



Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited
trading as:

Powerlink Queensland

EPBC Approval: 2021/9060

Powerlink Queensland Genex
Kidston Connection Project, QLD

Compliance Report

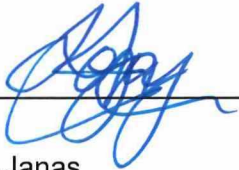
Reporting Period:

11 October 2022 – 10 October 2023

Declaration of Accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed



Full name (please print)

Tony Janas

Position (please print)

Project Director, Genex Kidston Connection

Organisation (please print including ABN/ACN if applicable):

Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited trading as Powerlink Queensland.

ABN: 8207 8849 233

Date

18 / 12 / 2023

Document Control

Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
Caitlin Monti 4/12/2023	Tegun Middleton 15/12/2023	Tony Janas

The signed original is kept by Powerlink Qld



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1. Purpose of the Report

This report is the first compliance report required under EPBC Act Approval (EPBC 2021/9060), under condition 28 for the reporting period 11/10/2022 – 10/10/2023. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Annual Compliance Report guidelines, Commonwealth of Australia 2014 (referred to as Annual Compliance Report Guidelines) and includes:

- Project details (Section 1)
- Description of the activities completed during the reporting period (Section 2.1)
- An assessment of compliance against conditions imposed by EPBC approval (Section 3)
- A declaration of accuracy signed off by the Project Director

2. Project Details

Table 1: Project Details

EPBC Approval Number	EPBC 2021/9060
Project Name	Powerlink Queensland Genex Kidston Connection Project, QLD
Approval Holder	Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited trading as Powerlink Queensland
Approval Holder ABN	82 078 849 233
Approved Action	To construct and operate an electricity transmission line, up to 186 km long, and switching station connecting the Kidston Renewable Energy Hub to the existing transmission network at Mount Fox, Queensland
Project Location	Kidston, North Queensland
Person accepting responsibility for the report	Tony Janas, Project Director
Reporting Period	11 October 2022 – 10 October 2023
Date Report Prepared	15 December 2023

2.1. Description of Activities

As part of the Kidston Renewable Energy Hub, Genex Power Limited (Genex) is constructing a combination of solar and pump storage hydro, power generation facility at the old Kidston mine in northwest Queensland. To facilitate connection of this renewable energy hub to the existing transmission network at Mount Fox, Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (trading as Powerlink Queensland) is constructing a new 275 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission infrastructure project known as the Genex Kidston Connection Project (the Project).



The Project comprises the following components:

- a) a 275 kV switching station proposed in the locality of Mount Fox, Queensland (the Guybal Munjan^R Switching Station¹)
- b) an 186 kilometre (km) 275 kV single circuit transmission line between Guybal Munjan^R switching station at Mount Fox and the Kidston Renewable Energy Hub (the 'transmission line') and ancillary infrastructure including:
 - Access tracks
 - Firebreaks
 - Site amenities
 - Laydown areas.

The Project was determined to be a controlled action requiring approval under *the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 3 November 2021. The Project was assessed by preliminary documentation and subsequently approved with conditions by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) on 10 October 2022. Commencement of the action in accordance with the EPBC Act approval occurred on 11 October 2022.

A variation to EPBC Approval 2021/9060 was issued on 31 March 2023 by DCCEEW. Details of the variation are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Variations to Approval EPBC 2021/9060

Date	Details of the variation				
31/03/2023	<p>The variation is:</p> <p>1. Delete condition 17 of the approval, and substitute with the condition specified in the table below</p> <table><tr><th>Original condition (key changes only)</th><th>Variation Condition (key change highlighted)</th></tr><tr><td><p>17. The approval holder must mitigate and manage impacts to protected matters through:</p><p>c. ensuring a fauna spotter-catcher will be present during all habitat clearance activities, with the authority to cease habitat clearance for an appropriate timeframe where one or more protected matters could be impacted and must include:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">i. canopy searches for Koalas;ii. canopy and suitably sized tree hollow inspections for Greater Gliders (Northern); andiii. flushing for Squatter Pigeons in potential Squatter Pigeon habitat.</td><td><p>17. The approval holder must mitigate and manage impacts to protected matters through:</p><p>c. ensuring a fauna spotter-catcher will be present during all habitat clearance activities.</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The fauna spotter-catcher must have authority to cease habitat clearance for an appropriate timeframe where one or more protected matters could be impacted, andii. The fauna spotter-catcher must undertake:<ul style="list-style-type: none">I. canopy searches for Koalas in all potential Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) habitat;II. canopy and suitably sized tree hollow inspections for Greater Gliders (Northern); andIII. flushing for Squatter Pigeons in all potential Squatter Pigeon habitat.</td></tr></table>	Original condition (key changes only)	Variation Condition (key change highlighted)	<p>17. The approval holder must mitigate and manage impacts to protected matters through:</p> <p>c. ensuring a fauna spotter-catcher will be present during all habitat clearance activities, with the authority to cease habitat clearance for an appropriate timeframe where one or more protected matters could be impacted and must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. canopy searches for Koalas;ii. canopy and suitably sized tree hollow inspections for Greater Gliders (Northern); andiii. flushing for Squatter Pigeons in potential Squatter Pigeon habitat.	<p>17. The approval holder must mitigate and manage impacts to protected matters through:</p> <p>c. ensuring a fauna spotter-catcher will be present during all habitat clearance activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The fauna spotter-catcher must have authority to cease habitat clearance for an appropriate timeframe where one or more protected matters could be impacted, andii. The fauna spotter-catcher must undertake:<ul style="list-style-type: none">I. canopy searches for Koalas in all potential Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) habitat;II. canopy and suitably sized tree hollow inspections for Greater Gliders (Northern); andIII. flushing for Squatter Pigeons in all potential Squatter Pigeon habitat.
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¹ **About the Guybal Munjan^R Switching Station:** The name Guybal Munjan is the Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property of the Gugu Badhun Aboriginal Corporation (GBAC) and is a registered trade mark owned by the GBAC. Powerlink is working with GBAC to negotiate a formal agreement for the respectful use of the name.



