



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED (PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

TRANSMISSION LINE, PICTON TO MINERAL SANDS MINE, BEENUP, VIA THE GREAT NORTH ROAD (510)

STATE ENERGY COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1 Proponent Commitments

In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments (which are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement) made in the Consultative Environmental Review and in the Proponent's Response contained in Appendix 2 of Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 603. (A copy of the commitments is attached.)

2 Implementation

Subject to these conditions, the manner of detailed implementation of the proposal shall conform in substance with that set out in any designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted by the proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority with the proposal. Where, in the course of that detailed implementation, the proponent seeks to change those designs, specifications, plans or other technical material in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.

3 Clearing Profile and Pole Configuration

Prior to any clearing or construction, the proponent shall prepare a plan detailing both the clearing profile and the pole configuration, to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority. The proponent shall only modify this plan with the approval of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority.

4 Vegetation on Private Lands

Significant stands of native (including regenerated) bushland on private lands should be avoided.

4-1 Prior to any clearing on private lands, the proponent shall prepare a plan of the corridor across those lands, to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority.

4-2 In the plan required by condition 4-1, the proponent shall show significant stands of native (including revegetated) bushland on the private lands and shall indicate how these are to be avoided, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.

4-3 Subsequent to conditions 4-1 and 4-2, the proponent shall adhere to the plan, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.

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5 Vegetation on Public Lands

5-1 Prior to any clearing or construction on public lands, the proponent shall:

(1) conduct a survey to locate and map rare and endangered flora along the easement and within any additional areas of disturbance; and

(2) conduct a survey to locate and map the presence of "dieback" disease along the easement and within any additional areas of disturbance,

to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

5-2 Prior to the completion of construction, the proponent shall construct erosion \ control structures, where appropriate, along the easement, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

6 Non-Ionising Radiation

During the positioning of the transmission line, the proponent shall adhere to the guidelines laid down by the International Radiation Committee of the International Radiation Protection Authority, to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Radiation Health Branch of the Health Department of Western Australia.

7 Audit Programme

The implementation of this project will be audited.

7-1 Prior to any site works, the proponent shall prepare a programme to audit the implementation of the project in consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment. This programme shall include a list of the actions required by these conditions and the proponent's commitments, and shall specify for each action, its scope, how and when it will be performed, and the process for verifying that it has been completed satisfactorily. The programme shall include periodic reporting to inform the Environmental Protection Authority on the progress of the project and the status of environmental impacts.

7-2 Subsequent to condition 7-1, the proponent shall implement the approved programme to audit the implementation of the project, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.

8 Proponent

No transfer of ownership, control or management of the project which would give rise to a need for the replacement of the proponent shall take place until the Minister for the Environment has advised the proponent that approval has been given for the nomination of a replacement proponent. Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the project in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.

9 Time Limit on Approval

If the proponent has not substantially commenced the project within five years of the date of this statement, then the approval to implement the proposal as granted in this statement shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment shall determine any question as to whether the project has been substantially commenced. Any application to extend the period of five years referred to in this condition shall be made before the expiration of that period, to the Minister for the Environment by way of a request for a change in the

condition under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act. (On expiration of the five year period, further consideration of the proposal can only occur following a new referral to the Environmental Protection Authority.)



Bob Pearce, MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

12 MAR 1992

APPENDIX

Generic and Specific Commitments

- (i) LIST OF COMMITMENTS FROM THE CER DOCUMENT.
- (ii) EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING COMMITMENTS.
- (iii) NEW COMMITMENTS.

APPENDIX

- (i) List of commitments from the CER document.

Note: Commitments marked with an asterisk * have been extended.
Refer to Appendix (iii).

GENERIC COMMITMENTS

The following commitments have been developed by SECWA to reduce the potential impact of transmission line construction and maintenance within Western Australia. They apply to all corridors and would be implemented at the appropriate time and to the satisfaction of the landowner and/or relevant authority.

GC1 - Areal Limits of Construction

The areal limits of construction activities will be predetermined by SECWA in consultation with landowners, with activity restricted to and confined within those limits. All construction vehicle movement outside the right-of-way will be restricted to predesignated roads.

GC2 - Personnel Instruction

Prior to construction, all supervisory construction personnel will be instructed by SECWA and CALM officers on the protection of cultural and ecological resources and will be briefed on all agreed stipulations.

GC3 - Complaints Register

A programme for handling and resolving complaints will be established by SECWA prior to commencement of construction and will be administered by a designated person in consultation with CALM, Local Shires and other relevant authorities.

