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PARTNERING ON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

CENTRAL-WEST ORANA RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE

ANNUAL BIODIVERSITY REPORT

JUNE 2025 – JUNE 2026

CWO-PRO-050-ENV-RPT-000084 – REV A

Document Control

This Annual Biodiversity Report is a controlled document, approved by the ACJV D&C Project Director. The Environment and Sustainability Manager is responsible for ensuring this plan is kept up to date for the Project, according to Project risks, activities and legislative requirements.

PROJECT AUTHORISATION

Authorisation				
Document Title	Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone – Annual Biodiversity Report (June 2025 – June 2026)			
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Originator	Acciona Cobra Joint Venture			
Review	**Name**	**Position**	**Date**	**Signature**
	[redacted]	Environmental Advisor	3/8/2026	[redacted]
Approval	[redacted]	Environment and Sustainability Manager	4/8/2026	
Principal Endorsement	[redacted]	Project Director	4/8/2026	

PROJECT REVISION HISTORY

Rev	Date	Pages	Revised by	Description of changes
Rev A	03/08/2026	All	[redacted]	For NO and EnergyCo

CONTROL AND RECORDS

The approved CWO-PRO-050-ENV-RPT-000084 Annual Biodiversity Report will be signed, and a pdf version will be uploaded and stored on the Project's document management system in accordance with CWO-PRO-050-DOC-PLN-000001 the CWO Document and Records Management Plan.

UNCONTROLLED COPIES

Any uncontrolled hard copy documents are up to date at issue and are only issued to outside organisations, customers, etc., upon request and approval by the Workplace Manager. Such uncontrolled documents will be clearly marked “Uncontrolled Copy When Printed or Downloaded” and will not be subject to an update.

DISTRIBUTION

The Integrated Management System – Systems Representative on the Project is responsible for the controlled internal distribution of this document and changes. Personnel have access to the latest revision of the Plan through RIBCX.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Biodiversity Management Plan - CWO-PRO-050-ENV-PLN-000005

Terms and Definitions

Abbreviations	Expanded text
ACEREZ	Network operator, a partnership of ACCIONA, COBRA and Endeavour Energy
ACJV D&C	A design and construction unincorporated joint venture of ACCIONA and COBRA
AR	Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Project Amendment Report
BC Act	Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)
CoA (Commonwealth)	Commonwealth Conditions of Approval
CSSI	The Critical State Significant Infrastructure, as described in Schedule 1, the carrying out of which is approved under the terms of the SSI-48323210 approval
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment (NSW) (now known as DPHI, however reference remains for existing documents).
EIS	The Environmental Impact Statement titled Environmental Impact Statement – Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project, prepared by WSP, dated February 2023, including the Proponent's: • Amendment Report, dated March 2024 • Submissions Report, dated March 2024 • Additional Information dated 14 June 2024 • Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project Modification 1 – Request for minor modifications to the condition of approvals, dated September 2024 and additional information dated 11 October 2024 • Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project Modification 2 – Request for modification to allow establishment of an additional operations facility, dated 22 October 2025 • Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project Modification 3 – Request for minor administrative changes to reflect Strategic Offset delivery Agreement, dated 15 August 2025 • Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project Modification 4 – Request for increased clearing limits for Leucochrysum albicans subsp. Tricolor, determined 02 December 2025
EnergyCo	The Energy Corporation of New South Wales constituted by Section 6 of the Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987 as the NSW Government statutory authority responsible for the delivery of NSW's Renewable Energy Zones.
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
MCoA (NSW)	NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces' Conditions of Approval
Minister, the	Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
RtS	Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Project Response to Submission Report
Project, the	The construction and operation of new electricity transmission infrastructure, new energy hubs and switching stations and ancillary works required to connect new renewable energy

Abbreviations	Expanded text
	generation and storage projects within the Central-West Orana REZ to the NSW transmission network (referred to herein as 'the Project' or 'Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Transmission project')

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1 Introduction

1.1 CONTEXT

This Annual Biodiversity Report (report) has been prepared for the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Transmission project (the Project).

This report has been prepared to the address the requirements of the:

- NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces' Conditions of Approval (MCoA (NSW)) for the Project (SSI-48323210) (dated 14 October 2024)
- Biodiversity Management Plan - CWO-PRO-050-ENV-PLN-000005.

1.2 BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project comprises the construction and operation of new electricity transmission infrastructure, new energy hubs and switching stations and ancillary works required to connect new renewable energy generation and storage projects within the Central-West Orana REZ to the NSW transmission network.