	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Delete the definitions of project area, Greater Glider (Northern) (<i>Petauroides minor</i>) habitat, Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) habitat, Sharman's Rock Wallaby (<i>Petrogale sharmani</i>) habitat, Squatter Pigeon (Southern) (<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>) breeding habitat and Squatter Pigeon (Southern) (<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>) foraging habitat attached to the approval and substitute with the definitions as specified in the variation decision notice3. Delete Attachment A of the approval and substitute with the Attachment A as specified in the variation decision notice4. Revoke Attachment B5. Add new attachments Attachment B1, Attachment B2, Attachment B3 and Attachment B4 as specified in the variation decision notice
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2.2. Works Undertaken During the Reporting Period

The action is currently in the construction phase. Works undertaken during the reporting period include vegetation clearing, civil works, and construction of infrastructure and associated electrical works. Construction works are overseen by the approval holder, with majority of works being undertaken by UGL Engineering Pty Ltd (Principal Contractor).

The following work commenced during the reporting period and is still in progress as at the end of the reporting period:

- Cultural heritage surveys and monitoring;
- Vegetation clearing;
- Earthworks and tower foundations;
- Access track works;
- Guybal Munjan^R Substation construction; and
- Construction of temporary and permanent waterway crossings.

Based on the current project schedule, vegetation clearing works are planned for completion by 31 March 2024, with the project construction planned to be completed by 30 July 2024.

2.3. New Environmental Risks

Powerlink is not aware of any new environmental risks that have become apparent during the reporting period.

3. Approval Compliance

3.1. Compliance Assessment

This compliance assessment has been developed to address requirements set out in Section 3.6 of the *Annual Compliance Report Guidelines*. Results of this assessment are provided in Table 2. Compliance designations applied for the assessment are as per Section 3.7 of the aforementioned standard, and are reproduced below:

1. Compliant: 'Compliance' is achieved when all the requirements of a condition have been met, including the implementation of management plans or other measures required by those conditions.
2. Non-compliant: A designation of 'non-compliant' must be given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition, including the implementation of management plans and other measures, have not been met.



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



Table 3 – Compliance Assessment

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation																		
Part A – Conditions Specific to the Action																					
Maximum Clearing Limits																					
1	The approval holder must not clear outside the project area .	Compliant	<p>Vegetation clearing activities are progressively being completed across the project. All clearing works completed from project commencement (11.10.2022) to 15.09.2023 (the latest spatial and survey data available approaching the end of the reporting period) have been located within the project area.</p> <p>To date, vegetation clearing works have been completed across approx. 50% of the project area.</p>																		
2	<p>The approval holder must not clear more than the following:</p> <p>a. 67.91 ha of Greater Glider (Northern) (<i>Petauroides minor</i>) habitat</p> <p>b. 626.01 ha of Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) habitat</p> <p>c. 17.09 ha of Sharman’s Rock Wallaby (<i>Petrogale sharmani</i>) habitat</p> <p>d. 44.81 ha of Squatter Pigeon (Southern) (<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>) foraging habitat</p> <p>e. 195.18 ha of Squatter Pigeon (Southern) (<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>) breeding habitat</p>	Compliant	<p>Spatial analysis and survey works are progressively being completed to track final disturbance footprint. To date, vegetation clearing works have been completed across approx. 50% of the project area. Progress clearing to date has been verified in field with survey and GPS devices. Current status of actual clearance is calculated in table below.</p> <table><tr><th>MNES Species Habitat</th><th>Permitted Clearance (ha)</th><th>Actual Clearance as at 15 September 2023</th></tr><tr><td>Sharmans Rock Wallaby</td><td>17.09</td><td>16.39</td></tr><tr><td>Greater Glider</td><td>67.91</td><td>47.64</td></tr><tr><td>Koala</td><td>626.01</td><td>399.00</td></tr><tr><td>Squatter Pigeon (Foraging)</td><td>44.81</td><td>30.05</td></tr><tr><td>Squatter Pigeon (Breeding)</td><td>195.18</td><td>59.73</td></tr></table> <p>Following completion of the vegetation clearing and access works, high resolution imagery using LiDAR capture will be completed across the entire project footprint to confirm the total disturbance footprint.</p>	MNES Species Habitat	Permitted Clearance (ha)	Actual Clearance as at 15 September 2023	Sharmans Rock Wallaby	17.09	16.39	Greater Glider	67.91	47.64	Koala	626.01	399.00	Squatter Pigeon (Foraging)	44.81	30.05	Squatter Pigeon (Breeding)	195.18	59.73
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Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
Environmental Offset Requirements			
3	Prior to commencement of the action the approval holder must make a payment to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy of \$196,720 (GST exclusive and indexed in line with CPI on the date of this approval) to compensate for the clearance of habitat for the Sharman's Rock Wallaby . The approval holder must provide evidence in writing to the department that this financial contribution has been paid to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy , within 10 business days of the payment.	Compliant	Payment of \$216,392.00 was made from Powerlink Qld to Australian Wildlife Conservancy on 11.10.2022. Confirmation of this payment was submitted to DCCEEW via email dated 12.10.2022.
4	To compensate for the clearance of habitat for the Greater Glider (Northern) , Koala and Squatter Pigeon (Southern) up to the limits specified in condition 2, the approval holder must provide offsets in accordance with the Environmental offsets policy .	Compliant	Environmental offsets are being delivered in accordance with the Offset Area Management Plan (OAMP).
5	The approval holder must implement the approved Offset Area Management Plan (OAMP) for the Greater Glider (Northern) , Koala and Squatter Pigeon (Southern) offsets specified in condition 4 for the duration of the approval.	Compliant	The approved OAMP (version dated 11 Aug 2022) is being implemented in accordance with its terms.
6	The approval holder must demonstrate a net conservation gain to the Greater Glider (Northern) , Koala and Squatter Pigeon (Southern) within five years of the commencement of the action .	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period. Criteria timeframe has not elapsed.
7	In addition to implementing the OAMP , within five years of the commencement of the action , the approval holder must ensure that evidence is provided to the department that the Squatter Pigeon (Southern) has been detected within the offset site.	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period. Criteria timeframe has not elapsed.
8	If the Squatter Pigeon (Southern) has not been detected, the approval holder must provide additional environmental offsets within 6 months that are in accordance with the Environmental offsets policy and approved by the Minister in writing.	Not applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period. Criteria timeframe has not elapsed.



