

Environmental Impact Statement

Executive Summary

April 2021

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared by JBS&G Australia Pty Ltd (JBS&G) on behalf of ElectraNet Pty Ltd (ElectraNet) for submission to the South Australian and Commonwealth Governments for the South Australian portion of Project EnergyConnect (the Project).

The EIS describes the Project, considers potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the Project and proposes measures to minimise or avoid negative impacts and enhance positive impacts.

This document is intended as a non-technical executive summary of the EIS and therefore does not cover every aspect of the Project set out in the EIS. This executive summary is also not intended to be a reproduction of all impacts assessed within the EIS but highlights the key impacts, both positive and negative and ElectraNet's proposed commitments to manage these.

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PREFACE

A message from Steve Masters - Chief Executive, ElectraNet

On behalf of the team at ElectraNet, I am proud to share the release of the Environmental Impact Statement for Project EnergyConnect. If approved, Project EnergyConnect will establish the first new electricity transmission line between Australian states in over 15 years and will deliver savings to both residential and business customers.

In 2016, we commenced work to evaluate options to provide a more secure and reliable electricity network, savings to consumers and enhanced power system security in South Australia while enabling the transformation of the energy landscape to low emission energy resources. Project EnergyConnect was determined by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) to be the optimal solution as it ticks all boxes by delivering customer savings, energy security and important connections to high quality renewable energy zones.

The release of the EIS marks a significant step in the Project. It is the result of extensive independent specialist studies and countless hours of engaging with landholders, the communities, governments and a variety of interest groups, all of which have collectively informed where we are today.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to have their say and shape this important Project. The EIS is open for feedback, and I encourage everyone to get involved and be part of a generational opportunity to shape our state's energy future.

Steve Masters

Steve Masters
Chief Executive, ElectraNet



INTRODUCTION

About ElectraNet

ElectraNet is an Adelaide-based private company and the principal owner and operator of the South Australian transmission network. ElectraNet specialises in electricity transmission, delivering safe, affordable and reliable solutions to power homes, businesses and the economy. ElectraNet builds, owns, operates and maintains high-voltage electricity assets, which move energy from traditional and renewable energy generators in SA and interstate, to large load customers and the lower voltage distribution network.

The SA electricity transmission network operated by ElectraNet covers an area of more than 200,000 square kilometres. This network consists of 6,267 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and underground cables, together with 97 substations and switchyards.

ElectraNet has over 380 employees in SA.

What is Project EnergyConnect?

Project EnergyConnect is a proposed high-voltage electricity transmission interconnector to be constructed between Robertstown in SA and Wagga Wagga in New South Wales, with an added connection between Buronga in NSW to Red Cliffs in north-west Victoria.

An electricity interconnector is a connection that allows energy to flow between regions in the National Electricity Market (NEM), providing access to a larger number of electricity generators. The NEM operates across the eastern and southern states of Australia, extending from far north Queensland to western SA. Interconnectors are common around the world, including here in Australia.

If approved, Project EnergyConnect will be delivered jointly by ElectraNet in SA and TransGrid (the NSW electricity transmission operator) in NSW. The Project will be one of Australia's largest electricity infrastructure projects and the first new interconnector between Australian states in over 15 years.

Why is Project EnergyConnect needed?

The Australian energy landscape is changing as we transition away from traditional fossil fuel-based electricity generation to a greater mix of renewable energy sources. The main drivers of this change include:

- closure of traditional coal-fired powerplants in SA and further planned closures of ageing coal-fired power plants interstate
- reduced cost and increasing penetration of renewable energy generation (wind and solar) and uptake of rooftop photovoltaic systems in SA
- government commitments to reduce carbon emissions
- demand for more reliable and affordable electricity

To support this transition, new investment into the transmission infrastructure that supports the NEM in connecting electricity generators and transmitting energy to consumers is required. In response to this need, Project EnergyConnect is proposed to achieve the objective of improving the affordability, reliability and sustainability of electricity supply in the NEM through increased electricity transmission of about 800 megawatts (MW) between SA, NSW and Victoria. The Project aims to create a net benefit to consumers and producers of electricity and support the transition of the NEM to a lower carbon economy.

Alternatives to Project EnergyConnect

In 2016, ElectraNet began exploring options to reduce the cost of providing secure and reliable electricity, enhance power system security in SA, and facilitate the long-term transition of the electricity sector to low emission energy sources.

In November 2016, ElectraNet released a Project Specification Consultation Report (PSCR) that explored the technical and economic feasibility of a new interconnector between SA and the eastern states as well as other non-network solution options, through the SA Energy Transformation Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T).

The RIT-T process is an economic cost benefit test that is overseen by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and applies to all major network investments in the NEM.

On 24 January 2020, the AER approved the RIT-T describing the business case for project as "robust" and determining that the proposed interconnector remained the most "credible option that maximises the net economic benefit" in the NEM, ultimately benefiting electricity customers.

ElectraNet has lodged their Contingent Project Application (CPA) with the Australian Energy Regulator. The CPA is the final step in the Project's regulatory approval process.

What are the Project benefits for South Australians?

If approved, Project EnergyConnect would deliver a range of direct benefits for consumers in SA and NSW. In SA these would include:

