

**Notification of approval****CopperString Transmission Line Project, Queensland (EPBC 2019/8416)**

This decision is made under section 133(1) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act). Note that section 134(1A) of the EPBC Act applies to this approval. That provision provides, in general terms, that if the approval holder authorises another person to undertake any part of the Action, the approval holder must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the other person is informed of any conditions attached to this approval, and that the other person complies with any such conditions.

**Action**

<b>Person to whom the approval is granted (approval holder)</b>	CuString Pty Ltd
<b>ABN of approval holder</b>	ABN: 47 137 531 054

<b>Action</b>	The construction and operation of a 1,050 km long high voltage transmission line between Townsville and Mount Isa, and associated infrastructure [see EPBC Act referral 2019/8416].
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**Approval Decision**

<b>Decision</b>	My decisions on whether or not to approve the taking of the Action for the purposes of each controlling provision for the Action are as follows.
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<b>Controlling Provision</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Listed threatened species and communities (section 18 and section 18A)	Approve
Listed migratory species (section 20 and section 20A)	Approve

<b>Period for which the approval has effect</b>	This approval has effect until 31 December 2067
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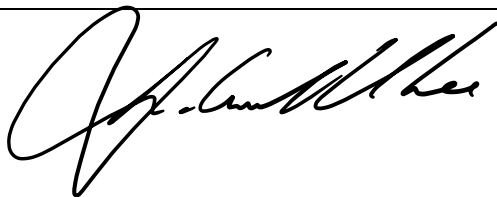
<b>Conditions of approval</b>	The approval is subject to conditions under the EPBC Act as set out in <b>Annexure A</b> .
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**Person authorised to make decision**

<b>Name and Position</b>	Andrew McNee Acting Division Head Environment Approvals Division
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**Signature**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

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**Date of decision**

11 November 2022

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## ANNEXURE A

**Note:** Words appearing in **bold** have the meaning assigned to them at PART C – DEFINITIONS.

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### PART A – CONDITIONS SPECIFIC TO THE ACTION

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#### AVOIDANCE

1. To minimise impacts on **protected matters**, the approval holder must not **clear** outside of the **study area**.
2. To minimise impacts on **protected matters**, the approval holder must not **clear** more than:
  - a. 663.87 hectares (ha) of **Southern Black-throated Finch breeding habitat**;
  - b. 42.03 ha of **Southern Black-throated Finch foraging habitat**;
  - c. 42.05 ha of **Squatter Pigeon (southern) breeding habitat**;
  - d. 8.77 ha of **Squatter Pigeon (southern) foraging habitat**;
  - e. 393.21 ha of **Koala habitat**;
  - f. 112.57 ha of **Night Parrot breeding habitat**;
  - g. 195.73 ha of **Night Parrot foraging habitat**;
  - h. 219.14 ha of **Australian Painted Snipe habitat**;
  - i. 945.57 ha of **Painted Honeyeater habitat**;
  - j. 243.28 ha of **Julia Creek Dunnart habitat**;
  - k. 69.82 ha of **Ornamental Snake habitat**; or
  - l. 121.78 ha of **Plains Death Adder habitat**.
3. To avoid impacts on **Red Goshawk**, the approval holder must not **clear** or **impact Red Goshawk nests**.

#### NEWLY DISCOVERED PROTECTED MATTERS

4. If, during pre-clearance surveys, **construction** or **operation** of each stage as identified in the Offsets Management Strategy, the approval holder becomes aware that:
  - a. any **protected matters** that were not described in the **EIS** as likely to occur in the **study area**, are present in the **study area**; or
  - b. any **protected matters** that were not described in the **EIS** as likely to be significantly impacted by the action, could be significantly impacted by the actionthen the approval holder must:
  - c. cease any work associated with the action, excluding surveys, that may impact the **protected matter(s)** until the **Minister** has confirmed in writing what components of the action may commence and when;
  - d. notify the **department** in writing, within two **business days** of becoming aware of any of the above circumstance for **protected matters**, of the information of which it has become aware; and
  - e. submit to the **department**, within 15 **business days** of becoming aware of any of the above circumstance for **protected matters**, a detailed report of the presence and distribution of the **protected matters**, the potential impacts of the action on the **protected matters**, and proposed offsets where significant impacts are identified. The report must be written by a **suitably qualified expert**.

## OFFSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

5. To compensate for the significant residual impact of the Action on **protected matters**, the approval holder must submit to the **department** a revised offset management strategy (OMS).
6. The approval holder must not **commence the action** until the OMS has been approved by the **Minister** in writing.
7. The OMS must provide, at a minimum:
  - a. Details of impact and offset stages and how each stage interacts with the overall OMS;
  - b. details of the environmental offset/s requirements for residual significant impacts of the proposed action on relevant **protected matters**, and/or their habitat for each stage;
  - c. details of appropriate offset area/s, including a map, to compensate for the residual significant impact on **protected matters**, and/or their habitat for each stage;
  - d. details of how the environmental offset/s meets the requirements of the **Environmental Offsets Policy** for each stage ;
  - e. information about how the proposed offset/s area provides connectivity with other relevant habitats and biodiversity corridors for each stage; and
  - f. details of the mechanism to **legally secure** the environmental offset/s (under Queensland legislation or equivalent) to provide protection for the offset area/s against development incompatible with conservation for each stage.

## CLEARANCE SURVEYS

8. For each project stage. the approval holder must undertake pre-clearance surveys for the presence of the **protected matters** and their habitat identified in **Attachment A** in all locations proposed to be disturbed by the Action in the stage. The pre-clearance surveys must be undertaken no more than 12 months prior to **clearing** occurring for the stage, and be undertaken by a **suitably qualified expert**.
9. All pre-clearance surveys must be designed or undertaken by a **suitably qualified expert** in accordance with **recognised guidelines**, or best practice methods in respect of those **protected matters** for which **recognised guidelines** are not available.
10. For each project stage, the approval holder must submit to the **department** a Pre-clearance Survey Report (PCSR) that has been endorsed by a **suitably qualified expert**, documenting the survey methods and effort used for the pre-clearance surveys and:
  - a. the location, quantity and quality of **protected matter** habitat that will be impacted by the stage;
  - b. high-quality maps and **shapefiles** of **protected matter** habitat; and
  - c. all raw data collected from pre-clearance surveys.
11. The PCSR required under condition 10 must inform and be referenced in the Matters of National Environmental Significance Management Plan and Offset Management Plan for the associated project stage.
12. The PCSR required under condition 10 must inform the rehabilitation at the **completion of the action**. At **completion of the action**, the approval holder must ensure all **rehabilitation areas** are reinstated to the pre-disturbance vegetation community, using endemic native species appropriate to their position in the landscape and in accordance with the **EIS** and PCSR.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS

*MNES Management Plan*

13. For each project stage, the approval holder must submit a Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES) Management Plan for the **Minister's** written approval to avoid and mitigate impacts on **protected matters**.
14. The approval holder must not commence **clearing** of a project stage until the **Minister** has approved the MNES Management Plan for the associated stage in writing.
15. For each project stage, the approval holder must implement the associated **MNES Management Plan** approved by the **Minister** in accordance with condition 13. The approved **MNES Management Plan** must be implemented from the commencement of **clearing** for the associated project stage and for the duration of **clearing, construction, and operation** for the associated project stage.
16. By implementing the MNES Management Plan the approval holder must achieve the following environmental objectives:
  - a. Except for the **clearance** impacts permitted under condition 2, avoid, mitigate and manage impacts to **protected matters**; and
  - b. The requirements under condition 3.
17. MNES Management Plan must be consistent with the **department's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines**, and must include:
  - a. Details of the relevant **EPBC Act protected matter/s** and a reference to **EPBC Act** approval conditions to which the plan refers.
  - b. A table of commitments made in the plan to achieve the environmental objectives, and a reference to exactly where these commitments are detailed in the plan.
  - c. Commitments capable of ensuring that the environmental objectives are achieved.
  - d. Reporting and review mechanisms to demonstrate compliance with the commitments made in the plan.
  - e. An assessment of risks relating to achieving the environmental objectives and risk management strategies and/or mitigation measures that will be applied to address identified risks.
  - f. Impact avoidance, mitigation and/or repair measures, and the timing of those measures. Particular measures for, but not limited to, the following **protected matters** should be given:
    - i. **Black Ironbox**;
    - ii. **Pink Gidgee**; and
    - iii. **Waxy Cabbage Palm**.
  - g. A monitoring program, which must include:
    - i. measurable performance indicators
    - ii. trigger values for corrective actions
    - iii. the timing and frequency of monitoring, ensuring monitoring is capable of detecting trigger values and changes in the performance indicators
    - iv. proposed corrective actions if trigger values are reached.
  - h. Links to other relevant plans or conditions of approval (including state/territory approval conditions).

