

# STCP - Biodiversity Offset Package Fact Sheet

## Connecting Snowy 2.0 to the grid

January 2024

Note: The information in this Fact Sheet is a summary of our more detailed Biodiversity Offset Package report. This is available on our [website](#).

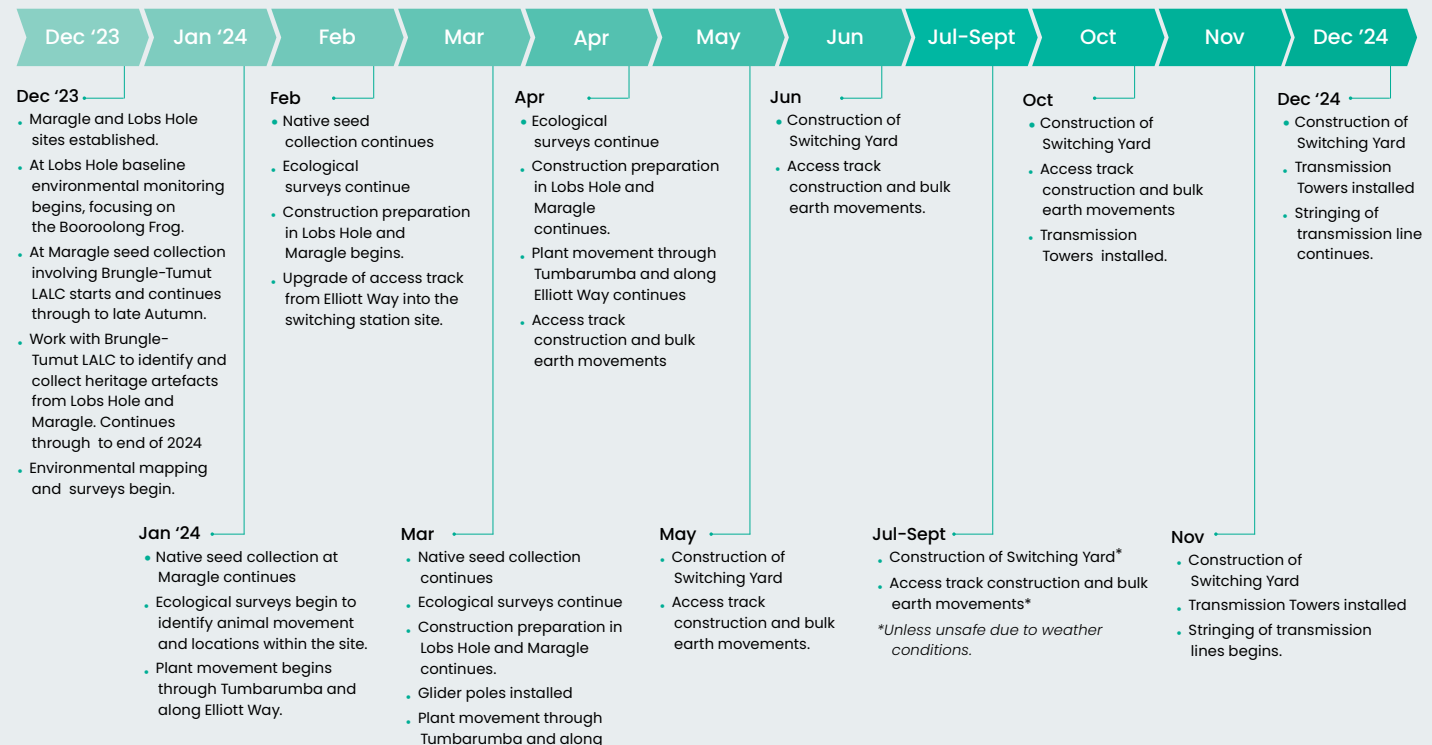


The Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection project (STCP) will connect Snowy Hydro 2.0 into the National Electricity Market. By connecting Snowy 2.0 to the grid, the renewable energy (up to 2,000 megawatts) that has been generated and stored can be distributed within minutes when it is most needed.

### To do this we will construct:

- 9km of new high voltage transmission lines from Lobs Hole in Kosciuszko National Park to a new switching station at Maragle, adjacent to Transgrid's existing Line 64 in Bago State Forest.
- A switching station located in the Bago State Forest.
- And upgrade access tracks to the new switching station and transmission line structures

### Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project Timeline



**LUMEA™** is Australia's leading infrastructure and energy services provider focused on servicing the renewable energy industry. Sitting as part of the Transgrid group, Lumea focuses on developing competitive commercial solutions and applying new technologies for customers across the eastern states of Australia.

## What is a Biodiversity Offset Package?

The NSW Government operates a Biodiversity Offset Scheme. The purpose of the scheme is to offset or compensate for unavoidable impacts on biodiversity by development projects.