GC4 - Fire Suppression

SECWA shall instruct the contractor to do everything reasonably within their power to prevent and suppress fires on or near the lands to be occupied under the right-of-way, including making available such construction and maintenance forces as may be reasonably obtainable for the suppression of such fires. SECWA will also comply with Bushfire Board requirements.

GC5 - Restoration

The contractor shall build and repair such roads, fences and trails as may be destroyed or damaged by construction work and shall build and maintain necessary and suitable crossings for all roads, trails and fences that intersect the works constructed, maintained or operated. This would be completed under SECWA supervision and in consultation with affected landowners.

GC6 - Archaeology/Ethnography Survey

Prior to construction, SECWA will commission a survey made by an agency or contractor, of archaeological, paleontological, and historical sites within the area to be occupied by the line easement. The results of this survey will be provided to the WA Museum. SECWA, will relocate the proposed transmission line facilities in order avoid destruction of archaeological, paleontological or historic values.

* **GC7 - Rehabilitation**

All construction and designated access roads, framing sites, and material storage sites will be restored to their natural state insofar as is practical. All construction roads will be completely obliterated (returned to the natural contour) and "put to bed" by harrowing or drilling and reseeded (if required) or simply where practical let it return to its natural state, as specified by the private landowner or CALM. The method of restoration will normally consist of returning disturbed areas back to their natural contour, cross drains installed for erosion control, placing drains back in the road and filling ditches.

GC8 - Waste Disposal

SECWA will instruct the contractor to remove or dispose of all waste caused by its activities in a manner satisfactory to the landowner. The term "waste" as used herein means all discarded matter, including but not limited to human waste, garbage, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes and equipment. Construction areas will be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times and garbage and refuse at these sites will be disposed of on a daily basis. Hazardous or toxic waste-generated or used on site will be disposed of in a manner consistent with health authority guidelines.

GC9 - Vegetation Removal

All litter and debris, including vegetative cover accumulated through land clearing, will be disposed of in accordance with the landowner requirements.

* **GC10 - Access**

No new access will be constructed where existing access is available. This will minimise ground disturbance and limit new or improved access ability.

GC11 - New Road Alignments

The alignment of any new access roads will follow landform contours, provided that such alignment does not additionally impact resource values. This would minimise ground disturbance and/or reduce scarring.

GC12 - Line Structure Locations

Structures will be placed so as to avoid sensitive features (e.g. rare flora, water courses, etc.) and/or to allow conductors to clearly span the features, within limits of standard line structure design. This would minimise the amount of sensitive features disturbed and/or reduce visual contrast.

GC13 - Road Crossings

At highway, road or trail crossings, line structures are to be placed at maximum feasible distance from the crossing.

GC14 - Camp Sites

Camp sites will be selected in consultation with relevant authorities to comply with the following requirements:

- o no camp sites shall be located in vested reserves, e.g. National Parks and Flora and Fauna Reserves;
- o camp sites shall not be located on the flood-plains of major rivers or streams;
- o wherever possible and practical, camp sites shall be located adjacent to stockpile site; and
- o wherever possible and practical, camp sites shall be located adjacent to, or as close as possible to, existing access roads.

Every effort shall be made to establish camps in areas with the following characteristics:

- o soil conditions are suitable for sewage effluent disposal;
- o no excavation is required prior to camp establishment;
- o some form of environmental degradation exists in the area; and
- o minimal visual impact would result from the establishment of a camp site.

GC15 - Erosion of Soils

In areas where impacts to soils are expected to be high, the following commitments were developed by SECWA:

- o wherever possible, no new access would be constructed;
- o no widening or upgrading of existing access road;
- o permanently close construction access roads not required for maintenance;
- o new access roads will follow the landform contours;
- o line would be re-routed to avoid sensitive features; and
- o towers would be placed at maximum feasible distance from major drainage crossings.

SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

SC1 - Agricultural Land

On agricultural land, the easement will be aligned with field boundaries to the greatest extent practicable and the line structures will be set near paddock boundaries, service roads etc., to reduce the impact to farm operations and agricultural production.

For areas where line structures are potentially visible to local residents, the structures will be located wherever possible, to take advantage of vegetation backdrops and terrain to reduce viewing the structures on the skyline.

SC2 - Seven Day Road and Bibbulmum Track

Where the line crosses Seven Day Road and the Bibbulmum Track the alignment will be surveyed to minimise visual impact by crossing at right angles and using vegetation and/or topography to screen from view. Wherever possible screening vegetation will be planted to minimise visual impact. Clearing will be in accordance with Section 7.2.