Lower power prices

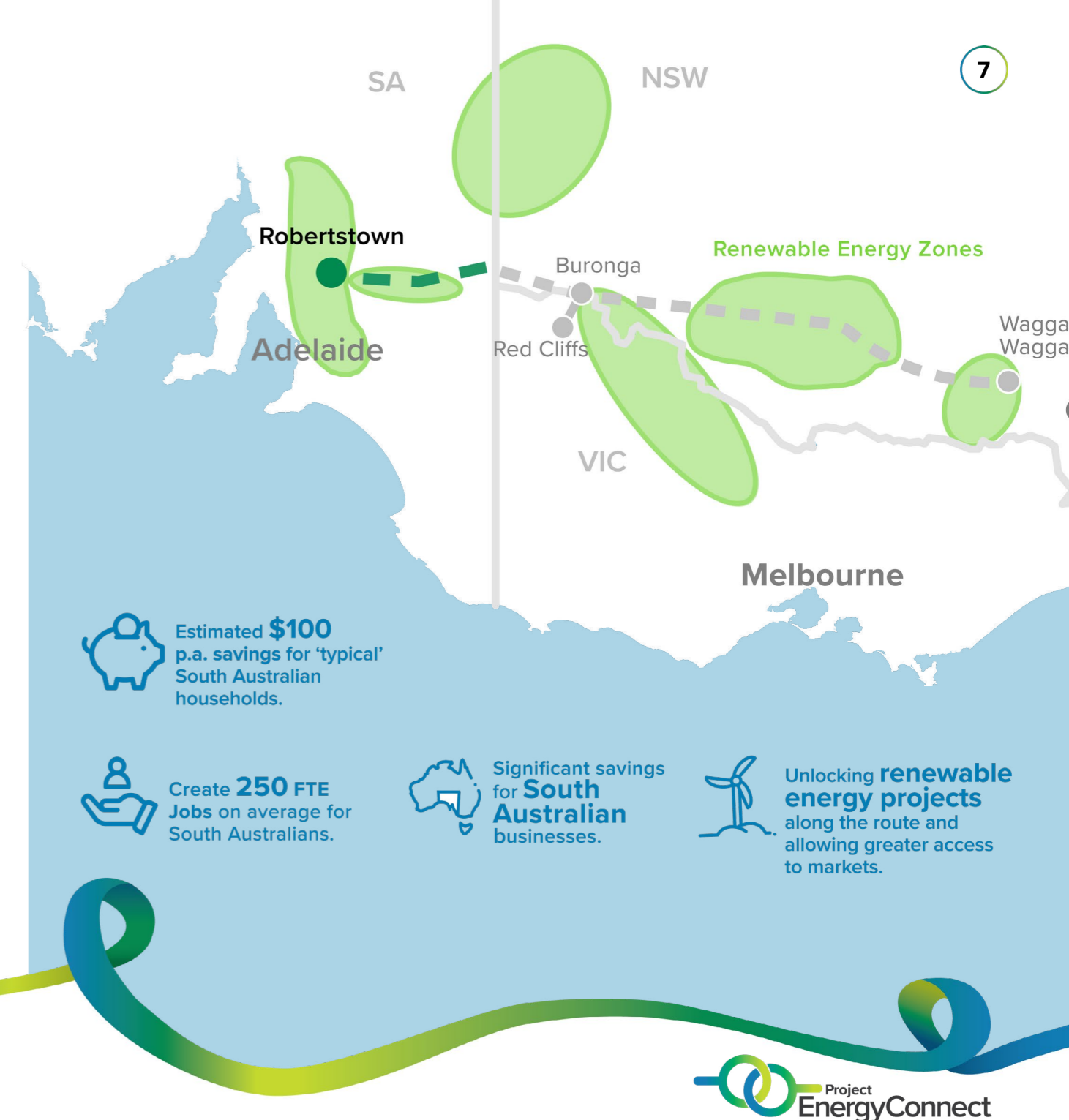
- typical residential electricity bills are estimated to be reduced annually by \$100 in SA
- businesses can expect higher savings, proportional to their energy use

Improved energy security

- enabling a greater mix of renewable energy generators to connect into the network
- increasing reliability and confidence in electricity supply

Increased economic activity

- approximately 200 jobs will be created in SA during construction
- enabling the development of new renewable projects at connection points and facilitating the growth of associated industries
- creating approximately 250 ongoing jobs in SA



ROUTE SELECTION

The overarching location of the route for Project EnergyConnect has been identified based on the need to provide supporting infrastructure to connect Renewable Energy Zones identified by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in its Integrated System Plan (ISP). Supporting the renewable energy projects that will be developed in these zones, requires the interconnector to connect the Robertstown substation in SA with the substation at Wagga Wagga in NSW via the Buronga substation.

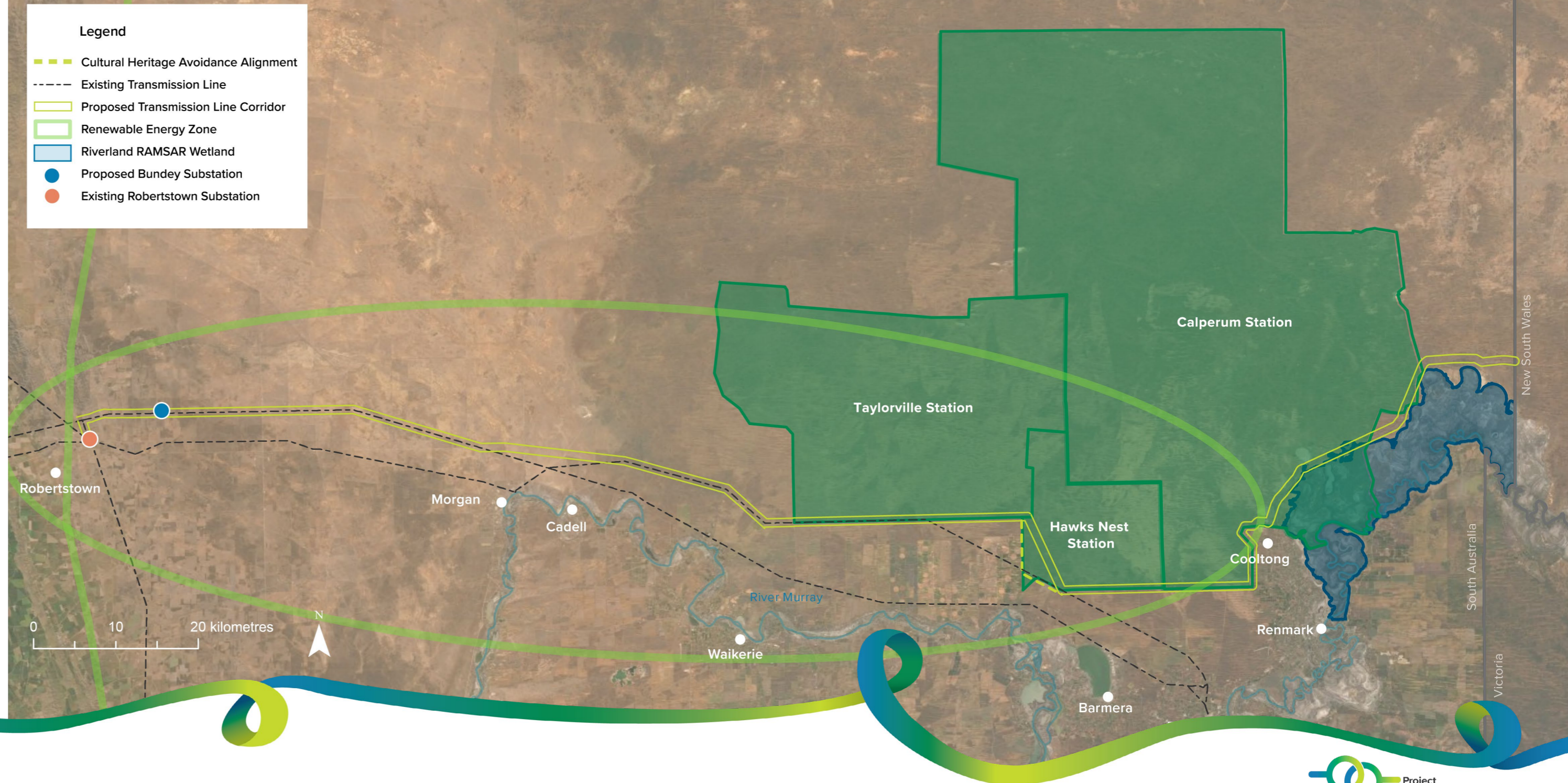
While the substation connection points are fixed, the approximately 900 km route between them is not. Given the significance of this distance, a rigorous route selection process has been used to determine where the proposed interconnector could be located.

