

Tully-Ingham EPBC Compliance Assessment Report 2018

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to address the status of compliance of each condition of the approval given to the Ingham to Tully 275/132kV Transmission Line Replacement, between Ingham and Tully, Far North Queensland, (2010/5346). The publication of this report is to fulfil the compliance requirements of Condition 3 of the of EPBC Act approval 2010/5346.

Compliance Assessment

The action to which the approval relates is the decommissioning of the existing 132kV transmission line, and construction, operation and maintenance of a 275/132 kV dual voltage transmission line between Ingham and Tully. The construction phase of the action commenced April 2012 and was completed October 2013. The operation and maintenance phase of the action is ongoing.

As required by the conditions of approval, a Vegetation Management Plan, Mahogany Glider Management Plan and Mahogany Glider Offset Strategy have been developed and implementation is ongoing.

Powerlink commissioned qualified consultants North Queensland Land Management Services (NQLMS) and the Local NRM Group, Terrain, to provide monitoring and advice regarding aspects of the ongoing implementation of the Vegetation Management Plan, Mahogany Glider Management Plan and Mahogany Glider Offset Strategy. The monitoring and revegetation scopes of work were completed in June 2017.

Since last compliance report in 2017, only conditions 13 and 14 have been applicable to the current stage of the action (2010/5346).

All other conditions were either:

- only applicable during the construction of the line,
- never applicable,
- now completed, or
- relating only to the publication of the annual compliance report.

The table below sets out each condition, whether the condition has been applicable to date and the compliance status of each applicable condition of the approval.

Condition	Requirement	Status	Supporting Evidence
1	Within 20 days after both the commencement and completion of the action, the person taking the action must advise the Department in writing of the actual dates of commencement and completion.	Compliant - complete	Department advised on the 18/04/12 of commencement on the 16/04/2012 (A1313387). Action is ongoing.
2	The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans and strategy required by the approval, and make them available on request to the Department.	Compliant - complete	General overarching condition. Evidence of records of compliance is demonstrated in the following conditions.
3	Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of	Compliant - ongoing	Anniversary date (when construction activities commenced) is 16 April. Website was

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	the approval, including the implementation of any management plans and strategy as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of the approval must be provided to the Department at the same time the compliance report is published.		updated within the 3 month period. Confirmation letter for 2016 received from the Department in August 2016 (A2583191). No confirmation letter was received in 2017.
4	Upon direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance conditions of approval is conducted and report submitted to the Minister.	Not applicable	No direction has been given by the Minister to undertake an audit in this reporting period.
5	If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the management plans/strategy as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that management plan/strategy. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the varied management plan/strategy in writing.	Not applicable	No activities have taken place in this reporting period which triggers the condition. All activities have been carried out in accordance with the conditions.
6	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the protection of World Heritage properties (sections 12 & 15A), National Heritage places (sections 15 & 15C), Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A), Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A) to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to the management plan/strategy specified in the conditions and submit the revised management plan/strategy for the Ministers written approval. The person taking the action must comply with such a request. The revised approved management plan/strategy must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised management plan/strategy, then the person taking the action must continue to implement the management plans/strategy originally approved, as specified in the conditions.	Not applicable	No activities have taken place in this reporting period which triggers the condition.
7	If at any time after 5 years from the date of the approval, the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without written agreement from the minister.	Compliant - Complete	Approval dated 14/9/2011 (A1554775). Action commenced 16/4/12.
8	Unless otherwise agreed to by the Minister, the person taking the action must publish all management plans/strategy, referred to in the conditions of approval on their website. Each management plan/strategy, must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved.	Complete	During the 2015 yearly review of Powerlink's web site the page with the relevant management plans and strategies was removed. This page was associated with the construction project which has been completed. These documents were republished on a

Condition	Requirement	Status	Supporting Evidence
			permanent location on the PQ website (as per below). (https://www.powerlink.com.au/research-monitoring)
9	The person taking the action must ensure that the size of new tower footprints does not exceed 50 by 50 metres in size to reduce the impact on surrounding Southern Cassowary and Mahogany Gliders habitat.	Compliant - Complete	Inspection report dated 15/4/13, confirming footprint requirement complied with - A1939109
10	The person taking the action must ensure the easement must not exceed 60 metres in width at any point along the transmission line alignment to reduce the impact on the surrounding Southern Cassowary and Mahogany Glider habitat.	Compliant - Complete	Inspection report dated 15/4/13, confirming easement has not exceeded 60m - A1939109
11	The person taking the action must not locate tower footprints within 50 metres of a water body or water course unless in accordance with <u>Annexure A</u> of the approval.	Compliant - Complete	Inspection report dated 15/4/13, confirming tower footprints are not located within 50m of a water body/course - A1939109
12	In order to protect habitat for the Southern Cassowary, the person taking the action must manage traffic on the project site during construction by limiting the speed of vehicles to 40 kilometres an hour	Compliant - Complete	Inspection report dated 15/4/13, confirming that a speed of vehicles during construction was limited to 40km/hr (A1939109)
13	To minimise the impacts of clearing and or disturbance on the Mahogany Glider and Southern Cassowary, the person taking the action must implement the Vegetation Management Plan and Mahogany Glider Management Plan.	Compliant - Ongoing	Implementation of these management plans has been assured through third party monitoring reports (A2698263), as well as the internal audits (A2707212). The final third party monitoring report was received in June 2017. (A2718749)
14	The person taking the action must, prior to the commencement of construction, prepare and submit an Environmental Offset Strategy for the Minister's approval to offset the impacts on the Mahogany Glider. The strategy must identify offsets that: a. Offset the loss of Mahogany Glider habitat; b. Re-establish links between fragmented Mahogany Glider habitat; and c. Increase knowledge and understanding of the impacts of habitat loss and fragmentation on the Mahogany Glider and the measures to reduce such impacts The person taking the action must not commence construction of the transmission line unless the Minister has approved the Environmental Offset Strategy, with the exception of the area identified within <u>Annexure B</u>. The approved strategy must be implemented	Compliant - Ongoing	Offset Strategy approved by the Department on 16/2/12, prior to commencement of construction on 16/4/12. (A1276562) Strategy addresses dot points a-c. Letter provided to the Department dated 10/7/14 detailing ongoing implementation of the Mahogany Glider Strategy (A2190287). Internal audit was conducted to assure continued implementation of the

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			strategy (A2707212).
15	The person taking the action must not use barbed wire for any purpose during the construction and operation phase of the project to reduce the impact upon the Mahogany Glider	Compliant - Complete	Inspection report dated 15/4/13, confirming no barbed wire used (A1939109).