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
Offset Implementation Reporting			
9	<p>Sixty business days after the end of each two-year period from the date of this approval, until the expiry of this approval, the approval holder must submit to the department, and publish on their website, for the remainder of the period of the approval, a report specifying in detail the progress (or lack thereof) towards achieving and/or maintaining each of the completion criteria specified in the OAMP.</p> <p>The report must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) include the outcomes achieved with respect to each interim performance target in the period since this approval decision; b) detail the outcomes achieved with respect to each interim performance target in the last five years; c) describe the results and effectiveness of all management actions implemented during the last five years; d) include all monitoring results, including all confirmed sightings of protected matters in a format consistent with the Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data; e) detail any interim performance targets not met, describe all corrective actions taken and evaluate their effectiveness; and f) Identify any further corrective actions and/or adaptive management actions required to meet interim performance targets and/or completion criteria. <p>Once any completion criterion is achieved, the approval holder must manage the offset area(s) described in the OAMP to maintain that completion criterion for the remaining duration of this approval.</p>	Not Applicable	<p>The approved OAMP (version dated 11 Aug 2022) is being implemented in accordance with its terms. On site works commenced on the 22.08.2023.</p> <p>The reporting requirement under this condition falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.</p>



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
10	Within 60 business days after the end of 20 years from the date of this approval decision, the approval holder must submit a report that documents whether or not the entire offset area(s) described in the OAMP has/have fully achieved and maintained the completion criteria specified in the OAMP .	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.
11	If any completion criterion has not been achieved within 20 years from the date of this approval decision, the approval holder must, within 6 months after the end of 20 years from the date of this approval decision, submit to the department a Supplementary Offset Area Management Plan to address the shortfall in environmental offsets consistent with the Environmental offsets policy . This Supplementary Offset Area Management Plan must be approved by the Minister in writing within 10 months of the end of 20 years from the date of this approval decision.	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.
12	If a Supplementary Offset Area Management Plan is required in accordance with condition 10 and the Supplementary Offset Area Management Plan has not been approved by the Minister in writing within 10 months of the end of 20 years from the date of this approval decision, and the Minister notifies the approval holder that no Supplementary Offset Area Management Plan is suitable for approval, the Minister may, at least two months after notifying the approval holder, approve a version of the Supplementary Offset Area Management Plan prepared or revised by the department . The approval holder must implement the approved Supplementary Offset Area Management Plan, or any subsequent version of the Supplementary Offset Area Management Plan approved by the Minister in writing, for the remaining duration of this approval.	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
Legally Securing Offsets			
13	The approval holder must legally secure the offset area(s) described in the OAMP within 12 months from the date of the commencement of the action . The OAMP must be attached to the legal mechanism used to legally secure the offset area(s).	Not applicable during the reporting period	<p>The deadline for compliance with this condition falls on the day after the end of this reporting period. As at the end of the reporting period, the offset area was not yet legally secured per the definition of 'legally secure' under the Approval.</p> <p>'Legally secure/ing' means to provide ongoing conservation protection on the title of the land, under an enduring protection mechanism, such as a voluntary declaration under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i> (Qld) or another enduring protection mechanism agreed to in writing by the department, to provide in perpetuity protection for the site against development incompatible with conservation.</p> <p>On 2 February 2023, Powerlink acquired the offset land and is now the registered lessee of the land (a rolling term lease over State land under the <i>Land Act 1994</i>).</p> <p>On 26 July 2023, Powerlink submitted a request to the Queensland Department of Resources for a voluntary declaration to legally secure the offset. As at the deadline (being 11 October 2023)</p> <p>Prior to the deadline under the Approval, Powerlink sought an extension from DCCEEW's Post-Approvals division for compliance with this condition to allow additional time for the Department of Resources to consider Powerlink's request for the Voluntary Declaration. The requested extension was not approved.</p> <p>Powerlink further notified DCCEEW (Compliance and EPBC Monitoring emails) of the non-compliance on 24 October 2023 as a result of the ongoing delay faced in finalising legal security of the offset by way of a voluntary declaration. Since that time, active steps have been taken to seek alternative or interim legal security of the offset and to escalate the consideration of the request for the voluntary declaration by the Department of Resources.</p> <p>As at the date this report was finalised, Powerlink has received a draft offer from the Department of Resources regarding the proposed voluntary declaration, has reviewed and responded to the Department and is awaiting instructions for the finalisation of the voluntary declaration. Once finalised, compliance with this condition will be achieved.</p> <p>Powerlink has been in regular contact with DCCEEW's Compliance division regarding this matter and the corrective and mitigation actions taken by Powerlink.</p>