The first step of the South Australian route selection process involved a review at a regional level of the potential environmental, social, engineering, cultural and land use constraints that are present. This enabled the team to identify 'no go' areas; and 'areas to be avoided where possible'. Potential opportunities to place the interconnector alongside areas that are already disturbed (such as existing transmission lines, roads, and fence lines) were also identified.

Investigation findings were tested with stakeholders and the results determined an initial 20 km wide investigation corridor for further evaluation and engagement.

Further analysis, including in-field ecological and cultural heritage surveys, feedback from landholders and other stakeholders, and a multi-criteria analysis of multiple route options was undertaken to narrow the investigation corridor. This analysis assisted in determining the proposed alignment carried forward, which has been assessed through the EIS process.

Subject to receiving the required Project approvals, detailed design will be undertaken on the basis of the technical studies to further refine and micro-site Project infrastructure to minimise potential impacts on environmental and social receptors. The detailed design process will be iterative and continually informed through ongoing landholder negotiations, stakeholder engagement and environmental management planning.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT AND APPROVALS PROCESS

Before ElectraNet is given permission to proceed with the Project, they are required to prepare and submit an EIS which assesses the potential impacts of the Project.

The Project was declared a Major Development under the *Development Act 1993* on 24 June 2019 due to its environmental, social and economic importance to SA. Approval to construct the Project is being sought under the Major Development provisions of the Act and the EIS will be assessed by the State Planning Commission.

The Project was also declared a 'Controlled Action' under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) on 17 July 2019 meaning that matters of national environmental significance potentially affected by the Project (such as listed threatened species and communities), will be assessed under the bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and SA Governments.

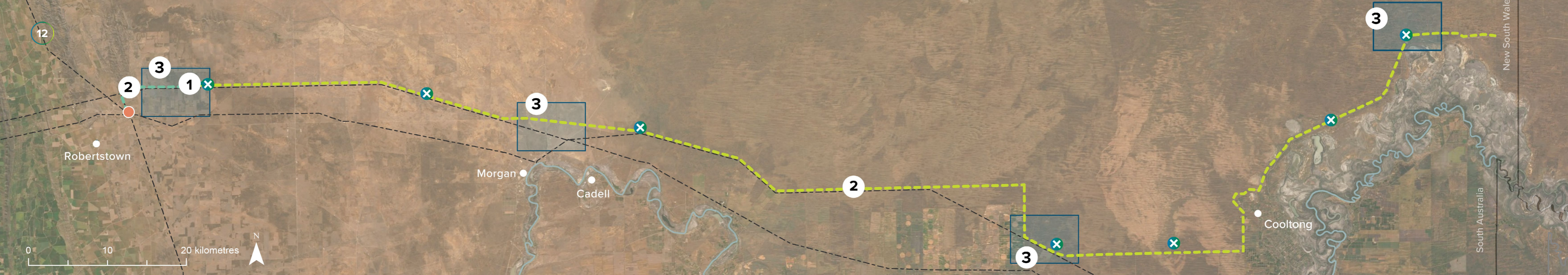
Guidelines which set out the major issues to be addressed by the EIS were developed by the State Planning Commission in collaboration with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and released on 20 November 2019.

To address these guidelines, the EIS process involves undertaking technical and scientific specialist studies to understand the types of potential environmental, social and economic impacts that may occur as a result of the construction and operation of the Project and suggest mitigation measures to minimise negative impacts and enhance positive impacts.

The EIS is placed on public exhibition and discussed with stakeholders, who have the opportunity to review the documents and make submissions to Planning and Land Use Services (PLUS-AGD). Copies of these submissions are then provided to ElectraNet, who will prepare a report responding to the issues or concerns raised. The SA and Commonwealth Governments then carry out an assessment process to determine whether the Project should be approved, and if so, any conditions to be applied to the approval.



The EIS is an important and iterative process that will inform the construction and operational requirements of the Project.



DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Key Infrastructure Components

A number of key components will need to be constructed in SA to enable the interconnection of both states.

1 New Bunday Substation

A new substation located at Bunday, towards the western extent of the transmission line, approximately 14 km north east of Robertstown, that will facilitate the increase in voltage required from the existing system (from 275 kV to 330 kV) and control the flow between the two systems.