*Offset Management Plan*

18. To compensate for the significant residual impact of the Action on **protected matters**, the approval holder must submit to the **department** an Offset Management Plan (OMP) for each project stage.
19. The approval holder must not commence **clearing** of a project stage until the OMP has been approved by the **Minister** in writing for the associated stage.
20. For each project stage, the approval holder must implement the associated approved OMP prior to commencement of **clearing** of the associated stage, and for the remaining duration of the approval.
21. The Offset Management Plan must:
  - a. to the satisfaction of the **Minister**, meet the principles, expectations and requirements of the **Environmental Offsets Policy** and the **Environmental Management Plan Guidelines**.
  - b. include detailed information on the residual impacts to **protected matters**. This must include the area(s) of habitat for **protected matters** and its condition and **habitat quality** within the **study area** which the offset(s) is to address;
  - c. identify one or more suitable environmental offset for the impacts on **protected matters**, and provide detailed baseline information on the proposed offset(s), including condition and **habitat quality**, and commit to achievable ecological benefits, and timeframes for their achievement, for the proposed offset(s);
  - d. include timebound management actions that will be implemented to achieve the ecological benefits for relevant **protected matters**;
  - e. include a monitoring program, which must include:
    - i. evidence that effectively determines progress towards, attainment of and maintenance of the ecological benefits for the **protected matters**;
    - ii. measurable performance indicators of attainment of the ecological benefits for the **protected matters**;
    - iii. trigger values for corrective actions;
    - iv. the timing and frequency of monitoring to detect trigger values and changes in the performance indicators;
  - f. include reporting and review mechanisms, and documentation standards to inform others annually regarding compliance with management and environmental commitments, and attainment and maintenance of ecological benefits, as specified in the OMP;
  - g. include a reference to the **EPBC Act** approval conditions to which the OMP refers;
  - h. include table of commitments made in the Offset Management Plan to achieve the ecological benefits for **protected matters**, and a reference to where the commitments are detailed in the OMP;
  - i. include an assessment of risks to achieving the ecological benefit(s) and what risk management strategies will be applied to address these;
  - j. propose corrective actions to ensure ecological benefits for the **protected matters** are attained or maintained, if trigger values are reached or performance indicators not attained; and
  - k. specify referenced plans and applicable conditions of approval (including State approval conditions), if any, and how these can be accessed.

## **LEGAL SECURITY OF THE OFFSET**

22. The approval holder must **legally secure** each environmental offset area(s) within 24 months from the date the associated OMP is approved by the **Minister**. The approved OMP must be attached to the legal mechanism used to **legally secure** the offset area(s).
23. The approval holder must notify the **department** within 5 **business days** of the **legal security** mechanism being executed.
24. The mechanism used to **legally secure** the offset area must remain in force for the remaining duration of the approval.