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
14	The approval holder must provide to the department evidence of the legal mechanism used to legally secure the offset area(s) within 12 months from the date of the commencement of the action .	Not applicable	As above regarding condition 13. As soon as the voluntary declaration is finalised with the Department of Resources, Powerlink will provide evidence of this to the DCCEEW and compliance with this condition will be achieved.
15	The legal mechanism used to legally secure the offset area(s) described in the OAMP must remain in force from the date of obtaining legal security for at least the duration of this approval.	Not applicable	Once the offset is legally secured, the legal mechanism to secure offset will remain in force.
Mitigation Measures			
16	The approval holder must implement the mitigation measures outlined in Section 8 of Appendix E of the Preliminary Documentation .	Non-compliant for one instance	<p>Mitigation measures have been implemented as outlined in Section 8 of the MNES Plan (Appendix E of Preliminary Documentation) except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One instance of habitat clearing where a spotter catcher was not present during clearing works. This incident was reported to DCCEEW on 08.02.2023. <p>Steps taken to ensure compliance include Fauna Spotter Catchers are present during all clearing activities, including completion of pre and post clearing inspections, flushing of squatter pigeon habitat areas, canopy searches for koalas and inspections of hollows for Greater Gliders prior to hollow relocation.</p> <p>Appendix A provides a summary of compliance against each mitigation measure.</p>
17	The approval holder must mitigate and manage impacts to protected matters through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensuring that all vehicles travel no faster than 40 km/hr within the project area; 	Compliant	A speed limit of 40/km per hour is enforced across all access tracks within the project area.



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
17	b) using measures to prevent injury to protected matters during clearance of the project area .	Compliant	<p>Project Environmental Management Plan and subsequent management plans outlines measures to prevent injury to protected matters during vegetation clearing works. These measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delineation of project disturbance areas; • fauna spotter catchers being present during clearing works; • pre and post clearing inspections of disturbed area to remove any fauna; • canopy searches for koalas; • Inspections of hollows for Greater Gliders; • Flushing of squatter pigeon habitat prior to works commencing; • Implementing sequential clearing techniques for clearing activities; • Any injured fauna are assessed by suitably qualified personnel, care and additional management carried out by licenced carers. <p>Mitigation measures for interfering with active fauna breeding places has been implemented in accordance with the High Risk Species Management Plan.</p>
	<p>c) ensuring a fauna spotter-catcher will be present during all habitat clearance activities, with the authority to cease habitat clearance for an appropriate timeframe where one or more protected matters could be impacted and must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> canopy searches for Koalas; canopy and suitably sized tree hollow inspections for Greater Gliders (Northern); and flushing for Squatter Pigeons in potential Squatter Pigeon habitat. 	Non-compliant for one instance	<p>All elements of the condition have been satisfied except for once instance as specified in the comments relating to condition 16. See comments above for further detail.</p> <p>Pre-clearance surveys and Fauna Spotter Catcher services were undertaken by 4 Elements, Wild Environmental / NGH Solutions, and Terra Solutions. Fauna Spotter catcher services included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre and post clearing inspections of disturbed area to remove any fauna; • canopy searches for koalas; • Inspections of hollows for Greater Gliders; • Flushing of squatter pigeon habitat prior to works commencing.



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
17	<p>d) ensuring Greater Gliders can move between habitat fragmented within the development footprint, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. including a commitment to install glider poles in Greater Glider (Northern) habitat in areas where the Greater Glider (Northern) has been recorded and in areas where the action is not located adjacent to existing electricity transmission infrastructure, where clearing widths between trees is such that distance between trunks of >30cm DBH trees is 1.2 times the canopy height, or less, to allow Greater Gliders (Northern) to move between trees; and ii. including a commitment to monitor the use of glider poles through the installation of cameras facing the poles 	Compliant	<p>Vegetation clearing works recently completed on 20th September 2023. Glider poles and monitoring cameras installation has not yet been installed.</p> <p>Glider poles planned for installation following completion of conductor stringing works (i.e.mid 2024).</p>
	e) monitoring use of glider poles (by Greater Gliders (Northern), or other fauna), and reporting on use in the annual compliance records under condition 28 for the first 10 years post installation, include a commentary on time, date, prevailing weather conditions and location of observation.	Not applicable	The monitoring program has not commenced during this reporting period.
	f) ensuring any new fencing used for the perimeter or within the project area is non-barbed wire, unless it is required to meet the Australian safety standards or necessary for insurance. Where barbed wire is used, fence visibility to protected matters must be increased by affixing durable visibility tags, or tape, at every 30cm interval along top of barbed wire fencing for the duration of the approval.	Compliant	New fencing installed as part of construction activities is either non-barbed wire or has reflective tags installed at 30cm intervals across the top wire.