Under the scheme, we must set out how impacts on biodiversity will be avoided and minimised throughout the project (the [Biodiversity Management Plan](#)). The impacts that can't be avoided can be offset by the purchase and/or retirement of biodiversity credits or payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund. An organisation can group together a combination of biodiversity credits and payments to compensate for the impacts made by development. It is this grouping that is called the 'Biodiversity Offset Package'.

## What is a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement?

Landholders can establish Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSA) on their land for specific fauna species and or ecosystems through the NSW Department Planning and Environment. A BSA generates biodiversity credits that can be sold to developers who need to offset biodiversity impacts. The money received by the landholder can fund the management of weeds, pests, fire, and to conserve habitat for native species and ecosystems.

## What is the project's offset package?

The Biodiversity Offset Package for the project addresses biodiversity impact within Bago State Forrest. The Offsets to address impact within Kosciuszko National Park have been arranged by Snowy Hydro as part of the Snowy 2.0 project.

The total value of the Biodiversity Offset Package is \$24,869,236. A bank guarantee for this amount has been lodged by Snowy Hydro before any development work has been done.

Work is underway to determine the mix of biodiversity credits and payments that will be put in place to offset obligations for the project. This needs to be finalised by 1 September 2024.

## What ecosystem and species impacts does the Offset Package cover?

The project will result in the clearing of approximately 118 hectares (ha) of native vegetation and habitat for threatened species, including approximately 44 ha of clearing outside KNP. Offset requirements, including ecosystem and species credits, are summarised in Table 1.1. The credit calculations are based upon the transmission connection layout as proposed in the Amendment Report Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project (Transgrid, 2022) and the BDAR (Jacobs, 2022). The credits required to be offset may be less than what is set out in the below tables, subject to final design refinement.

**Table 1.1 Offset requirements for impacts outside KNP**

Plant community type (PCT) or species	Offset trading group	Total credits
<b>Ecosystem credits</b>		
PCT 285 - Broad-leaved Sally grass – sedge woodland on valley flats and swamps in the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and adjoining South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	Upper Riverina Dry Sclerophyll Forests; >=70% and <90%	87
PCT 300 - Ribbon Gum - Narrow-leaved (Robertsons) Peppermint montane fern - grass tall open forest on deep clay loam soils in the upper NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and western Kosciuszko escarpment	Southern Tableland Wet Sclerophyll Forests; <50%	452
PCT 1196 - Snow Gum - Mountain Gum shrubby open forest of montane areas, South Eastern Highlands Bioregion and Australian Alps Bioregion	Subalpine Woodlands; <50%	825
<b>Total ecosystem credits</b>		<b>1,364</b>
<b>Species credits</b>		
Gang-gang Cockatoo ( <i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i> )	-	1,721
Eastern Pygmy-possum ( <i>Cercartetus nanus</i> )	-	1,789
Yellow-bellied Glider ( <i>Petaurus australis</i> ) endangered population on the Bago Plateau	-	1,697
Masked Owl ( <i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> )	-	417
<b>Total species credits</b>		<b>5,624</b>
<b>Total credits</b>		<b>6,988</b>

## How are we meeting the project's biodiversity offset obligations?

Offset obligations will be met through a combination of like-for-like credits and payment of any residual offset liability into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF). Like-for-like credit means that biodiversity impacts are offset by protecting species and ecosystems that are very similar to those being impacted.

Two properties have been identified that could be established as biodiversity stewardship sites. The two sites are capable of meeting 94% of the ecosystem credit liability and 30% of the species credit liability. Additional surveys targeting the Eastern Pygmy-possum and Gang-gang Cockatoo are underway. This may result in credits being generated for these two species and an increase in the percentage of the species credit liability met by these two sites (effective August 2023).

## Options for meeting the remaining liability

To meet the remaining offset liability, the project could purchase suitable credits from the Biodiversity

Offset Scheme (BOS) market. However, at this time, there are a limited number of credits available for the credits required

If credits cannot be secured from the two biodiversity stewardship sites or through purchase of credits from the market, the remaining offset liability will be met by paying into the BCF. At the time of publishing this could require a payment of \$3,129,067.86 (Costs calculated using BCF prices as on 5 July 2022).

## Timing

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements - in place early 2024

Purchase/transfer/retirement of residual offset liability from the credit market - 1 Sept 2024

Payment into the BCF for residual credit liability if required - 30 June 2024

All measures outlined in the Biodiversity Offset Plan implemented and all credit liabilities met - end 30 Sept 2024



### What to expect during construction

**Timing:**  
2023–2026



**Workforce:**  
Depending on project activities, up to 50 people staying and working in Tumarumba.



**Vehicle movements:**

- Road works along Elliott Way to upgrade the access roads into the switching station site.
- Additional traffic movement along Elliott Way (except for during school bus travel times).
- Some heavy vehicle movements along Elliott Way, these will be signposted.



**Activities:**  
Activities will include environmental surveys, bulk excavation, civil construction works, electrical equipment deliveries, vegetation clearing, access track works, tower construction and stringing of new lines.