The EIS was prepared to assess the impacts of construction and operation of the Project. As part of the EIS development, a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (Technical paper of the EIS) was prepared. The findings of the assessment were summarised in Chapter 10 (Biodiversity) of the EIS.

A RtS was prepared in response to submissions received on the EIS. The RtS includes clarifications as well as further detail relating to biodiversity management issues of the Project.

An AR was subsequently prepared to address Project changes resulting from submissions and design progress. The AR was submitted on 8 March 2024, and the proposed amendments of the application was approved on 11 March 2024.

The Project was declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) by the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (the Minister) on 23 November 2020 (amended in February 2023) under Section 5.13 under the EP&A Act and Section 2.15 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021. The Project was approved by the Minister on 26 June 2024.

The approval was updated to accommodate Modification 1 on 14 October 2024, Modification 2 on 22 October 2025 and Modification 3 on 15 August 2025.

The Project is also a controlled action and requires a separate approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water (or its delegate) under the EPBC Act (Commonwealth). This approval was granted 8 August 2024.

1.3 PURPOSE

In accordance with the MCoA Condition B26(e), the Project is to include a program to monitor, evaluate and publicly report on the effectiveness of the biodiversity management measures on the Project.

A monitoring and reporting program has been prepared and is detailed in the Biodiversity Management Plan. The monitoring and reporting requirements relevant to biodiversity, as required by the applicable MCoA (NSW), CoA (Commonwealth), REMMs and the EMS, is provided in Section 6.3 of the Biodiversity Management Plan.

Additionally, the Biodiversity Management Plan details the requirement to assess the effectiveness of the implemented monitoring items, records, and reporting requirements to be addressed in an Annual Biodiversity Report. The report is to provide a summary of the outcomes facilitated by the monitoring and reporting program. The Annual Biodiversity Report is to be made publicly available, as required by MCoA (NSW) B26(e).

1.4 SCOPE

This Annual Biodiversity Report has been prepared for the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Transmission project (the Project), in accordance with the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces' Conditions of Approval (MCoA), Condition B26(e) and Biodiversity Management Plan.

This Annual Biodiversity Report addresses the reporting period from 17 June 2025 (commencement of Construction) to 16 June 2026 (inclusive).

2 Requirements of Monitoring and Reporting Program

The monitoring and reporting requirements relevant to biodiversity is provided in Table 6-1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan. Table 2-1 below is an extract of the monitoring and reporting requirements from Table 6-1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan.

The Biodiversity Management Plan stated that monitoring items, records, and reporting requirements identified in Table 6-1 will be addressed in an Annual Biodiversity Report. Additionally, the annual biodiversity report is to consider any incidents or non-compliances relating to biodiversity that have been reported during the reporting period.

Table 2-1: Compliance of Monitoring and Reporting Program

Monitoring / Program Item	Scope	Records / reporting	Report timing	Approval Condition
Pre-clearing Survey	Project ecologist to inspect work areas as per scope in Table 5-1 prior to clearing commencing in each work area	Pre-clearing inspection report	Within 1 month prior to clearing commencing in each work area.	MCoA (NSW) B26(d) (i – iv, vii – xi) REMM B10
Pre-clearing Inspection	Project ecologist to inspect work areas as per scope in Table 5-1 24-48 hours prior to clearing in accordance with 2 Stage clearing process	Clearing Permit	Prior to commencement of clearing in each work area.	MCoA (NSW) B26(d) (i - iii)
Weekly Environmental Inspections	Weekly inspection of work areas during clearing activities	Environmental Inspection Checklist	Weekly in each work area.	MCoA (NSW) B26(d) (i – iv, vii – xi) REMM B5, B6, B9, B12 and B13.
Partial Clearance Monitoring	Monitoring of partial clearance within 3 months of commencement of construction, or within 3 months of commencement date of partial clearing where this occurs later than 3 months from construction commencement.	Verification Report	Verification report to be prepared within 1 – 3 months of monitoring and provided to DPHI.	MCoA (NSW) B26(vi)
Post-clearing Inspection	After completion of clearing within each work area	Post-clearing report	Within 1 month of completion of clearing within each work area.	MCoA (NSW) B26(d) (i – iii, v, vii, viii, xi) MCoA (NSW) B26(e)
Clearing Register	Monitoring of vegetation clearing to assess actual clearing impacts, including a cumulative tally of vegetation and habitat clearing.	Clearing Register	Prior to and during clearing.	MCoA (NSW) B21(a) MCoA (NSW) B26(d) (i-iii, xi,xii) MCoA (NSW) B26(e)
Weed Monitoring: as detailed in the Biosecurity Management Plan	As part of routine weekly inspections, as detailed in the Biosecurity Management Plan	Refer to the Biosecurity Management Plan	Refer to the Biosecurity Management Plan.	MCoA (NSW) B26(d)(xi) MCoA (NSW) B26(e)
Active Revegetation, and Natural Regeneration	Visual inspections undertaken seasonally for a maximum of 12 months from completion of rehabilitation activities.	Inspection report, including photos	Final report collated following the completion of the visual inspection period.	N/A