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
18	Clearing must be carried out: a) in a way that ensures any Koalas present have time to move out of the clearing site without human intervention.	Compliant	Licensed Fauna Spotter catcher present during clearing works to undertake canopy searches for koalas. Any koalas found during pre-clearance inspections were left to relocate without human intervention.
	b) via selective clearing methods in areas of potential Sharman's Rock Wallaby habitat , to reduce disturbance to the species and time spent in habitat. Where hand clearing is likely to cause increased disturbance to the species, other methods of clearing are permitted.	Compliant	Selective clearing methods using a combination of hand clearing and selective clearing using excavator were applied to Sharman's rock wallaby habitat.
	c) before at least one hour prior to dusk in areas of Sharman's Rock Wallaby habitat .	Compliant	All work activities within Sharman's rock wallaby habitat ceased at least 1 hour prior to dusk (e.g. by 5.00 pm in winter & 5.30pm in summer).
19	Any removed habitat features which may be utilised by protected matters , including Greater Glider hollows , and large boulders within Sharman's Rock Wallaby habitat , must be relocated to appropriate nearby habitat areas . a. The approval holder must undertake the salvage and relocation of Greater Glider hollows according to the conditions detailed in Attachment C.	Non-compliant for one instance	<p>During the pre-clearance surveys, habitat trees that displayed suitably sized hollows for Greater Gliders were marked and left in situ for re-assessment by ecologists prior to felling. Appendix B provides a summary of compliance against Attachment C of the approval, Greater Glider Hollow relocation.</p> <p>Greater Glider hollows requiring relocation, have been salvaged by a trained arborists prior to felling of the tree, except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one instance where the tree was accidentally felled prior to Glider hollows being salvaged. The hollows have been salvaged and relocated. This incident was reported to DCCEEW on 29.09.2023. Steps taken to ensure compliance with this condition include routine inspections of marked habitat features to ensure field markings are visible to operators and Fauna Spotter Catchers. Ensuring both operators and site staff have access to the latest spatial / electronic information showing mapped locations of habitat features. <p>Any boulders requiring relocation within Sharman's Rock Wallaby mapped habitat areas have been relocated to adjacent undisturbed habitat areas within the project area.</p>



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
20	All temporary clearance areas must be rehabilitated, to minimise erosion and sediment run-off, and provide habitat for the Greater Glider (Northern) , Koala and Sharman's Rock Wallaby , Squatter Pigeon (Southern) and other protected matters , within six months of completion of construction with local native flora species.	Compliant	Construction still in progress. Rehabilitation works will be progressively completed in accordance with the Project Rehabilitation Management Plan.
Part B – Administrative Conditions			
21	The approval holder must notify the department electronically of the date of commencement of the Action , within five business days of commencement of the Action .	Compliant	Department was notified via email on 14 th October 2022 that the action commenced on 11 th October 2022.
22	If the commencement of the Action does not occur within five years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not commence the Action without the prior written agreement of the Minister .	Compliant	Action commenced on 11 th October 2022, which is within 5 years of date of approval.
Compliance Records			
23	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records .	Compliant	Accurate and complete compliance records are maintained in accordance with the conditions of this approval and all monitoring and reporting requirements detailed within Project Environmental Management Plans, and subsequent management plans applicable to the conditions of EPBC 2021/9060.
24	If the department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the department within the timeframe specified in the request. Note: Compliance records may be subject to audit by the department , or by an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act , and/or be used to verify compliance with the conditions. Summaries of the results of an audit may be published on the department's website or through the general media.	Not Applicable	A request has not been made by the department under condition 24 for the provision of any compliance records.



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
25	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018), or any subsequent official version or as otherwise specified by the Minister in writing.	Compliant	All monitoring data, surveys and maps are prepared in accordance with the department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and submitted electronically to DCCEEW.
26	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the department's Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects (2021), or any subsequent official version or as otherwise specified by the Minister in writing.	Compliant	Monitoring data, surveys and maps are prepared in accordance with the department's Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects (2021) and submitted electronically to DCCEEW.
27	The approval holder must submit all monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, other spatial and metadata and all species occurrence record data (sightings and evidence of presence) electronically to the department within 12 months of the approval and every five-year period following the commencement of the Action until this approval expires, unless otherwise specified in writing by the Minister .	Compliant	Monitoring data, surveys, maps and other data were provided electronically to DCCEEW as per email dated 10 October 2023. Additional information was also provided to DCCEEW via email on 20 th October 2023 to update and validate information provided in email dated 10 October 2023.
Annual Compliance Reporting			
28	The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12-month period following the commencement of the Action , or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister .	Compliant	Construction commenced 12 months ago. This is the first compliance report required to be prepared for the approval.
29	Each compliance report must be consistent with the department's Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014), or any subsequent official version.	Compliant	This compliance report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Department's <i>Annual Compliance Report Guidelines</i> .



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
30	Each compliance report must include:	Compliant	This report provides accurate and complete details of compliance matters relating to approval conditions including incidents.
	a) Accurate and complete details of compliance and any non-compliance with the conditions and the plans, and any incidents.	Compliant	Shapefile data showing all clearing of any protected matters within the 12 month period was provided to DCCEEW via email on 10 th October 2023 as per condition 28. Shapefile data will be shared again with the submission of this compliance report.
	b) One or more shapefile showing all clearing of any protected matters , and/or their habitat, undertaken within the 12-month period at the end of which that compliance report is prepared	Compliant	Details on the cumulative total clearance area undertaken to date is provided in the comments on Condition 2 above.
	c) Details on the cumulative total area of clearance of any protected matters that has been undertaken.	Compliant	A schedule of all plans applicable to these conditions is provided in Appendix C, along with details regarding the implementation of those plans.
31	d) A schedule of all plans in existence in relation to these conditions and accurate and complete details of how each plan is being implemented.	Compliant	
	The approval holder must:	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period. This is the first compliance report required to be submitted for this approval. Once it is submitted, a copy of the report will be published on the website within 60 business days of the end of the reporting period (10 October 2023).
	a) Publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the end of the 12-month period for which that compliance report is required.	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period. This is the first compliance report required to be submitted for this approval. DCCEEW will be notified by email that the compliance report has been published on the website within 5 days of publication.
	b) Notify the department electronically, within five business days of the date of publication that a compliance report has been published on the website .	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period. This is the first compliance report required to be submitted for this approval. A copy of the compliance report and the web link to the publicly available report will be provided in the notification to DCCEEW.
	c) Provide an electronic copy and the weblink for the compliance report in the notification to the department.	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period. This is the first compliance report required to be submitted for this approval. All compliance reports will be publicly available on the website until the approval expires.
	d) Keep all published compliance reports required by these conditions on the website until the expiry date of this approval	Not Applicable	