2 New Double Circuit Transmission Line

Approximately 205 km of double circuit transmission line (275 kV and 330 kV) between Robertstown and the SA/NSW border, supported by steel lattice towers approximately 65 m in height and spaced approximately 400–600 m apart. The transmission line will be located in an easement approximately 80 m wide. Permanent access tracks will also be required within the easement and on adjacent properties to enable access to each tower location for construction and for operation and maintenance.

3 Potential Temporary Facilities

Associated temporary facilities (i.e. construction worker camps, site offices, laydown areas, mobile concrete batching plants, access corridors, helicopter staging sites and stringing pads).

Legend

- - - Proposed 275 kV Transmission Line
- - - Proposed 330 kV Transmission Line
- - - Existing Transmission Lines
- Indicative Location of Associated Temporary Facilities
- Existing Robertstown Substation
- ✕ Potential Helicopter Staging Sites

Key Construction Activities

Construction of the Project will require the use of multiple techniques and methods to achieve efficient and cost-effective delivery, whilst minimising environmental impacts wherever possible. Construction of the proposed substation and transmission line will primarily involve the following steps:

Enabling works which includes mobilisation activities ahead of formal construction to make ready the key construction sites and to manage specific features or risks to the Project. These activities will include:

- targeted ecological and cultural heritage micro siting surveys and demarcation of areas to avoid
- property surveys by a registered land surveyor
- geotechnical and contamination investigations and remediation activities (as required)
- other ground clearance and survey work, including road dilapidation surveys, surveys of existing utilities etc
- establishment of environmental management measures (as appropriate)

Site establishment which includes the construction of temporary worker construction camps and creation of access tracks to allow access to each tower location for both construction and operational maintenance. Existing tracks will be utilised where possible, however new access tracks will also be required. These will be designed in consultation with landholders and other key stakeholders to ensure least disturbance possible.

Construction of the Bunday substation which would include bulk earthworks, electrical works and pre-commissioning works.

Construction of the transmission line which will involve the following:

- construction of tower foundations and footings to support the towers. Drill rigs will be used to drill the foundations before fabricated steel cages are inserted and concrete poured
- delivery, assembly and erection of towers. Towers will be constructed in situ at each tower location or may be brought in via trucks or helicopter in areas with restricted access or particular environmental sensitivities

- temporary establishment of stringing corridors. Temporary access corridors will be required to allow the necessary equipment, such as winches and purpose-built stringing machines, to access the string conductors (wires)
- conductor stringing through the use of traditional or aerial techniques

Clean up and rehabilitation of areas of temporary disturbance such as stringing corridors, construction footprints, laydown areas and workers accommodation.



Key Operational Activities

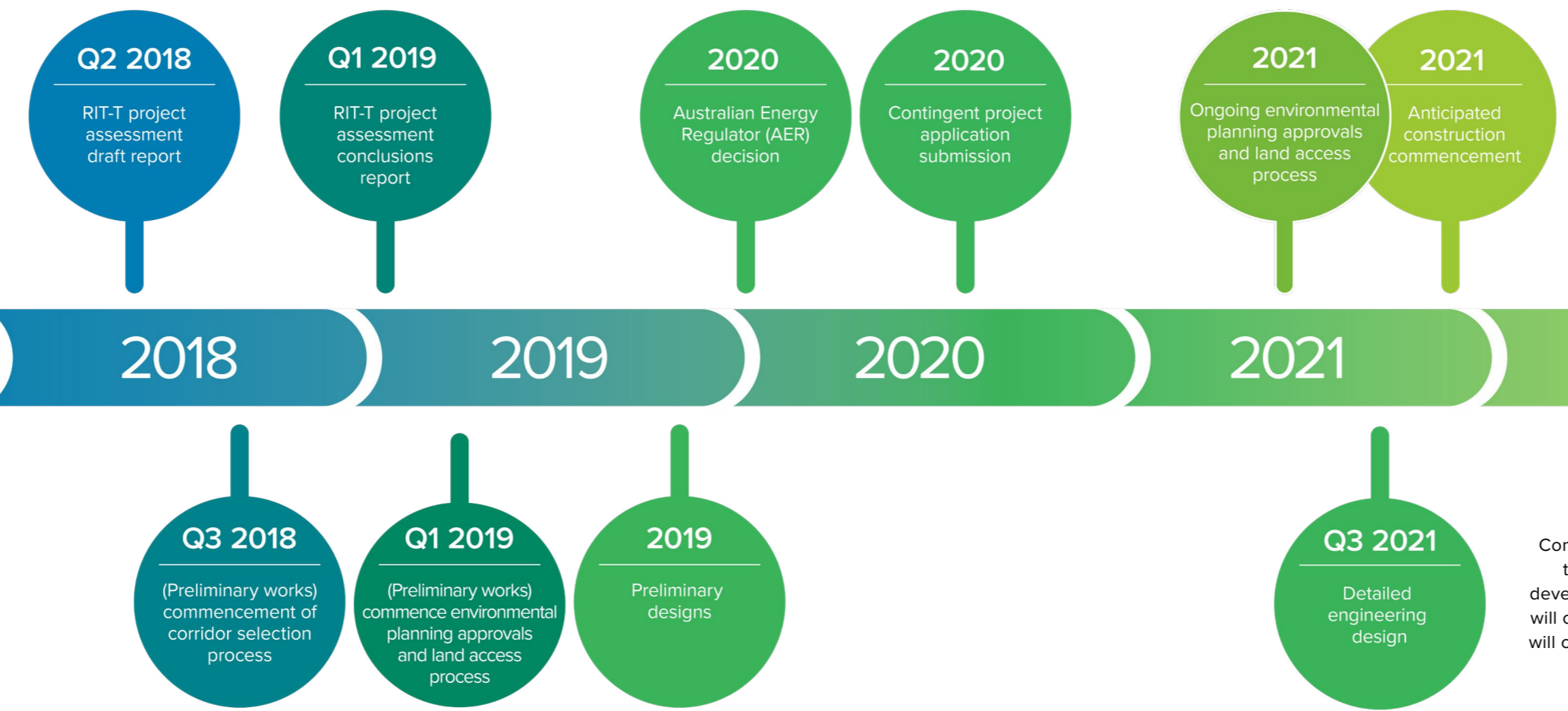
During operation, the transmission line will require very little ongoing maintenance. Access tracks to the transmission line towers would be retained for inspection and maintenance activities, predominantly by light vehicles. The maintenance program would typically involve one detailed ground inspection every three years for signs of unusual wear, structural integrity and corrosion or damage. Bird nest removal is also undertaken where required. Aerial inspections and maintenance would be undertaken annually. Insulators would typically be replaced every 25 years.