3 Outcomes of the Monitoring and Reporting Program

Table 3-1 below outlines the requirement from the monitoring and reporting program from Table 6-1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan. Table 3-1 also includes a summary of the outcomes in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the applicable biodiversity monitoring and reporting measures.

Table 3-1 Summary of outcomes of the Monitoring and Reporting Program

Compliance aspect	Requirement from Table 6-1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan	Summary of outcomes
Pre-clearing survey		
Scope	Project ecologist to inspect work areas as per scope in Table 5-1 [of the Construction Biodiversity Management Plan] prior to clearing commencing in each work area	Pre-clearing survey have been undertaken on the Project to identify and demarcate fauna ecological constraints in accordance the Biodiversity Management Plan. Pre-clearing survey includes: • Description of the presence and location of any threatened flora and evidence of threatened fauna species listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW) (BC Act) and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) • Marking/tagging of hollow-bearing trees within and adjacent to each clearing area • Description and photographs of identified (threatened) fauna habitat, including any salvageable habitat • Identification of regional or state priority weeds as listed within the Central Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027 (CTRSWMP) (CTLLS, 2022) • Recommended actions to avoid the potential for harm to any fauna during clearing, including protocols for staged clearing of vegetation, safe tree felling, and a two-stage tree and log removal process • Consideration for collection of native seed (where species, season and likely viability permits), and • Identification of resources that are able to be salvaged during clearing works for future beneficial re-use in either rehabilitation or to enhance fauna habitat. Pre-clearing survey have been undertaken during this reporting period of 17 June 2025 to 16 June 2026.
Records / reporting	Pre-clearing survey report	A pre-clearing survey report is prepared by suitable and qualified ecologist. The report provides results of the survey including identification of fauna habitat (habitat trees, ground habitat, aquatic habitat, man-made

Compliance aspect	Requirement from Table 6-1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan	Summary of outcomes
		habitat), identification of threatened flora and fauna species, confirmation of nestbox installation, Biodiversity Requiring Offset/ Biodiversity Exclusion Zones, identification of pest species and priority weeds. The report also includes recommended actions to avoid the potential for harm to any fauna during clearing, including protocols for staged clearing of vegetation, safe tree felling, a two-stage tree and log removal process, dewatering activities and fauna relocation. A total of 36 pre-clearing survey reports were prepared during this reporting period of 17 June 2025 to 16 June 2026. Two instances of unexpected biodiversity find during this reporting period of 17 June 2025 to 16 June 2026. The Project encountered unexpected flora species find of Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans subsp. Tricolor*) confirmed on 10 October 2025 and Pine Donkey Orchid (*Diuris tricolor*) confirmed on 3 March 2026.
Report timing	Within 1 month prior to clearing commencing in each work area.	All pre-clearing survey reports are prepared at least 1 month prior to clearing commencing in each work area. Pre-clearing survey are generally undertaken well in advance of clearing commencement, and reports are prepared shortly after and at least 1 month prior to clearing commencing in each work area. Reports are prepared more than 1 month prior to clearing commencement in the relevant areas to provide sufficient timing for construction planning, logistical matters and micrositting design opportunities. The report timing will be review during the next update of the Biodiversity Management Plan.
Pre-clearing inspection		
Scope	Project ecologist to inspect work areas as per scope in Table 5-1 [of the Biodiversity Management Plan] 24-48 hours prior to clearing in accordance with 2 Stage clearing process	Pre-clearing inspections are undertaken with a suitable and qualified ecologist on the Project. The pre-clearing inspection are undertaken within 48 hours prior to the commencement of clearing for the relevant area. The inspection consists of the following: • Confirmation that clearing extent is demarcated in accordance with the Clearing Plan • Confirmation that biodiversity exclusion zones (SAII, MNES, threatened flora, threatened fauna habitat and habitat trees) are physically demarcated • Confirmation that hollow-bearing trees within and adjacent to the clearing extents are prominently marked/tagged • Refine the final location of proposed nest boxes to be installed prior to clearing where practicable in each construction area in accordance with REMM B6