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
31	e) Exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website or otherwise provided to a member of the public.	Not Applicable	Sensitive ecological data has not been included within this compliance report.
	f) If sensitive ecological data is excluded or redacted from the published version, submit the full compliance report to the department within five business days of its publication on the website and notify the department in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the website.	Not Applicable	Sensitive ecological data has not been excluded from this compliance report.
Reporting Non-compliance			
32	The approval holder must notify the department electronically, within 2 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan	Compliant	Two reportable incidents occurred during the reporting period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One incident involving undertaking clearing activities without the presence of fauna spotter catcher at the time of the clearing. The approval holder became aware of this incident on 06.02.2023 and notified DCCEEW on 08.02.2023. One incident involving the accidental felling of a tree prior to Glider hollows being salvaged. No fauna was impacted during this event. The hollows have been salvaged and will be relocated. The approval holder became aware of this incident on 28.09.2023 and notified DCCEEW on 29.09.2023.
33	The approval holder must specify in the notification:	Compliant	The incident notifications submitted to the department on 08.02.2023 and 29.09.2023 met the requirements for condition 33, including specific details on the approval conditions or commitments which may have been breached.
	a) Any condition or commitment made in a plan which has been or may have been breached.	Compliant	Incident notifications included a short description of the potential or actual non-compliances.
	b) A short description of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance.	Compliant	Incident notifications for potential or actual non-compliances submitted to DCCEEW included locations, dates and time of the incident.
	c) The location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance.	Compliant	



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
34	The approval holder must provide to the department in writing, within 12 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance, the details of that incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan. The approval holder must specify:	Compliant	The incident notifications submitted to the department on the 08.02.2023 and 29.09.2023 detailed the corrective actions taken in response to the incident.
	a) Any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken		
	b) The potential impacts of the incident and/or non-compliance	Compliant	The incident notifications submitted to the department on the 08.02.2023 and 29.09.2023 detailed the potential impacts and/ or potential non-compliances.
	c) The method and timing of any corrective action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.	Compliant	The incident notifications submitted to the department on the 08.02.2023 and 29.09.2023 provided details on the method and timings of corrective actions undertaken by the approval holder.
Independent Audit			
35	The approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions is conducted for every five-year period following the commencement of the Action until this approval expires, unless otherwise specified in writing by the Minister .	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.
36	For each independent audit , the approval holder must:	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.
	a. Provide the name and qualifications of the nominated independent auditor , the draft audit criteria, and proposed timeframe for submitting the audit report to the department prior to commencing the independent audit .		
	b. Only commence the independent audit once the nominated independent auditor , audit criteria and timeframe for submitting the audit report have been approved in writing by the department .	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.



Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Comment and supporting documentation
36	c. Submit the audit report to the department for approval within the timeframe specified and approved in writing by the department .	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.
	d. Publish each audit report on the website within 15 business days of the date of the department's approval of the audit report .	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.
	e. Keep every audit report published on the website until this approval expires.	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.
37	Each audit report must report for the five-year period preceding that audit report.	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.
38	Each audit report must be completed to the satisfaction of the Minister and be consistent with the department's <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines</i> (2019), or any subsequent official version.	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.
Completion of the Action			
39	The approval holder must notify the department electronically 60 business days prior to the expiry date of this approval, that the approval is due to expire.	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.
40	Within 20 business days after the completion of the Action , and, in any event, before this approval expires, the approval holder must notify the department electronically of the date of completion of the Action and provide completion data .	Not Applicable	Requirement falls outside the scope of the current reporting period.

4. Appendices

Appendix A - Section 8, Appendix E of Preliminary Documentation (relevant to condition 16)