Extensive vegetation maintenance on the easement during operations is not expected to be required as the vegetation present is generally slow growing and at mature height. Where vegetation trimming is required, this is typically carried out every three to four years to allow for a three-year growth period. This may vary depending on the type of vegetation and speed of growth.

Although not anticipated, line or tower failures can happen and there may be the need to reintroduce heavy equipment, work crews, excavation and materials transport to isolated affected areas.

TIMING

Construction of the Project would commence once all access to land and necessary environmental, development and other approvals are received. ElectraNet anticipates that construction would take approximately 18 - 24 months to complete, with energisation occurring progressively through 2023. The operational life of the transmission line is expected to be 100 years.



Construction commencing during 2021 is subject to gaining all necessary environmental and developmental approvals. Construction completion will occur progressively through 2022 to 2023. We will continue to look for opportunities to deliver the Project as early as possible.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Engagement to Date

ElectraNet has been consulting with the local community, traditional owners, government and other key stakeholders throughout the development of the Project. Engagement activities commenced in 2018 during the route selection process and have been ongoing since.

Given the geographical extent of the Project, ElectraNet took an initial approach of combining face-to-face engagement and digital communication tools with the aim of reaching as many stakeholders as possible to capture maximum stakeholder feedback. In 2019, ElectraNet established a project specific website (www.projectenergyconnect.com.au) which has allowed stakeholders to continually receive and provide feedback as the Project has progressed.

Although extensive in-region engagement has been ongoing since 2018, more recently COVID-19 has resulted in limitations to both travel and face to face engagement. In response to this situation and to provide stakeholders with every opportunity to obtain information and provide meaningful feedback, ElectraNet launched an EIS Online Engagement Room via the Project website.

The engagement room was launched in two phases. The first phase provided details on the preliminary findings of the EIS through the use of short films, downloadable fact sheets and presentations, animations and interactive tools for the public and other stakeholders to access information and provide feedback. The second phase of the engagement room included a downloadable version of the EIS.

ElectraNet is committed to open and transparent engagement with stakeholders and community members throughout the EIS process and beyond and will continue to provide updates via the Project website, online engagement room and social media platforms.



WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS?

The primary purpose of the EIS is to identify and assess all key environmental, social and economic impacts arising from the Project. These potential impacts have been identified through a rigorous environmental impact assessment process, considering the EIS guidelines, the requirements of the SA and Commonwealth governments, specialist technical advice and through extensive engagement with stakeholders.

Proposed measures to mitigate the unavoidable impacts of the Project are also detailed in the EIS.



Land Use and Tenure



Key Findings

- For most of its length, the Project traverses heavily modified freehold agricultural land (primarily used for grazing) or pastoral leases (generally managed for conservation e.g. Taylorville and Calperum Stations and Chowilla Game Reserve). There are four separate native title areas within the Project study area.
- The Project avoids townships and settled areas on the River Murray (e.g. Morgan, Cadell, Waikerie, Barmera, Berri and Renmark).
- To limit the impact on properties and to ensure access to land is retained, the transmission line corridor has been designed to follow existing road reserves, infrastructure and / or property boundaries wherever possible. Extensive landholder engagement has occurred to inform the route selection process.

- Timing and location of construction activities will be planned in consultation with landholders. Disruption to property operations during the construction phase will be limited to the short period when construction is undertaken at each tower location.
- Land to be cleared for temporary construction purposes will be reinstated immediately after construction activities have concluded and will be undertaken in accordance with the agreement with the affected landholder and the Project Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- Following micro-siting surveys and detailed design, the final location of the easement will be negotiated with landholders and compensation paid for the permanent use of their land for the transmission line easement.

Key Commitments

ElectraNet will:

- continue consultation with landholders to ensure they are fully informed
- position towers and undertake construction activities in a way that considers potential impacts on landholder activities
- develop and implement a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure appropriate management of potential environmental and social impacts

Soils and Water

Key Findings

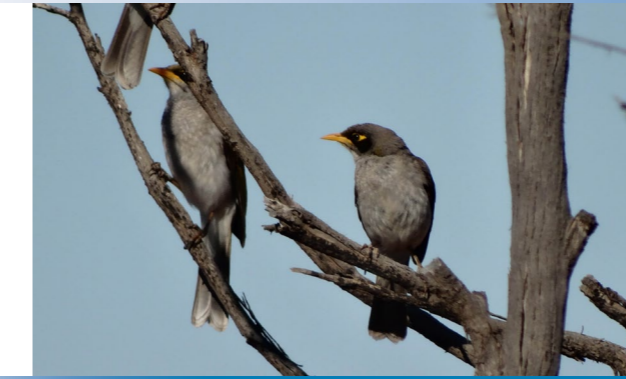
- Project activities including soil disturbance, wastewater disposal, use of fuels and chemicals and the ongoing presence of permanent infrastructure have the potential to impact soils, landform, surface and groundwater.
- Due to land slope and soil type, soils along the majority of the transmission line corridor have low water erosion potential, with a higher wind erosion potential in dunefield and sandplain areas. The potential for acid sulfate soils (ASS) is negligible.
- Surface water is limited along the transmission line corridor and the proposed alignment is never closer than 250 m from the Riverland Ramsar site and 5 km from the River Murray. Groundwater is mainly at depths greater than 20 m which limits the potential for secondary impacts of spills.
- Project infrastructure will be designed and positioned to minimise the possibility of water and wind erosion (e.g. avoiding steeper slopes, dunes crests or close proximity to watercourses).
- Project impacts on soils, landform and water are expected to be very minor, localised and short term. This will be achieved through the implementation of erosion and sediment controls, use of existing disturbed areas and avoidance of sensitive locations through micro-siting of towers.
- Rehabilitation of temporary disturbance areas and operational monitoring and remediation (if required) will prevent any ongoing impacts.