Compliance aspect	Requirement from Table 6-1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan	Summary of outcomes
		• Verify the predicted extent of clearing of native vegetation against the extent of clearing as permitted by MCoA (NSW) B21. The predicted extent of clearing will also consider the type of clearing (e.g. temporary or permanent) • Identification of suitable locations for fauna relocation/ release and placement of salvaged habitat features • Confirmation of availability of wildlife carers/vets prior to clearing • Consideration for collection of native seed (where species, season and likely viability permits) Pre-clearing inspection have been undertaken during the reporting period of 17 June 2025 to 16 June 2026. The pre-clearing inspections is documented within the Clearing Permit.
Records / reporting	Clearing Permit	The Clearing Permit has a section titled 'Ecologist Pre-Clearing Inspection' which includes verification prompts and a sign off box to confirm Pre-Clearing Inspection were undertaken within 48 hours prior to the commencement of clearing for the relevant area. A total of 101 Clearing Permits were prepared and approved during this reporting period of 17 June 2025 to 16 June 2026.
Report timing	Prior to commencement of clearing in each work area.	The pre-clearing inspection are undertaken within 48 hours prior to the commencement of clearing for relevant area.
Weekly Environmental Inspections		
Scope	Weekly inspection of work areas during clearing activities	Environmental site inspections have been undertaken in active construction areas. The inspections assess the ongoing effectiveness and suitability of the environmental controls. The outcomes of environmental site inspections are captured within an Environmental Inspection Checklists. Any maintenance or deficiencies in environmental control are documented (and usually photographed) in the inspection checklist, and the environmental action list is issued to the relevant construction supervisor (or delegate) for action/close out. Evidence of close out (usually a photograph) is recorded.
Records / reporting	Environmental Inspection Checklist	300 environmental inspection checklists have been created during the reporting period of 17 June 2025 to 16 June 2026.
Report timing	Weekly in each work area.	Weekly environmental site inspections are being undertaken in active construction areas and outcomes of inspections are documented in the Environmental Inspection Checklist.

Compliance aspect	Requirement from Table 6-1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan	Summary of outcomes
Partial Clearance Monitoring		
Scope	Monitoring of partial clearance within 3 months of commencement of construction, or within 3 months of commencement date of partial clearing where this occurs later than 3 months from construction commencement.	The requirement from Table 6-1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan requires partial clearance monitoring within 3 months of commencement of construction, or within 3 months of commencement date of partial clearing where this occurs later than 3 months from construction commencement. Construction of the Project commenced June 2025, partial clearing commenced in November 2025. Partial clearance monitoring was undertaken in the areas where the first three months of partial clearing on the Project were undertaken. Partial clearing monitoring commenced in November 2025 and concluded in January 2026. Partial clearing monitoring was undertaken within the first three months of partial clearing. Partial clearing monitoring comprised of a site inspection component and a desktop GIS review component. The site inspection component involved a random meander survey methodology specified in the *Management of Endangered Plants* (Cropper 1993, CSIRO Publications Victoria) undertaken on foot across areas subject to partial clearing within the transmission line easement in November 2025. The desktop GIS review was undertaken over a number of days in January 2026 and involved comparison of pre-clearing to post-clearing and confirming consistency with approved disturbance boundaries.
Records / reporting	Verification Report	A partial clearing verification report was prepared to fulfil the requirements of Condition B26(d)(vi) of the Project Approval by assessing the initial three months of partial clearance undertaken for the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Project and to confirm whether any changes to the approved Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) are required. The verification process confirmed that partial clearing is being undertaken in accordance with the processes and controls outlined in the BMP
Report timing	Verification report to be prepared within 1 – 3 months of monitoring and provided to DPHI.	The verification report was prepared in April 2026 and is within 1 to 3 months of the conclusion of the partial clearance monitoring. The partial clearing verification report was provided the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on 23 June 2026.
Post-clearing inspection		
Scope	After completion of clearing within each work area	The Clearing Permit includes a post-clearing checklist. The checklist includes verification • all clearing and disturbance activities completed within the designated clearing area