Mitigation Measure	Compliance	Comment & Supporting documentation
Prior to construction, the occurrence and extent of MNES will be identified and delineated	Compliant	Pre-clearance surveys were completed by independent consultants to identify potential fauna breeding places. Environmental Works Plans identified key habitat areas for fauna species. Disturbance boundary was pegged in the field prior to undertaking clearing works.
Exclusion areas will be delineated to avoid unauthorised disturbance and access of areas of threatened species habitat.	Compliant	Project disturbance footprint surveyed by Contractors Live Wire and ST Spatial Services and physically marked in field to avoid unauthorised disturbance to threatened species habitat. Signage displayed in field for critical MNES habitat areas (e.g. Sharman's Rock Wallaby).
When siting infrastructure, existing breaks between patches of potential MNES will be utilised as much as practical to minimise habitat fragmentation.	Compliant	Temporary infrastructure (e.g. laydowns and batch plants) placed within previously disturbed areas or within the disturbance footprint on easement to minimise habitat fragmentation.
Movement within the Project Area will be via approved access tracks only with speed limits enforced. The requirement to enter and traverse the Project Area will be minimised where possible and limited to those required for essential Project activities.	Compliant	Speed limit of 40km/hr applies to all access tracks and is enforced. Access tracks approved for use are shown on environmental plans and signposted in the field. Entry to and traversing of the project area by the approval holder and its contractors is minimised and limited to those required to complete project activities.
All clearing will be conducted with a suitably qualified spotter catcher present.	Non-compliant for one instance	Fauna Spotter catcher services provided by consultants 4 Elements, Terra Solutions and Wild Environments/ NGH Solutions. Pre and post inspections for fauna were conducted by Fauna Spotter catchers during clearing works. One incident occurred where a spotter catcher was not present during clearing works. This incident was reported to DCCEEW on 08.02.2023 and details are also provided in the comments regarding condition 16 in Table 3 of this report.
In areas of MNES, spotter-catchers will scout the area to be disturbed for the presence of fauna species immediately prior to the commencement of disturbance and relocate the fauna to an undisturbed location.	Non-compliant for one instance	Pre and post clearing works inspections were undertaken by Spotter catchers. One incident occurred where a spotter catcher was not present during clearing works. This incident was reported to DCCEEW on 08.02.2023.



Mitigation Measure	Compliance	Comment & Supporting documentation
Where approved, Powerlink or the construction contractor may extract water from select farm dams for construction purposes. Water will only be taken where available supplies provide continuity of habitat function and quality	Compliant	Water extraction from farm dams has occurred with landholder approvals with water reserves retained to levels sufficient to support livestock and native habitat access to water.
Exclusion zones will be established around identified active breeding places and any fauna habitat features to be retained (e.g. mature trees, inactive breeding places) and appropriately marked out. Where there is the potential an active breeding place will be tampered with, this will only be done in accordance with an approved low-risk and/or high risk DES Species Management Plan (SMP) (depending on the species to be impacted).	Compliant	Exclusion zones placed around active breeding places (e.g. squatter pigeon, raptor nests). Clearing works associated with animal breeding places has been undertaken in accordance with the Species Management Plan.
Night works within or adjacent to areas of MNES will be avoided where possible. Where night works are required, lights will be directed to minimise light spill into adjacent habitats.	Compliant	No Night works have occurred on the project.
Microhabitat features such as large fallen logs will be relocated to adjacent areas of undisturbed vegetation prior to vegetation clearing where practicable.	Compliant	Microhabitat features have been relocated to the edge of the disturbance footprint or into areas of undisturbed vegetation.
Dust suppression measures will be implemented as required i.e. on high wind days during extended dry periods.	Compliant	Dust suppression methods such as water trucks and binder implemented on the project.
Undertake refuelling and chemical storage in designated containment areas and follow emergency response procedures in the event of a spill. Containment areas will be designed and managed in accordance with relevant regulatory requirements and standards.	Compliant	Refuelling and Chemical storage areas designed and managed in accordance with regulatory requirements and standards. Emergency response procedures in place in the event of a spill.
Threat of wildfire caused by Powerlink activities will be minimised through maintenance of firebreaks around ignition sources as appropriate.	Compliant	Firebreaks are in place around ignition sources. Water trucks and plant are available on site to assist in the event of a fire. Bushfire Management Plan and Emergency Response Plans are in place for the project to mitigate and manage risk of wildfire.
Weed and pest management strategies to be implemented for controlling the spread of weeds and pests, particularly vehicles traversing the Project Area. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-construction and post-construction weed surveys will be undertaken within the Project Area. 	Compliant	Biosecurity Management plan implemented across the project, with project biosecurity areas, temporary wash down facilities and vehicle/ machinery hygiene measures in place across the project area.



<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wash down protocols are required for any vehicles or machinery entering and leaving the Project Area.Ongoing monitoring of the Project Area to identify any new incidence of weed and pest infestation.		<p>Pre- construction weed surveys were completed in 2022 by consultants Biotropica across the project area.</p> <p>Wash down protocols are in place for the project area.</p> <p>Routine monthly inspections take place of active works areas to identify any new weed or pest occurrences.</p>
Disturbed areas will be assessed and progressively rehabilitated in accordance with a Rehabilitation Monitoring Plan to be developed prior to construction.	Compliant	<p>Rehabilitation Plan developed for project.</p> <p>Disturbed areas progressively being rehabilitated in accordance with plan requirements.</p>

Appendix B - Salvaging Greater Glider Hollows Conditions (Attachment C of Approval)