Key Commitments

ElectraNet will:

- develop and implement a CEMP to manage potential environmental and social impacts during construction
- rehabilitate areas of temporary disturbance as appropriate
- manage wastewater in accordance with the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy and other relevant guidelines
- store and handle fuel, oil and chemicals on site in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines

Flora and Fauna



Key Findings

- Within South Australia, Project EnergyConnect traverses a range of landscapes and vegetation types, from cleared farmland and bluebush plains, to large tracts of mallee woodland.
- Some of the vegetation types present provide important habitat for species such as the nationally endangered Black-eared Miner and the nationally Vulnerable Malleefowl. The proposed route skirts Taylorville and Calperum Stations, where there are extensive areas of old growth mallee.
- Minimising clearance of native vegetation has been a primary consideration in route selection for the Project. As a result, the proposed route follows existing disturbed corridors as far as possible, in particular the southern boundary of Taylorville and Calperum Stations to avoid core areas of critical habitat for the Black-eared Miner.
- A range of ecology (flora and fauna) surveys and assessments have been undertaken by independent specialists for the Project. These studies, along with extensive stakeholder consultation, have played a key part in selecting the route, refining the Project design, and understanding potential impacts. These studies

included vegetation and habitat assessments, threatened mallee bird assessments, and wetland birds assessments.

- Flora: Very few threatened plant species were detected in surveys or are likely to be present. The nationally Endangered Peep Hill Hop-bush was the only threatened plant species found on the alignment near a known population. This species or any others detected in pre-construction surveys can be avoided by tower placement and access track alignment. There are also very limited records for other plant species of conservation significance (e.g. two State Rare species, Mallee Bitter-pea and Rohrlach's Bluebush).
- Mallee birds: The proposed route avoids areas of dense mallee habitat located around the central part of the alignment which have records of Black-eared Miner from the last 20 years (including several records from the Threatened Mallee Birds study). Based on the study, specialists concluded that the Project is unlikely to lead to unacceptable increased impacts to threatened mallee birds.
- Wetland birds: The wetland birds assessment concluded that the likelihood of bird collision with a transmission line is relatively low, particularly with mitigation measures such as bird diverters on conductors. Any potential impacts to individual species are not significant when overall population numbers are considered.
- Disturbance: Other potential impacts such as habitat fragmentation, weed spread, hybridisation of Black-eared Miners, fire risk and disturbance during construction are assessed in the EIS. The potential impacts have been mitigated by selecting a route that follows existing disturbances

such as transmission lines and tracks, and can be effectively managed during construction.

- Impacts can be further mitigated: Further survey work will be undertaken during detailed design, including on-ground ecological inspection and micro-siting of proposed tower and access track locations to ensure that there are no unacceptable impacts.
- Independent specialist studies have demonstrated that with the route selected and the management measures proposed, there will be no significant impact to flora and fauna.

Key Commitments

ElectraNet will:

- develop and implement a CEMP and Fire Hazard Management Plan to ensure appropriate management of potential environmental impacts
- undertake micro-siting ecology surveys following detailed design and prior to construction to further avoid potential impacts to flora and fauna
- develop and lodge a native vegetation clearance application which will include offsets via a commensurate SEB for the Project, as required under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
- undertake progressive rehabilitation of temporary construction areas as per the CEMP and native vegetation clearance approval
- undertake vegetation clearance in accordance with ElectraNet's principles and the *Principles of Vegetation Clearance Regulations 2010 (SA)*
- install marker balls and bird diverters as appropriate

Cultural Heritage



Key Findings

Aboriginal Cultural heritage

- The Project is located on country traditionally owned by the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region and the Ngadjuri Nation, which includes areas of registered native title determination and native title claims, and a registered Indigenous Land Use Agreement. Extensive consultation and field surveys have been undertaken with representatives of the Traditional Owners and agreements have or will be entered into to ensure cultural heritage values are protected and the views of the Traditional Owners are respected as the Project is developed.
- There are Aboriginal heritage sites registered and recorded within 20 km of the Project, as well as restricted areas in the general vicinity. ElectraNet has agreed to move the alignment to avoid those sites and to implement a buffer to protect them.

- Additional mitigation measures to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage include a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, cultural heritage awareness training as part of standard inductions for field staff and contractors, and development of discovery and reporting procedures.

Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

- No impacts are expected to non-Aboriginal cultural heritage. There is one State Heritage place approximately 1.5 km from the proposed alignment which will be avoided by all Project activities. There are no Commonwealth, National or local heritage places in the area of the Project.

Key Commitments

ElectraNet will:

- enter Aboriginal Heritage Agreements with Traditional Owners to ensure Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values are protected
- prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to ensure protection of identified sites
- include cultural heritage requirements and responsibilities of staff and contractors in the Project CEMP to be developed prior to the commencement of the Project
- develop procedures for discovery, reporting and protection of previously unknown sites, objects or remains

Visual Amenity



Before and After: Renmark - Wentworth Road

Key Findings

- The transmission line towers will be visible as tall artificial structures contrasting with the generally natural landscape. However the potential visual impacts have largely been mitigated by detailed route selection which avoids towns, residences and scenic tourism locations where possible, and aligns the Project with existing transmission infrastructure corridors and disturbed areas.
- Visual impact modelling shows that the vast majority of social receptors in the visual impact study area will not have views of the transmission line. The Project will not be visible from Morgan, Cadell, Renmark or the River Murray and line of sight will be intermittent and short term for road users in the vicinity of the Project. Areas of conservation importance, such as Calperum and Taylorville Stations have a low number of visitors to the locations close to the alignment which reduces the overall level of impact.
- Some residents in Cooltong are likely to experience higher levels of visual impact but views in this area will be mitigated to some extent by vegetation shielding in the vicinity of most of the properties, and the presence of existing electricity distribution infrastructure.
- Residents east of Robertstown may observe Project infrastructure in the distance, however these views will not be dominant. The Bunday substation and connecting transmission line towers will be more than 5 km away and will be largely shielded by topographic barriers.
- Visual impacts from land clearance and lighting at temporary construction camps and laydown areas, movement of construction vehicles and maintenance activities will not result in significant negative visual impacts. These activities will be localised and short term. Temporarily cleared areas will be rehabilitated once construction activities are completed.

