convenient vehicle movements. The Desired Outcome for the Overlay is 'a comprehensive, integrated and connected transport system that is safe, sustainable, efficient, convenient and accessible to all users'. The Transport, Access	Chapter 16 Traffic and Transport

Overlays and General Policies	Assessment	Addressed in the EIS
• Key Outback and Rural Routes General Development Policies • Transport, Access and Parking	and Parking General Development Policies within the Code contain similar provisions, albeit more generally worded, applicable to urban, regional and outback regions of South Australia. The majority of the eastern section of the alignment which runs through the UIA Riverland and PUA is subject to an assessment against the Key Outback and Rural Routes Overlay of the Code. This Overlay also covers other smaller sections of the alignment further west traversing the Berri Barmera Council, PUA land, the District Council of Loxton Waikerie, and the Regional Council of Goyder. The section of the alignment traversing the Goyder Highway is also subject to an assessment against the provisions of this Overlay. The construction phase of the Project will result in a temporary increase in traffic volumes along roads near the Project and key transport routes within the study area. Potential impacts include disruption to current land uses, travel times and deterioration of road pavements from increased use by heavy vehicles. These impacts will be limited to the construction period only, and there will be no permanent, ongoing traffic impacts to be generated by the development. A Traffic Management Plan will be established to manage short-term traffic related impacts throughout the construction phase.	
Interface with Other Land Uses Overlays • Dwelling Excision Overlay • Limited Land Division Overlay General Development Policies • Interface between Land Uses	The Code includes Interface between Land Use provisions which seek to ensure developments are appropriately designed to mitigate adverse impacts on neighbouring and proximate land uses together with air quality, noise and traffic impacts during the construction process. Sections of the transmission line corridor which traverse the Renmark Paringa Council, the District Council of Loxton Waikerie, and the Mid Murray Council are subject to an assessment against the Dwelling Excision Overlay. The western end of the transmission line corridor and the proposed substation within the Regional Council of Goyder and the Mid Murray Council are both subject to an assessment the Limited Land Division Overlay. The Desired Outcomes for both overlays seek to limit the intensification of development by constraining opportunities for further land division. The Dwelling Excision Overlay also seeks to specifically limit the number of habitable dwellings (sensitive receivers) in areas allocated for primary production. Whilst these overlays do not directly impact on the proposed transmission line and substation, limiting further development within the transmission line corridor and in proximity to the substation assist within the management of interface impacts. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed and will include standard dust control measures to minimise dust emissions during the construction phase. Potential noise and vibration impacts on sensitive receptors resulting from construction activities are expected to be negligible. This is due to the rural location of the Project, the distance from sensitive receptors, and the short term and transient nature of construction activities. While the Noise EPP does not apply to construction activities relating to public infrastructure, EPA SA guidelines will be used to manage construction noise impacts on noise sensitive receptors. As previously discussed, the Project will not generate a notable increase in the levels of traffic following construction of the transmission lines, and traffic generated during construction will be managed via the implementation of a traffic management plan.	Chapter 14 Air Quality Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration Chapter 16 Traffic and Transport Draft CEMP (Appendix P)



Planning and Development Code Zones
- Conservation
- Remote areas
- Rural
- Rural horticulture
- Rural intensive enterprise

- Transmission line corridor
- Cultural heritage avoidance alignment
- Existing ElectraNet transmission line
- River Murray
- Proposed Bundey substation

Figure 5-3
PDI Code Zones on the transmission line corridor

0 20
Kilometres

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ElectraNet | energy connect | JBS&G