Attachment C Conditions	Compliance	Comment & Supporting documentation
Prior to clearing the approval holder must:		
a) ensure all Greater Glider hollows to be cleared as a result of the action are inspected for protected matters;	Non-Compliant for one instance	Pre-clearance surveys mapped and physically marked all potential greater glider habitat trees. All marked greater glider habitat trees were inspected by an ecologist prior to felling to confirm if any greater gliders or other protected matters were present in the hollows, except for one instance where a marked glider habitat tree was accidentally felled during clearing works. No pre-inspection of the hollows occurred in this instance, but no gliders were observed during the felling and post clearing inspection confirmed no fauna was present. DCCEE was notified of this event on the 29.09.2023.
b) Ensure the use of techniques to encourage Greater Gliders to leave their hollows prior to removal of any tree, including tapping trees and using spotlights. If Greater Gliders are potentially present, trees must be dismantled in sections;	Non-Compliant for one instance	Techniques including tapping trees and using spotlight to encourage fauna to leave their hollows prior to removal of the tree has occurred in all instances, except one where a marked glider habitat tree was accidentally felled during clearing works. In this instance, post felling inspection by Fauna Spotter Catchers (FSC) confirmed no greater gliders or other fauna were present in the hollows. Vegetation clearing protocols provide that marked habitat and glider trees are to be retained during initial clearing works to allow opportunities for nocturnal fauna to relocate on their own. Adherence to vegetation clearing protocols is monitored daily by Fauna Spotter Catchers and Site Supervisors with routine inspections carried out by site based Environmental Advisers.
c) the height and orientation of the Greater Glider hollow and the species of tree it is derived from must be recorded prior to the salvaging of the hollows;	Compliant	Tree species, height and orientation of greater glider hollows were recorded by ecologists during pre-clearance surveys.
d) Greater Glider hollows must be installed in the relocation site at a similar orientation, height and tree species as recorded in the above condition;	Compliant	Salvaged greater glider hollows are installed in a host tree of the same species and at a similar orientation and height to the original hollow location. Hollow salvage and relocation works are undertaken using suitably qualified ecologists and arborists.
e) depth and height of the Greater Glider hollows must be determined prior to salvage operation and retained in the salvage operation;	Non-Compliant for one instance	The depth and height of the hollow is determined by ecologist and arborists during pre-clearance inspections in all instances, except one where a marked glider habitat tree was accidentally felled during clearing works. In this instance, the depth of hollow was not determined or retained prior to felling.
f) after harvesting, top and bottom of the Greater Glider hollows must be sealed to weather- proof the hollow;	Compliant	After harvesting and prior to relocating the hollow in the host tree, the hollows are sealed top and bottom to weather proof the hollows.



Attachment C Conditions	Compliance	Comment & Supporting documentation
g) ensure the excised hollows are deep enough to enable the addition of insulation material and Greater Gliders ;	Compliant	Salvaged glider hollows have been determined by ecologists to be suitable depth for the addition of insulation material. Insulation material is added to the hollows prior to installation at the relocation site (i.e. Host tree).
h) sawdust from the harvesting of the tree hollow should be retained and used as insulation in the base of the hollow. Insulation material at the base of the hollow must be at least as deep as the thickness of the sides of the hollow. Additional insulation may be required;	Compliant	Sawdust material from hollow salvage operations is retained and used as insulation material in the base of the hollows. Insulation material is placed at the base of the hollow at a minimum depth of the hollow thickness. Ecologists are present during these activities to confirm installation material is of suitable thickness.
i) Greater Glider hollow removal and installation must be undertaken by trained arborists;	Non-Compliant for one instance	Removal and installation of greater glider hollows has been undertaken by trained arborists has occurred in all instances, except one where a marked glider habitat tree was accidentally felled during clearing works. In this instance, the marked Greater Glider tree was accidentally felled during clearing works without an arborist present. Hollows were unable to be salvaged by an arborist prior to felling of the tree. Hollows were salvaged during post clearing activities. The installation will be undertaken by appropriately trained arborists and ecologists.
j) ensure host tree, where Greater Glider hollow is to be installed, is protected from ring- barking;	Compliant	Host trees which support the relocated hollows are protected from ring barking. Hollow installation is undertaken by arborists and ecologists to ensure installation does not ring-bark the host tree.
k) installed Greater Glider hollows are to be monitored to detect evidence of Greater Glider use and monitoring results are to be included in the annual compliance report under condition 26 for the first 15 years after installation	Not applicable	Greater glider hollow monitoring program has not commenced as yet. A hollow monitoring program is being developed by ecologists with implementation commencing during 2024.

Actions taken to prevent future non-compliance with requirements in the Salvaging Greater Glider Hollows conditions (Attachment C of Approval):

- Members of Powerlink’s HSE team and project managers, as well as key representatives and managers of relevant contractors for the project have been reminded of and reissued with copies of the EPBC Act approval and the conditions and requirements relevant to the event;
- Pre-clearance survey data for habitat features has been re-issued to fauna spotter catchers and earthmoving machine operators;
- Fauna Spotter Catchers have been reminded of the requirement to re-inspect physically marked habitat features in areas prior to commencement of clearing each day (against pre-clearance survey data);
- Routine inspections of marked habitat trees have been undertaken by Fauna Spotter Catchers to physically re-mark habitat trees where markings have faded due to sun exposure;



- Powerlink's site based environmental personnel are working closely with engaged ecologist and trained arborists to manage glider hollow relocation activities, including pre-clearance inspections and salvaging of hollows prior to the felling of trees; and
- Internal review of procedures and processes for field verification, physical marking and signage of important habitat features is planned to occur in the first quarter of 2024.

Appendix C - Schedule Management Plans

Management Plans applicable to EPBC 2021/9060 include:

Management Plan	Version	Status
Offset Area Management Plan	V1.0 Dated: 11 August 2022	<p>Approved & implementation of plan has commenced.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the approval holder acquired the offset land and prepared and submitted an application for a voluntary declaration to legally secure the offset on the title to the land.</p> <p>On 22 August 2023, the approval holder commenced activities on the offset land to establish and maintain the offset in accordance with the Approved OAMP. These activities include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring access around the offset area for implementation of a fire control and monitoring strategy; re-establishing over 10km of worn and erosion damaged tracks to improve access to and around the offset area; 10m wide slashed fire breaks have been established around the perimeter and gridded throughout the offset area to align with tracks to control and manage fire risk (works were completed for a length of approximately 20km); deployment of erosion and sediment control mitigation measures prior to commencement of the 2023-2024 wet season; and restricting cattle grazing over the offset area and forming a 12 month strategy with the sublessee for controlled grazing for the next financial year.