#### **REVISION OF ACTION MANAGEMENT PLANS**

25. The approval holder may, at any time, apply to the **Minister** for a variation to the MNES Management Plan approved by the **Minister** or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, by submitting an application in accordance with the requirements of section 143A of the **EPBC Act**. If the **Minister** approves a revised management plan then, from the date specified, the approval holder must implement the revised management plan in place of the previous management plan.
26. The approval holder may choose to revise the MNES Management Plan approved by the **Minister** under condition 11, or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the **EPBC Act**, if the taking of the Action in accordance with the revised management plan would not be likely to have a **new or increased impact**.
27. If the approval holder makes the choice under condition 23 to revise the MNES Management Plan without submitting it for approval, the approval holder must:
  - a. Notify the **department** electronically that the approved action management plan has been revised and provide the **department** with:
    - i. An electronic copy of the revised MNES Management Plan.
    - ii. An electronic copy of the revised management plan marked up with track changes to show the differences between the approved MNES Management Plan and the revised management plan.
    - iii. An explanation of the differences between the approved MNES Management Plan and the revised management plan.
    - iv. The reasons the approval holder considers that taking the Action in accordance with the revised management plan would not be likely to have a **new or increased impact**.
    - v. Written notice of the date on which the approval holder will implement the revised management plan, being at least 20 **business days** after the date of providing notice of the revision of the MNES Management Plan, or a date agreed to in writing with the **department**.
  - b. Subject to condition 22 the **Minister** may give notice of a new or increased impact, implement the revised management plan from the revised management plan implementation date.
28. The approval holder may revoke its choice to implement a revised management plan under condition 23 at any time by giving written notice to the **department**. If the approval holder revokes the choice under condition 23, the approval holder must implement the action management plan in force immediately prior to the revision undertaken under condition 23.
29. If the **Minister** gives a notice to the approval holder that the **Minister** is satisfied that the taking of the Action in accordance with the revised management plan would be likely to have a **new or increased impact**, then:

- a. Condition 23 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised management plan.
- b. The approval holder must implement the action management plan specified by the **Minister** in the notice.

30. At the time of giving the notice under condition 26, the **Minister** may also notify that for a specified period of time, condition 23 does not apply for one or more specified Action management plans.

**Note:** Conditions 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the **EPBC Act** which allows the approval holder to submit a revised Action management plan, at any time, to the **Minister** for approval.

#### **SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF PLANS**

31. The approval holder must submit all **plans** required by these conditions electronically to the **department**.

32. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister**, the approval holder must publish each **plan** on the **website** within 15 **business days** of the date:

- a. the **plan** is approved by the **Minister** in writing, if the **plan** requires the approval of the **Minister**; or
- b. the **plan** is submitted to the **department** in accordance with a requirement of these conditions, if the **plan** does not require the approval of the **Minister**; or
- c. the **plan** is approved by a state/territory government official as required under a state/territory government condition which must be complied with in accordance with these EPBC Act conditions.

33. The approval holder must keep all published **plans** required by these conditions on the **website** until the expiry date of this approval.

34. The approval holder is required to exclude or redact **sensitive ecological data** from **plans** published on the **website** or otherwise provided to a member of the public.

35. If **sensitive ecological data** is excluded or redacted from a **plan** in accordance with condition 16, the approval holder must notify the **department** in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the **website**.

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#### **PART B – ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS**

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##### **NOTIFICATION OF DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTION**

36. The approval holder must notify the **department** electronically of the date of **commencement of the Action**, within 5 **business days** of **commencement of the Action**.

37. If the **commencement of the Action** does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not **commence the Action** without the prior written agreement of the **Minister**.

##### **COMPLIANCE RECORDS**

38. The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete **compliance records**.

39. 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.

40. 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.
41. 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.

#### **ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORTING**

42. 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**.
43. Each **compliance report** must be consistent with the **department's** *Annual Compliance Report Guidelines* (2014), or any subsequent official version.
44. Each **compliance report** must include:
  - a. Accurate and complete details of compliance and any non-compliance with the conditions and the **plans**, and any **incident**.
  - 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.
  - c. A schedule of all **plans** in existence in relation to these conditions and accurate and complete details of how each plan is being implemented.
45. The approval holder must:
  - 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.
  - b. Notify the **department** electronically, within 5 **business days** of the date of publication that a **compliance report** has been published on the **website**.
  - c. Provide the weblink for the **compliance report** in the notification to the department.
  - d. Keep all published **compliance reports** required by these conditions on the **website** until the expiry date of this approval.
  - e. Exclude or redact **sensitive ecological data** from **compliance reports** published on the **website** or otherwise provided to a member of the public.
  - f. If **sensitive ecological data** is excluded or redacted from the published version, submit the full **compliance report** to the **department** within 5 **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.

