

# SNOWY 2.0 TRANSMISSION CONNECTION PROJECT

## BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS PACKAGE

August 2025



(Photo: Alex Bolte, 2024)

### Version History

Version	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Comments
1.0	12 January 2023	Nathan Garvey (EMM)	Brett McLennan (EMM)	Draft for comment
2.0	14 March 2023	Nathan Garvey (EMM)	Brett McLennan (EMM)	Final for issue
3.0	31 May 2023	Nathan Garvey (EMM)	Brett McLennan (EMM)	Minor changes and updates
4.0	23 August 2023	Nathan Garvey (EMM)	–	Changes based on feedback from BCD
5.0	29 November 2024	Nathan Garvey (N+A)	Charlie Litchfield (Snowy Hydro)	Revision following approval of Modification 1
6.0	18 March 2025	Nathan Garvey (N+A)	Alex Bolte (Snowy Hydro)	Minor changes to clarify offset arrangements for PCT 285
7.0	19 August 2025	Alex Bolte (Snowy Hydro)	Charlie Litchfield (Snowy Hydro)	Update demonstrating delivery of offset package

## Executive Summary

The Snowy 2.0 project is a large-scale pumped hydro-electric storage and generation project being developed by Snowy Hydro Limited (Snowy Hydro) and their partner Future Generation Joint Venture (FGJV). It will increase hydro-electric capacity within the existing Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme and is critical to underpinning system security and reliability as Australia transitions to a decarbonised economy.

A new transmission connection is required to connect Snowy 2.0 to the National Energy Market (NEM). The Transmission Connection Project (the project) will include a new 500/330 kilovolt (kV) substation, two 330 kV double-circuit overhead transmission lines, and the construction of new access tracks and upgrade of existing access tracks. The project was approved by the NSW Minister for Planning on 2 September 2022, with specific conditions including the requirement for a Biodiversity Offset Package (BOP). This approval was modified in August 2024 providing an extension to the timeframe for implementation and delivery of biodiversity offset measures from 1 September 2024 to 1 September 2025.

The project has an offset obligation for impacts outside Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) under the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS). The proponent has several options to meet this obligation, including the retirement of like-for-like credits, retirement of credits in accordance with the variation rules, or payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF). The BOP for the project considers a combination of like-for-like credits, credits under the variation rules and payment into the BCF to meet the residual offset liability.

At the time of preparation of the BOP in May 2023, limited credits were available that would be suitable to offset the project. Since this time, Snowy Hydro has worked with four landholders in the Tumbarumba area on the establishment of biodiversity stewardship sites, progressing all four sites to submission of applications for Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSAs). Two of these applications were later withdrawn, whilst two progressed through to stewardship site establishment and relevant credits from the sites have been transferred to Snowy Hydro.

Snowy Hydro has secured all remaining credits not produced by the stewardship sites from the market under the like-for-like and variation rules.

The required numbers and types of credits have been obtained, credits have been retired and no residual payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund is necessary. All offset obligations have been met by 01 September 2025.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project overview

Snowy Hydro Ltd (Snowy Hydro) and its partner, Future Generation Joint Venture (FGJV), are developing Snowy 2.0, a large-scale pumped hydro-electric storage and generation project which will increase hydro-electric capacity within the existing Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme (Snowy Scheme). Snowy 2.0 is the largest committed renewable energy project in Australia and is critical to underpinning system security and reliability as Australia transitions to a decarbonised economy. Snowy 2.0 will link the existing Tantangara and Talbingo reservoirs within the Snowy Scheme through a series of underground tunnels and a hydro-electric power station.

To connect Snowy 2.0 to the National Energy Market (NEM), a new transmission connection is required. NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Ltd as a trustee for NSW Electricity Operations Trust (known as Transgrid) sought approval under Part 5, Division 5.2 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for the construction and operation of the Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project (the project) to enable the grid connection of Snowy 2.0 to the NEM.

The key elements of the project are shown on Figure 1 and include:

- a new 500/330 kilovolt (kV) substation located within Bago State Forest and adjacent to Transgrid's existing Transmission Line 64 (Line 64)
- two 330 kV double-circuit overhead transmission lines, approximately 9 kilometres (km) long, linking the Snowy 2.0 cable yard in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) to the new substation
- a short overhead transmission line connection between the substation and Line 64
- construction of new access tracks and upgrade of existing access tracks where required to facilitate the construction of the transmission lines and substation and service ongoing maintenance activities
- establishment of temporary sites and infrastructure needed during construction including crane pads, site compounds, a helipad, and equipment laydown (Jacobs 2021).