Key Commitments

ElectraNet will:

- ensure good housekeeping at all sites and that areas are screened, where practical, to reduce any potential visual impacts

Air Quality

Key Findings

- Dust generated during project construction activities has the potential to impact air quality. The transmission line corridor is sparsely populated with two residences that could be impacted by dust from Project activities.
- Dust suppression measures including watering, minimising potential for wind erosion, visual monitoring of dust generation and progressive rehabilitation of temporary construction areas will be implemented, resulting in small scale, temporary impacts confined to the immediate vicinity of the disturbance footprint.
- Operational activities are not expected to cause any adverse public nuisance or public health impacts from dust generation.
- The contribution to state and national greenhouse gas emissions from Project-related land clearing and fuel combustion have been assessed as negligible.

Key Commitments

ElectraNet will:

- where necessary, include dust suppression and management measures in the Project CEMP to be developed prior to Project commencement
- ensure emissions control equipment is installed, used and maintained on fixed and mobile plant and equipment
- undertake ongoing consultation with affected landholders and development of a complaint register and corrective action program

Noise



Key Findings

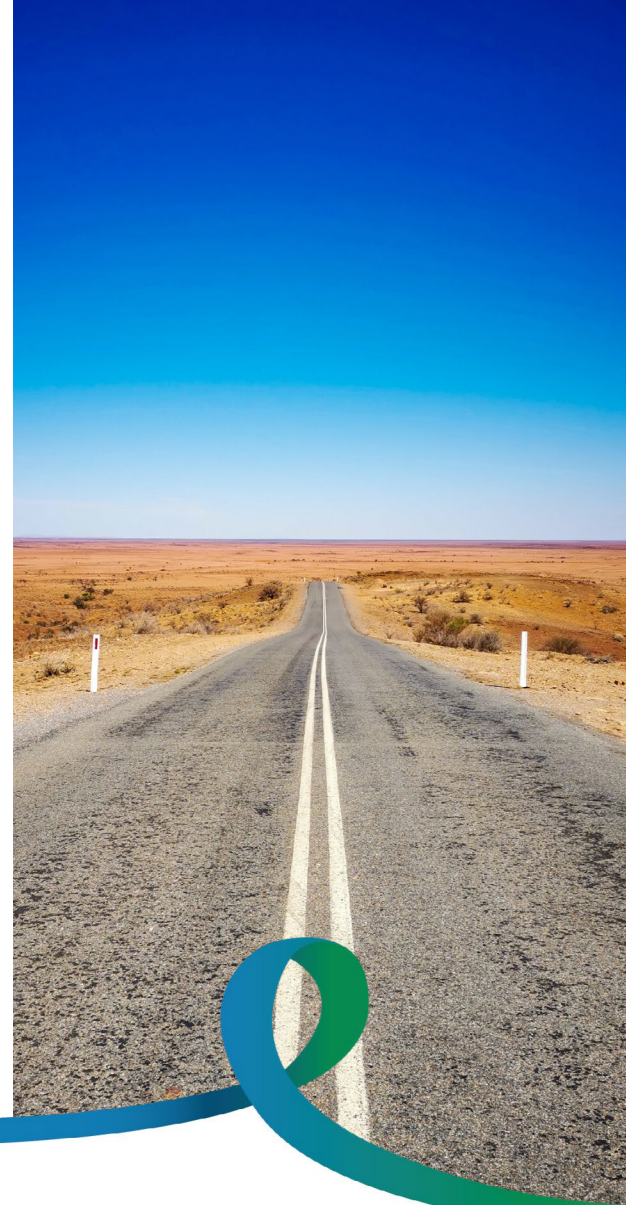
- Audible levels of noise will be produced by the Project during the construction phase, however, these noise levels will be temporary in nature and are expected to vary on a day-to-day basis depending on the construction activities being undertaken. Primary sources of noise during construction will be associated with equipment used during construction activities, which may include:
 - Heavy earthmoving equipment used for preparation of land around the new Bunday substation and at tower locations along the proposed transmission line alignment
 - Excavators, concrete trucks, mobile concrete batching plants, semi-trailer deliveries, a helicopter and mobile cranes used for construction of the Bunday substation and installation of towers (including foundations, assembly and erection)
- Helicopter and winches for conductor stringing.
- Operational noise from the Project will be produced by annual helicopter inspections and maintenance, which involves visually checking the condition of the transmission line from a flyover; corona discharge noise from the transmission line under worst case weather conditions and from the operation of the Bunday substation.
- Noise modelling has been undertaken to predict the potential noise levels at noise sensitive receptors for both construction and operation of the proposed Project. All predicted noise levels associated with construction activities were found to be minor and short term and with appropriate mitigation measures may be effectively managed. All predicted noise levels associated with operations and maintenance were found to be negligible.

Key Commitments

ElectraNet will:

- include noise management measures in the Project CEMP to be developed prior to commencement of the Project
- implement a complaints management plan
- enforce altered working hours or respite periods if necessary
- conduct ongoing stakeholder engagement (particularly with receptors close to the proposed alignment)
- consider the distance to the nearest receptor from the location of each work area and plan noisier construction works accordingly