**Note:** **Compliance reports** may be published on the **department's** website.

#### **REPORTING NON-COMPLIANCE**

46. 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**.
47. The approval holder must specify in the notification:

- a. Any condition or commitment made in a **plan** which has been or may have been breached.
- b. A short description of the **incident** and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance.
- c. The location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the **incident** and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance.

**Note:** If the exact information cannot be provided, the approval holder must provide the best information available.

48. 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:
  - a. Any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken
  - b. The potential impacts of the **incident** and/or non-compliance.
  - c. The method and timing of any corrective action that will be undertaken by the approval Eholder.

#### **INDEPENDENT AUDIT**

49. The approval holder must ensure that an **independent audit** of compliance with the conditions is conducted for every three-year period following the **commencement of the Action** until this approval expires, unless otherwise specified in writing by the **Minister**.
50. For each **independent audit**, the approval holder must:
  - 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**.
  - c. Submit the **audit report** to the **department** for approval within the timeframe specified and approved in writing by the **department**.
  - d. Publish each **audit report** on the **website** within 15 **business days** of the date of the **department's** approval of the **audit report**.
  - e. Keep every **audit report** published on the **website** until this approval expires.
51. Each **audit report** must report for the three-year period preceding that audit report.
52. Each **audit report** must be completed to the satisfaction of the **Minister** and be consistent with the **department's** *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines* (2019), or any subsequent official version.

#### **COMPLETION OF THE ACTION**

53. 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.
54. 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**.

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## PART C - DEFINITIONS

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In these conditions any bolded use of a word or term refers to the below definition of that word or term:

**Audit report** means a written report of compliance and fulfilment of the conditions attached to this approval, objectively evaluated against the audit criteria approved by the **department**.

**Australian Painted Snipe** means the species *Rostratula australis* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Australian Painted Snipe habitat** means the fringe of a wide variety of permanent and/or temporary shallow, brackish and freshwater wetlands. Suitable wetlands usually support a mosaic of low, patchy vegetation, as well as lignum and cane grass. Nesting occurs within a scrape on the ground amongst reeds and tussocks which is lined with twigs, leaves and stalks of grass.

**Black Ironbox** means the species *Eucalyptus raveretiana* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Business day** means a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday in the state or territory of the Action.

**Clear, clearance, clearing** means the cutting down, felling, thinning, logging, removing, killing, destroying, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting, or burning of vegetation.

**Commence the Action** or **Commencement of the Action** means the date on which the first instance of **clearing** of **protected matters** habitat is undertaken. **Commencement of the Action** does not include minor physical disturbance necessary to:

- a. undertake pre-clearance surveys or monitoring programs; or
- b. install signage and/or temporary fencing to prevent unapproved use of the study area; or
- c. protect environmental and property assets from fire, weeds, and feral animals, including use of existing surface access tracks; or
- d. install site facilities for persons undertaking activities associated with the action, so long as these are located where they have no impact on any **protected matter**.

**Completion data** means an environmental report and spatial data clearly detailing how the conditions of this approval have been met. The **department's** chosen format for spatial data is a **shapefile**.

**Completion of the Action** means the date on which all activities associated with this approval have permanently ceased and/or been completed.

**Compliance records** means all documentation or other material in whatever form required to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of approval in the approval holder's possession, or that are within the approval holder's power to obtain lawfully.

**Compliance report** means a written report of compliance with, and fulfilment of, the conditions attached to the approval.

**Construction** means the erection of a building or structure that is or is to be fixed to the ground and wholly or partially fabricated on-site; the alteration, maintenance, repair or demolition of any building or structure; preliminary site preparation work which involves breaking of the ground (including pile driving); the laying of pipes and other prefabricated materials in the ground, and any associated excavation work; but excluding the installation of temporary fences and signage.