SC3 - Boundary of Beavis East Block

Strict adherence to all generic committed mitigation listed in Section 9.0 will be enforced along this section. Clearing will be carried out in accordance with Section 7.2 however no clearing will be undertaken north of Waistcoat Road (Beavis East Block).

SC4 - Beavis East Block and Beavis West Block

The commitments for clearing through Beavis East and Beavis West Block include:

- o clearing only those areas specified in Section 7.2 - prescription for clearing;
- o tall trees able to fall on the line from outside the easement (up to 60m from the centre line) will be selectively felled in consultation with CALM and removed by CALM; and
- o SECWA will monitor vegetation growth to identify and remove any vegetation high enough to cause flash-over or able to fall on the transmission line.

SECWA will prepare, to the satisfaction of CALM, a detailed construction and operation programme for Beavis East block and Beavis West block prior to the commencement of clearing. This programme will fully assess the underground cable option.

SC5 - Darling Scarp

For the Darling Scarp, SECWA makes the commitment to use the following management techniques to minimise the potential erosion risk and the risk of dieback spread. These techniques include:

- o wherever possible no new access will be constructed in areas of high slope;
- o construction access roads not required for maintenance will be rehabilitated;
- o new access/maintenance roads will be designed to follow the landscape contours;
- o tower structures will be placed to avoid sensitive features, including outcrop and drainage lines; and
- o towers will be placed the maximum feasible distance from drainage features.

SC6 - Donnelly River

SECWA makes the following commitment for the crossing of the Donnelly River. The transmission line will cross the Donnelly River at right angles and line structures will be placed at the maximum feasible distance from the river bank. Where access roads are required, the road base will be designed so as not to impede surface drainage. Vegetation clearing will be similar to that shown on Figure 7.

SC7 - Storry Forest Block

To minimise vegetation disturbance within the Storry Forest Block SECWA makes the commitment to adopt the following measures when locating line structures and access roads:

- o avoidance of the wetland areas;
- o spanning significant species sites (not erecting towers within them);
- o locating the access track outside significant species sites;
- o not digging, clearing or grading any part of significant species sites;
- o restricting traffic across significant species sites to that required for laying out the conductor; and
- o maintaining clearance levels at heights well above those of significant species.

SC8 - Paget Nature Reserve

Approximately 7km of the Manjimup to Beenup Corridor passes within 500m of the Paget Nature Reserve (Map 3). Public concern about the impact of road construction on drainage flows into the reserve has led SECWA to formulate the following commitment:

Within the catchment area for Paget Nature Reserve SECWA will construct access to the transmission line using the following guidelines, to the satisfaction of CALM:

- o wherever possible SECWA will use local road base to provide colouring sympathetic to the area, and to reduce the possibility of introducing dieback;
- o the access road will closely follow the existing ground profile to minimise cut and fill requirements, visual impact, erosion and disruption to surface water movement;
- o the access road crown will encourage drainage to the edge of the track; and
- o culverts will be installed where the gradient of the profile is locally too steep (creeks and drainages).

SC9 - Intensive Agriculture - Jamieson Road

SECWA will locate the line structures and access roads to follow or run parallel to existing road reserves and paddock boundaries or within the Jamieson Road reserve.

SC10 - Rare Flora Survey

SECWA makes the commitment to undertake a comprehensive spring survey of vegetation within any of the corridors identified in this report, prior to the commencement of surveying and clearing. The survey of the vegetation will identify locations of rare flora and the line will be re-routed or mitigation measures formulated in consultation with CALM to avoid or minimise the potential impact on rare flora.

SC11 - Rapids and Mowen Conservation Parks

Where the transmission line passes within one (1)km of the Rapids and Mowen Conservation Parks SECWA will:

- o construct access roads and locate line structures so as not to impeded the drainage patterns of the area;
- o maintain a buffer of screening vegetation between the line and the Park boundary to reduce visual impact; and
- o implement a construction supervision programme with officers from SECWA and CALM supervising construction activities to ensure no direct impact occurs to the Parks.

SC12 - Margaret River Catchment Area

For the portion of the line route which crosses the Margaret River Catchment Area, SECWA is prepared to make the following commitment:

- o within the Margaret River Catchment Area SECWA will:
 - use wherever possible existing access tracks;
 - undertake clearing so as to leave root stock intact; and
 - liaise with WAWA and CALM about clearing requirements and vegetation rehabilitation.