Compliance aspect	Requirement from Table 6-1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan	Summary of outcomes
		• any on site changes to the clearing extent areas and if any changes to clearing area and extent been captured in the Clearing Register • any fauna displaced, injured, captured or caused to be deceased during clearing activities • any impact to sensitive areas (protection or exclusion zones) occurred during the clearing process • all erosion and sediment controls been installed in accordance with site progressive erosion and sediment control plan • any unexpected finds were identified
Records / reporting	Post-clearing report	No post-clearing checklist have been completed as part of the clearing permit during this reporting period of 17 June 2025 to 16 June 2026. Clearing permits are still open for active construction areas. Post-clearing inspection and the associated post-clearing checklist will be completed for the relevant areas once clearing activities is no longer proposed or construction areas are no longer active.
Report timing	Within 1 month of completion of clearing within each work area.	Not applicable. No post-clearing checklist have been completed as part of the clearing permit during this reporting period of 17 June 2025 to 16 June 2026.
Clearing Register		
Scope	Monitoring of vegetation clearing to assess actual clearing impacts, including a cumulative tally of vegetation and habitat clearing.	The Project is committed to ensuring that the clearing limits stipulated in Appendix 2 of the MCoA (NSW) and the CoA (Commonwealth) are not exceeded. Monitoring of clearing limit is tracked via the Clearing Register to ensure that the total predicted clearing impact is monitored against the clearing limits to identify potential exceedances. The Clearing Register contains all the threatened ecological communities and threatened flora and fauna species stipulated in Appendix 2 of the MCoA (NSW) and their clearing impact limit (ha). The Clearing Register is updated with the approved clearing impacts (ha) associated with each approved Clearing Permit. This allows the Clearing Register to provide a running cumulative clearing impact that has been permitted via the Clearing Permit. The Clearing Register allows for monitoring of permitted clearing impacts against the clearing limits.
Records / reporting	Clearing Register	A total of 99 Clearing Permits were prepared and approved during this reporting period. All 99 approved Clearing Permits have been entered into the Clearing Register for monitoring of permitted clearing impacts against the clearing limits.

Compliance aspect	Requirement from Table 6-1 of the Biodiversity Management Plan	Summary of outcomes
		No exceedance to the clearing limits for threatened ecological communities and threatened flora and fauna species as stipulated in Appendix 2 of the MCoA (NSW) has occurred during this reporting period.
Report timing	Prior to and during clearing.	The clearing register is a live register and is kept up to date based on the approval of the clearing permits.
Weed monitoring: as detailed in the Biosecurity Management Plan (section 5.11)		
Scope	As part of routine weekly inspections, as detailed in the Biosecurity Management Plan	Weed monitoring are undertaken as part of the weekly environmental site inspection. Environmental site inspection checklist includes prompts to consider if weed management required for the active construction area and whether plant and equipment been cleaned prior to entering/leaving site to prevent the spread of weeds.
Records / reporting	Refer to the Biosecurity Management Plan	As per the environmental inspections checklist. Approximately a total of 300 environmental inspections checklist has been created during this reporting period of 17 June 2025 to 16 June 2026.
Report timing	Refer to the Biosecurity Management Plan	As per the environmental inspections checklist.
Active Revegetation, and Natural Regeneration		
Scope	Visual inspections undertaken seasonally for a maximum of 12 months from completion of rehabilitation activities.	Not applicable. No active revegetation and/or natural regeneration activities have been undertaken during this reporting period.
Records / reporting	Inspection report, including photos	Not applicable. No active revegetation and/or natural regeneration activities have been undertaken during this reporting period.
Report timing	Final report collated following the completion of the visual inspection period.	Not applicable. No active revegetation and/or natural regeneration activities have been undertaken during this reporting period.
Incidents or Non-compliances		
-	-	No incidents notification in accordance with condition C10 of the MCoA (NSW) in relation to biodiversity aspects during this reporting period. No non-compliances notification in accordance with condition C11 of the MCoA (NSW) in relation to biodiversity aspects during this reporting period.

4 Conclusion

Overall, the biodiversity management measures implemented during the reporting period are considered effective.

This conclusion is based on the monitoring, inspection, record-keeping and reporting outcomes presented in this report, which demonstrate that the management measures have been implemented as required and have achieved their intended biodiversity management outcomes. No biodiversity incidents or non-compliances occurred during the reporting period that would indicate a failure of the management measures.

Accordingly, the monitoring and reporting program relevant to biodiversity satisfies the requirements of MCoA (NSW) B26(e).

Continued implementation of the established controls, supported by regular inspections, monitoring, workforce awareness and corrective actions where required, will assist in ensuring biodiversity risks remain appropriately managed throughout the remaining phases of construction.