**Department** means the Australian Government agency responsible for administering the **EPBC Act**.

**EIS** means the *Final Environmental Impact Statement, including appendices*, published on 28 February 2022 [CopperString Project's EIS documents | State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning](#).

**Environmental management plan guidelines** means the *Environmental Management Plan Guidelines*, Commonwealth of Australia, 2014, or any subsequent official version.

**EPBC Act** means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

**Environmental Offsets Policy** means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Offsets Policy* (October 2012) including the Offsets Assessment Guide, or any subsequent official version.

**Habitat quality** Habitat quality is the measure of the overall capacity and ongoing viability of a site to support the relevant **protected matter/s**, determined with respect to site condition, site context and species stocking rate and/or composition.

**Impact** (verb) means to cause any direct or indirect disturbance or harmful change as a result of any activity associated with the action. **Impact** (noun) means any measurable direct or indirect disturbance or harmful change as a result of any activity associated with the action.

**Incident** means any event which has the potential to, or does, impact on any **protected matter** other than as authorised by this approval.

**Independent** means a person or firm who does not have any individual, financial\*, employment\* or family affiliation or any conflicting interests with the project, the approval holder or the approval holder's staff, representatives or associated persons.

\*Other than for the purpose of undertaking the role for which an independent person is required.

**Independent audit** means an audit conducted by an **independent** and **suitably qualified person** as detailed in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines* (2019), or any subsequent official version.

**Julia Creek Dunnart** means the species *Sminthopsis douglasi* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Julia Creek Dunnart habitat** means Tussock Mitchell Grass grasslands within cracking clay soils.

**Koala** means the species *Phascolarctos cinereus* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Koala habitat** means

- Queensland Regional Ecosystems (REs) on alluvial soils within 300 m of watercourses;
- REs described as having moderately fertile soils with mid-dense to sparse tree densities of known koala food trees or REs with low fertile soils and very sparse tree densities of primary or secondary koala food trees;
- REs described as having low fertility soils, very sparse tree densities of koala food trees not specified as primary or secondary tree species for the region OR Acacia-dominated REs with emergent koala food trees OR non-remnant areas with isolated trees within 200 m of remnant vegetation;
- REs with low fertility soils, very sparse tree densities of koala food trees not specified as primary or secondary tree species for the region OR Acacia-dominated REs with emergent koala food trees; or

**Legally secure/ securing / Legal security** means to secure a legal agreement under relevant Queensland legislation, in relation to an offset site/area, to provide enduring protection for the site/area against development incompatible with conservation.

**Minister** means the Australian Government Minister administering the **EPBC Act**, including any delegate thereof.

**Monitoring data** means the data required to be recorded under the conditions of this approval.

**Nests** means a structure or place made or chosen by a bird for laying eggs and sheltering its young.

**New or increased impact** means any direct or indirect increase in the impacts of an Action, an increase to the likelihood of an impact occurring, a reduction to the monitoring or mitigation measures for a **protected matter**, and/or a change to the nature or management of an environmental offset as outlined in the *Guidance on 'new or increased impact' relating to changes to approved management plans under EPBC Act environmental approvals (2017)*, or any subsequent official version.

**Night Parrot** means the species *Pezoporus occidentalis* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Night Parrot breeding habitat** means **Night Parrot foraging habitat** that contains **nests**.

**Night Parrot foraging habitat** means arid and semi-arid grasslands dominated by spinifex

**Operation** means all activities associated with the action that occur after **construction**.

**Ornamental Snake** habitat means remnant vegetation in close proximity to Gilgai mounds and depressions. The species occurs amongst woodlands and shrublands, preferably Brigalow, in low lying areas where deep-cracking clays are abundant.

**Painted Honeyeater habitat** means woodland ecosystems, as well as riparian woodlands and Acacia scrubs. The species relies heavily on Grey Mistletoe (*Amyema quandang*) and Needle-leaf Mistletoe (*Amyema cambagei*) for breeding and foraging.

**Ornamental Snake** means the species *Denisonia maculate* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Painted Honeyeater** means the species *Grantiella picta* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Pink Gidgee** means the species *Acacia crombiei* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Plains Death Adder habitat** means flat, treeless, cracking-soil riverine floodplains.