*** SC13 - The Blackwood River Crossing**

To ensure that the potential impacts associated with a line crossing the Blackwood River are minimised, SECWA proposes to undertake the following commitment:

- o SECWA will prepare to the satisfaction of CALM a construction and management plan for the area impacted by the proposed crossing of the Blackwood River Conservation Park. This plan will be prepared prior to clearing and construction commencing. The plan will detail which vegetation (if any) will be removed in part or in full.

SC14 - Augusta - Margaret River Heritage Trail

Where the line crosses the Heritage Trail line structures will be placed at the maximum possible distance from the track to reduce visual impact. Access from the Heritage Trail along the easement will be restricted using a combination of low vegetation screening and fencing. The fencing will be constructed from local forest materials to maintain landscape quality.

SC15 - Compensation

SECWA makes the following commitments to any landowner affected by the final approved line route:

- o compensation for the easement will be negotiated with the registered land proprietor based on valuations provided by the Valuer Generals Office;
- o compensation will also be negotiated with landholders for any loss of production caused by the line construction and future operational activities; and
- o owners will be offered seedlings to replace any trees removed from the property.

This commitment applies to all landholders potentially affected within the other corridor options identified.

SC16 - Proximity to Buildings

The line between Picton and Margaret River (parallel to the existing 66kV line) passes close to many existing buildings (<100m). To reduce the potential impact on local residents close to the line SECWA have made the following commitment:

- o the line will be routed so that no existing buildings are located within the easement; and
- o wherever possible, the closest residential building will be a minimum of 100m from the centreline.

SC17 - Use of Rail Easements

The option to use the existing railway easement as shown on Map 1 would provide advantages by reducing vegetation clearing and avoiding homes located east of the Ludlow Forest. If any of the line options from Picton are approved, SECWA are prepared to make the following commitment:

- o SECWA will fully investigate the potential for using the rail easement and commence detailed discussions with Westrail. If the option to use the rail reserve is feasible SECWA will prepare a report detailing the potential impacts and proposed mitigation for this section.

SC18 - Busselton Golf Course/Airstrip

SECWA will align the new line to minimise the impact on the Busselton golf course and minimise the intrusion into the airspace required for the proposed airstrip.

SC19 - Margaret River Townsite

SECWA recognise the potential impact of the line on the future development of Margaret River townsite and are prepared to make the following commitment:

- o If there is any potential impact of the line on the future development of Margaret River SECWA will liaise with the local community and relevant authorities to manage and minimise those impacts.

SC20 - Bramley and Witchcliffe Forest Blocks

SECWA makes the commitment to produce a report to the satisfaction of CALM and relevant authorities, which details a comprehensive construction and operation programme for Bramley and Witchcliffe Forest Blocks. This plan will include discussion on issues relevant to these areas and provide specific mitigation commitments aimed at reducing potential impacts.

SC21 - Noxious Weeds

SECWA will comply with the regulations and requirements of the Agricultural Protection Board (APB) at all times.

SC22 - Fauna Survey

SECWA will complete a fauna survey for the approved corridor prior to the commencement of clearing and construction to identify habitats potentially affected by the line. Where possible, line structures will be placed to avoid sensitive habitats.

SC23 - Silviculture Outside of Easement

A detailed silvicultural plan would be developed for the areas outside of the easement by SECWA in consultation with CALM, prior to the operation of the line commencing. The aim of the plan would be to maintain the vegetation profile shown on Figure 5b. It is envisaged that the plan would be implemented by CALM and consist of the following principle components:

- o specification of maximum tree heights permitted within zones determined by distance from the easement;
- o identification and removal of existing trees able to fall and impact on the line;
- o development of a monitoring programme to monitor regrowth on a regular basis; and
- o the subsequent felling and removal of trees identified during the monitoring programme as able to fall onto the line.

SC24 - Dieback Management

SECWA make the following commitments to control the spread of dieback:

- o a dieback 7-way test will be conducted by CALM officers;
- o SECWA would work to priorities agreed by CALM;
- o mapping of dieback disease status in areas of native vegetation would be arranged by CALM prior to construction commencing;
- o wherever possible the work sequence would be carried out by dieback disease classes. If this is not possible, washing down of vehicles and equipment moving between these classes would be required;
- o nominated officers from CALM and SECWA would supervise all aspects of the line construction to ensure that the commitments and guidelines outlined in this report are followed; and
- o if these commitments and guidelines are breached then all parties involved would be investigated, and where necessary, dismissed from site.

APPENDIX - (ii) EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING COMMITMENTS

Note: The new portion of each commitment is shown in italics.