Traffic



Key Findings

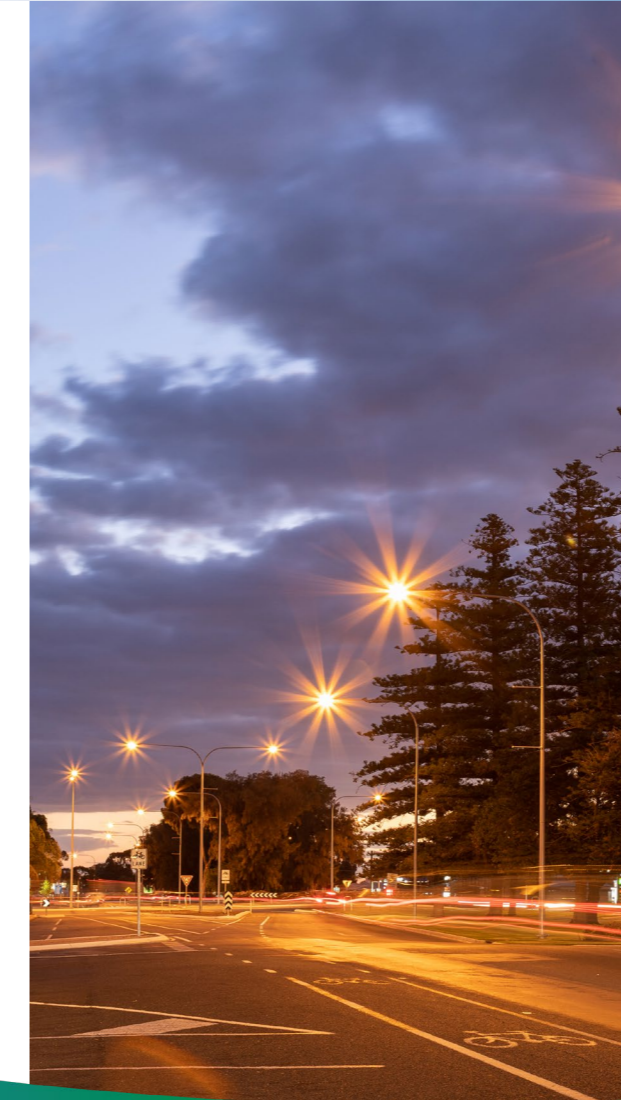
- The Project will generate traffic above existing levels with the highest volumes of Project traffic experienced during the construction phase, where tower components and construction materials will need to be transported to site. Traffic during the operational phase will be negligible.
- The traffic impact assessment concluded that expected traffic volumes during construction will not significantly affect the level of service or safety for any roads used by the Project.
- The increase in heavy vehicle movements will be in addition to an existing low volume of traffic. Delays from oversize loads delivered to site will be short-term and infrequent.

Key Commitments

ElectraNet will:

- implement a Traffic Management Plan for the construction phase of the Project
- consult prior to construction with the appropriate roads authority regarding works which may affect roads or traffic
- undertake road pre-condition surveys on construction haulage routes prior to the commencement of construction in consultation with relevant councils and road owners
- obtain permits from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) where required to provide oversized and overmass vehicles access during construction

Socio-Economic



Key Findings

- The study area for assessment of socio-economic impacts includes the council regions of Berri Barmera, Goyder, Loxton Waikerie, Mid Murray, and Renmark Paringa.
- The study assessed the potential impacts of the Project on a range of indicators including employment, labour availability, social cohesion, accommodation, tourism, landholder operations and electricity supply.
- The small number of workers sourced from within the study area is expected to have a negligible and temporary effect on the labour market.
- Use of temporary construction camps will result in negligible to no impact on local housing, rental and visitor accommodation availability or affordability during construction or operation. As workers accommodated in temporary workers camps will only have brief and transient opportunities for contact with local residents, construction camps are expected to have negligible social disruption effects. Similarly impacts on provision of local services will be negligible.
- As no impacts to visitor activity are expected, economic impacts to tourism will be negligible.
- Ongoing consultation with landholders, as well as design controls, will reduce the impacts associated with increased access to properties, disruption to activities, land clearance and fragmentation to negligible or minor levels.
- Positive benefits at a local level will include the economic impact of capital expenditure for the Project, job creation and local employment during construction. The Project will enable further renewable energy projects, such as wind, solar and battery storage to be developed in the region. State, regional and local power prices and investment attraction is expected to result once the Project is built.

Key Commitments

ElectraNet will:

- continue to consult with directly affected councils, landowners and local residents throughout the planning and delivery of the Project to ensure negative impacts are managed and positive impacts are enhanced
- conduct ongoing stakeholder engagement (particularly with receptors close to the proposed alignment)

HOW TO RECEIVE FUTURE INFORMATION AND MAKE SUBMISSIONS

Public exhibition of the EIS

The EIS will be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 30 business days from a date to be determined by the government. The public exhibition of the EIS is the government's formal consultation with stakeholders, providing an opportunity for all interested parties to read about the Project and submit questions or comments to government who will make a decision on whether to approve the Project.

When published, there will be a variety of different ways for stakeholders to view, download and provide comment on the environmental, social and economic impact assessments that ElectraNet undertook as part of the EIS process. These include via:

- the SA Government's SA Planning Portal https://plan.sa.gov.au/state_snapshot/development_activity/major_projects/majors/south_australiansw_electricity_interconnector
- the Project EnergyConnect website www.projectenergyconnect.com.au
- the Project EnergyConnect online EIS Engagement Room https://lnkd.in/gp_DcCj

- the interactive hubs located the following locations:
 - ElectraNet Head office reception - 55/52 East Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000
 - Remark Paringa Council - 61 Eighteenth Street Renmark
 - Waikerie Library and Visitors Centre – Strangman Road, Waikerie, 5330
 - Berri Library - Kay Ave, Berri SA 5343
 - Barmera Library - 4 Barwell Ave, Barmera SA 5345.

In addition, during the public exhibition process the PLUS-AGD may facilitate one or more community meetings to provide a further opportunity for stakeholders to hear about the Project and provide feedback.

EIS response phase

All submissions received on the EIS during the public exhibition process will be reviewed by ElectraNet, and all matters raised will be addressed in a Response Document. Together, the EIS and Response Document will form the final application to government for the assessment and consideration of Project approval.

Ongoing community feedback

ElectraNet is focused on developing the Project in a manner that generates maximum benefit for the broader South Australian community. Extensive engagement and communication activities and channels have enabled ElectraNet to gain a strong understanding of potential issues and benefits the Project may bring.

ElectraNet is committed to open and transparent engagement with stakeholders and community members throughout the EIS process and beyond and will continue to provide updates via the Project website, virtual engagement room and social media platforms.



Project EnergyConnect Contact Details

Web: www.projectenergyconnect.com.au

Telephone: 1800 560 577

Email: ProjectEnergyConnect@electranet.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectEnergyConnect>