**Plains Death Adder** means the species *Acanthophis hawkei* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Plan(s)** means any action management plan or strategy that the approval holder is required by these conditions to implement.

**Protected matter(s)** means a matter protected under a controlling provision in Part 3 of the **EPBC Act** for which this approval has effect.

**Recognised guidelines** means Commonwealth or state endorsed survey and assessment guidelines relevant to the **protected matters**, or as otherwise approved by the **Minister**.

**Red Goshawk** means the species *Erythrotriorchis radiatus* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Rehabilitation areas** means areas within the **study area** which, as part of the Action, which will be **cleared** for **construction** but not required for the Action during **operation**.

**Sensitive ecological data** means data as defined in the Australian Government Department of the Environment *Sensitive Ecological Data – Access and Management Policy V1.0 (2016)*, or any subsequent official version.

**Shapefile(s)** means location and attribute information about the Action provided in an Esri shapefile format. Shapefiles must contain '.shp', '.shx', '.dbf' files and a '.prj' file that specifies the projection/geographic coordinate system used. Shapefiles must also include an '.xml' metadata file that describes the shapefile for discovery and identification purposes.

**Southern Black-throated Finch** means the species *Poephila cincta cincta* listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act**.

**Southern Black-throated Finch breeding habitat** means **Southern Black-throated Finch foraging habitat** that is within one kilometre of a permanent water source.

**Southern Black-throated Finch foraging habitat** grassy, open woodlands and forests, typically dominated by Eucalyptus, Acacia and Melaleuca.

**Squatter Pigeon (Southern)** means the species *Geophaps scripta scripta* listed as threatened under the EPBC Act.

**Squatter Pigeon (southern) breeding habitat** means **Squatter Pigeon (southern) foraging habitat** that contains **nests**.

**Squatter Pigeon (southern) foraging habitat** means open-forests to sparse, open-woodlands and scrub that are:

- mostly dominated in the overstorey by *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia*, *Acacia* or *Callitris* species;
- remnant, regrowth or partly modified vegetation communities; and
- within 3 km of water bodies or courses.

**Study area** means the areas represented in 'Attachment B-Revised Project Description' of the EIS, on the maps at Figure 1-4A to Figure 1-4W by the purple outline labelled '2.5 km buffer (study area)' and the areas represented in 'Attachment D-Revised concept infrastructure plan-Camps' enclosed by the solid white or black line on the maps titled:

- a. Construction Camp- Cloncurry;
- b. Construction Camp- Selwyn Camp;
- c. Construction Camp- Julia Creek Camp;
- d. Construction Camp- Richmond Camp;
- e. Construction Camp- Hughenden;
- f. Construction Camp- Pentland Camp; and
- g. Construction Camp- Charters Towers Camp.

**Suitably qualified expert** means a person who has professional qualifications and at least three (3) years of work experience designing and implementing surveys for species of the the presence of all species listed in Attachment A and their habitat using relevant protocols, standards, methods and/or literature.

**Suitably qualified person** means a person who has professional qualifications, training, skills and/or experience related to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative independent assessment, advice and analysis on performance relative to the subject matter using the relevant protocols, standards, methods and/or literature.

**Waxy Cabbage Palm** means the species *Livistona lanuginosa* listed as threatened under the EPBC Act.

**Website** means a set of related web pages located under a single domain name attributed to the approval holder and available to the public.

**Attachment A:** Pre-clearance Species

**Protected matters** for which Pre-clearance surveys must be undertaken:

- a. **Southern Black-throated Finch;**
- b. **Squatter Pigeon (southern);**
- c. **Koala habitat;**
- d. **Night Parrot;**
- e. **Australian Painted Snipe;**
- f. **Painted Honeyeater;**
- g. **Julia Creek Dunnart;**
- h. **Ornamental Snake;**
- i. **Plains Death Adder;**
- j. **Black Ironbox;**
- k. **Pink Gidgee;**
- l. **Waxy Cabbage Palm; and**
- m. **Red Goshawk.**