GC7 - Rehabilitation and Regeneration

All construction and designated access roads, framing sites and material storage sites will be restored to their natural state insofar as is practical. All construction roads will be completely obliterated (returned to the natural contour) and "put to bed" by harrowing or drilling and reseeding (if required) or simply where practical let it return to its natural state, as specified by the private landowner or CALM. The method of restoration will normally consist of returning disturbed areas back to their natural contour, cross drains installed for erosion control, placing drains back in the road and filling ditches.

Regeneration of vegetation will be encouraged inside the easement, to a height of 4m and outside the easement in accordance with the clearing profile or silviculture arrangements.

GC10 - Access

No new access will be constructed where existing access is available. This will minimise ground disturbance and limit new or improved access ability.

In areas where permanent access is not required tracks will be rehabilitated as per Commitment GC7, once construction is complete.

SC13 - The Blackwood River Crossing

To ensure that the potential impacts associated with a line crossing the Blackwood River are minimised, SECWA proposes to undertake the following commitment:-

SECWA will prepare to the satisfaction of CALM a construction and management plan for the area impacted by the proposed crossing of the Blackwood River Conservation Park. This plan will be prepared prior to clearing and construction commencing. The plan will detail which vegetation (if any) will be removed in part or full.

Access along the easement will be restricted by the use of gates, screening vegetation and fencing where appropriate. Fencing will be constructed from local forest materials to maintain landscape value.

SC23- Silviculture Outside of Easement

A detailed silvicultural plan would be developed for the areas outside of the easement by SECWA in consultation with CALM, prior to the operation of the line commencing. The aim of the plan would be to maintain the vegetation profile shown on Figure 5b. It is envisaged that the plan would be implemented by CALM and consist of the following principle components:

- . specification of maximum tree heights permitted within zones determined by distance from the easement;
 - . identification and removal of existing trees able to fall and impact on the line;
 - . development of a monitoring programme to monitor regrowth on a regular basis; and
 - . the subsequent felling and removal of trees identified during the monitoring programme as able to fall onto the line.
- . a strategy for harvesting and regenerating the silviculture blocks.*

APPENDIX - (iii) NEW COMMITMENTS

NC1 - McCarley's Swamp

In the vicinity of McCarley's Swamp SECWA will:

- endeavour to minimise the height of line structures.
- rehabilitate and return to their natural state any construction access tracks in accordance with Commitment GC7 and,
- monitor the operation of the line, in conjunction with local ornithologists, and take steps to resolve bird strike problems.

NC2 - Renewable Energy

SECWA will continue to monitor and support the development of viable renewable energy technologies.

NC3 - Loss of Vegetation

Clearing will be carried out in accordance with CALM's requirements and the revised clearing profiles contained in Appendix 3 of this report. The practices employed will be designed to minimise the initial loss of vegetation and facilitate regrowth.

NC4- Screening Vegetation

Screening vegetation will be planted wherever possible to reduce the visual impact of the line.

NC5 - Rare frog (Geocrinia, Alba and Vitellina)

The habitats of these frogs will be identified by the rare fauna survey which will be conducted prior to clearing and construction.

Disturbance to these areas will be avoided by careful siting of line structures and the diversion of construction access, where necessary.

NC6 - Line Construction

SECWA will explore the possibility of using concrete poles and other line hardware designed to reduce the visual impact of the line.

NC7 - Electric and Magnetic Fields

SECWA recognises that some members of the public are genuinely concerned about issues regarding electric and magnetic fields and health. SECWA is committed to the health, safety and welfare of the public.

SECWA designs and operates all its generation, transmission and distribution systems prudently within current health guidelines as established by Australian health authorities. SECWA will continue to closely monitor and sponsor engineering, scientific and medical research regarding electric and magnetic fields and health.

NC8 - Clearing in the Karri Region

SECWA recognises the need to minimise the amount of clearing in the Karri Region between Manjimup and the Donnelly River, west of the Vasse Highway and is prepared to make the following commitments:-

- . Poles with a cruciform pole top configuration will be used instead of steel towers in the karri region.
- . These poles will be located in the shoulder of existing logging haul roads or forest tracks wherever possible.
- . Where the line traverses areas with significant stands of karri SECWA will relax its 'tall trees' practice, that is, removing any tree outside the 40m easement which could impact upon the line if it fell. Only trees which present a hazard or disturbance will be felled and removed.
- . Regeneration of shrubs and understorey to a 4m height will be encouraged in the 40m easement.

NC9 - Historic Sites

The new line will avoid identified sites of historic or archeological significance.

NC10 - Capel Airstrip

SECWA will align the new line to minimise the impact on the Capel airstrip and will design the line in accordance with the Department of Aviations regulations.