The project was approved by the NSW Minister for Planning on 2 September 2022 and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment on 21 October 2022. On 30 August 2024 the Director, Energy Assessments of the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) approved Modification 1 to the Infrastructure Approval for an extension to the timeframe for implementation and delivery of biodiversity offset measures from 1 September 2024 to 1 September 2025. A copy of the NSW Infrastructure Approval (SSI-9717) can be found on the DPHI major projects website at:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/snowy-20-transmission-connection>

A copy of the Commonwealth EPBC Act approval can be found on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEEW's) website at:

<https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/entity/sharepointdocumentlocation/9aaefe86-1f2f-ed11-9db10022481867fa/2ab10dab-d681-4911-b881-cc99413f07b6?file=2018-8363-Approval-Decision.pdf>

## 1.2 Conditions of approval

The NSW Infrastructure Approval (SSI-9717) contains several conditions which aim to:

- prevent, minimise, or offset adverse environmental impacts of the project
- set standard and performance measures for acceptable environmental performance

- require regular monitoring and reporting
- provide for the ongoing environmental management of the project.

There are a number of conditions in Infrastructure Approval SSI-9717 relating to the management of biodiversity, including conditions B18 and B19, which set out the requirement for a Biodiversity Offset Package (BOP) and a bank guarantee, respectively.

Condition B18 states:

*Prior to carrying out any development that would impact on biodiversity values outside Kosciuszko National Park, the Proponent must prepare a Biodiversity Offset Package (Package) that is consistent with the EIS, in consultation with BCS and BCT, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary in writing. The Package must include, but not necessarily be limited to:*

- (a) details of the specific biodiversity offset measures to be implemented and delivered in accordance with the EIS;*
- (b) the cost for each specific biodiversity offset measures, which would be required to be paid into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund if the relevant measures is not implemented and delivered (as calculated in accordance with Division 6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)) and the offset payment calculator that was established as of 9 August 2021;*
- (c) the timing and responsibilities for the implementation and delivery of measures required in the Package; and*
- (d) confirmation that the biodiversity offset measures will have been implemented and delivered by no later than 1 September 2025.*

*Following approval, the Proponent must implement and deliver the Biodiversity Offset Package.*

Condition B19 states:

*Prior to carrying out any development outside of the Kosciuszko National Park that could impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Proponent or its nominee must lodge a bank guarantee with a total value of \$24,869,236, in accordance with the Deed of Agreement with the Planning Secretary executed on 1 September 2022. The Proponent must comply with the terms of the Deed.*

Condition C2 states:

*The Proponent must review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans or programs required under this approval to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within 3 months of the:*

- (a) the submission of an incident report under condition C7;*
- (b) the submission of an Independent Audit under condition C10;*
- (c) the approval of any modification of the conditions of this approval; or*
- (d) the issue of a direction of the Planning Secretary under condition A2 which requires a review.*

Condition 7 of the Commonwealth EPBC Act approval requires the residual impacts of the project to be offset in accordance with the NSW Infrastructure Approval. It states:

*To offset the impacts of the Action on protected matters, the approval holder must implement conditions B18, B19 and B20 of the State Infrastructure Approval.*

This BOP has been prepared to address the requirements of Condition B18 of the NSW Infrastructure Approval and was updated in November 2024 to address the requirement of Condition C2 to review and, if necessary, revise the BOP following approval of Modification 1.

The BOP was updated in March 2025 at the request of NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), to clarify offset arrangements for PCT 285 (see Section 2.1). Minor updates were also included to reflect the current status of Biodiversity Stewardship Sites, credits that had been secured from the market, and to provide clarity that any price to be paid into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF) if a suitable number of credits were not able to be sourced, would be calculated using a contemporary Charge Quote Statement from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

The BOP was further updated in August 2025 to reflect the status of credit procurement and retirement, and clarify whether any payment into the BCF would be sought.

The requirement for the bank guarantee is also addressed in this BOP (see Section 4).

### 1.3 Offset requirements

Impacts from the project and offset requirements have been determined by Jacobs in the *Biodiversity Development Assessment Report Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project* (BDAR) (Jacobs, 2022). While Jacobs (2022) assesses impacts and required offsets within both the Australian Alps and South Eastern Highlands Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) regions, this BOP only considers impacts and offsets outside KNP in accordance with Condition B18 of Infrastructure Approval SSI-9717 and the mechanisms outlined in the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS).

The project will result in clearing of approximately 118 hectares (ha) of native vegetation and habitat for threatened species, including approximately 44 ha of clearing outside KNP. Offset requirements for impacts outside KNP, including ecosystem and species credits, are summarised in Table 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 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>

## 1.4 Consultation

This BOP has been prepared in consultation with the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). A briefing was provided to DCCEEW in December 2022 which included an overview of the structure of the BOP, an update on the status of efforts to identify offset sites, including an estimate of credits generated at shortlisted sites and next steps.

The BOP was provided to DCCEEW in August 2023.

The BOP was updated in November 2024 and consultation was undertaken with DCCEEW in December 2024. DCCEEW responded in February 2025 and had no comments.

The BOP was updated in March 2025 after consultation with DCCEEW Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR) Regional Delivery Division (RDD) and Planning, Offsets & Threatened Species & Ecosystems Division (POTSE), and DPHI.

Consultation with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) was undertaken by Snowy Hydro in November 2024 following the update to the BOP. BCT has been provided with regular updates since that time.

DCCEEW CPHR Regional Delivery and POTSE have been provided with regular updates throughout the delivery of this BOP.

On 29 July 2025, a final progress update on the BOP implementation was provided to DCCEEW CPHR Regional Delivery (and forwarded to POTSE by RDD), and BCT. This update confirmed that the offset liability for the Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project was addressed before the 01 September 2025 due date, with supporting evidence included.



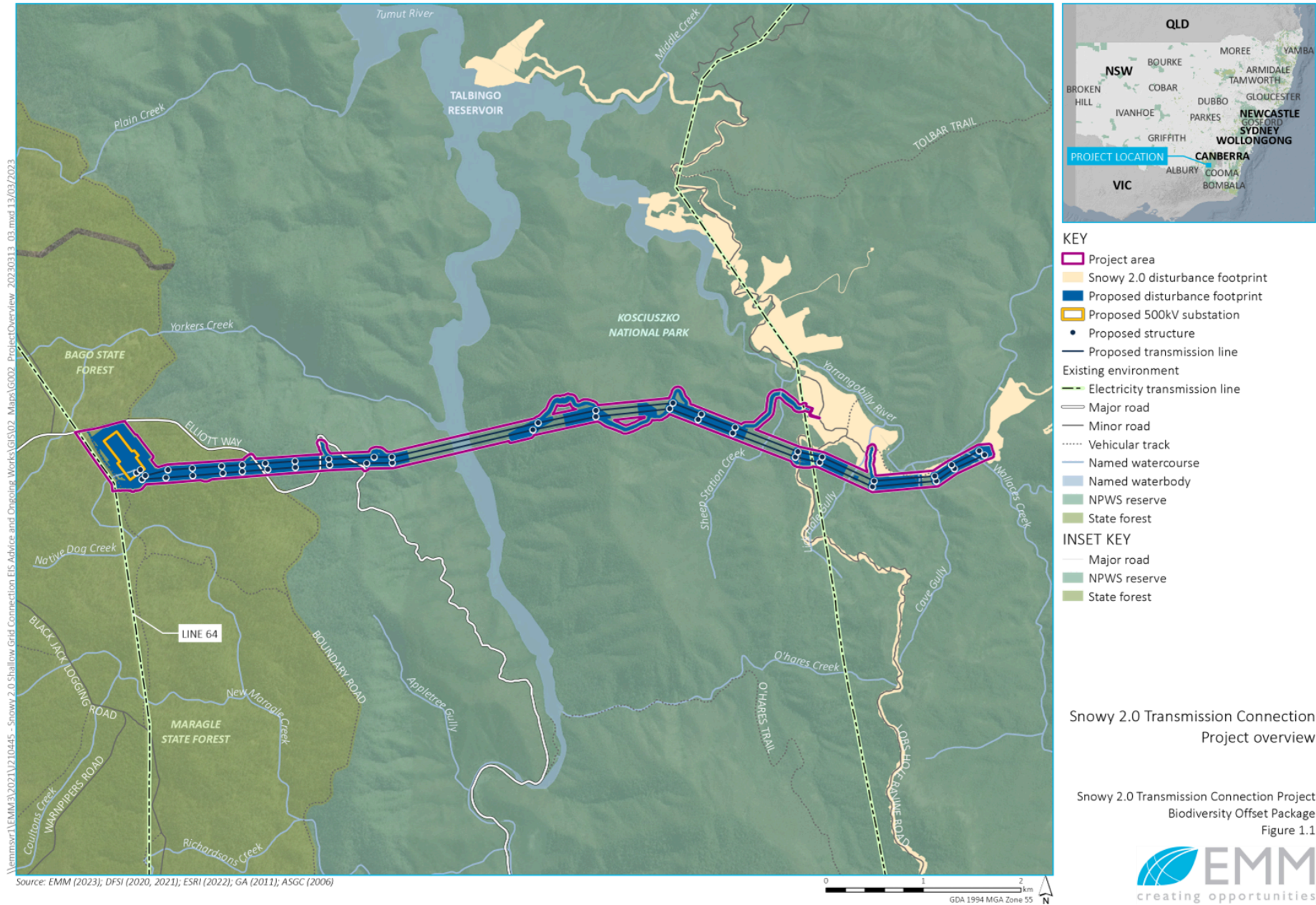


Figure 1 Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project overview



## 2 Biodiversity offset scheme overview

Several pathways are available under the BOS for a project to meet an offset obligation arising from unavoidable project impacts. These pathways are shown in Plate 1.

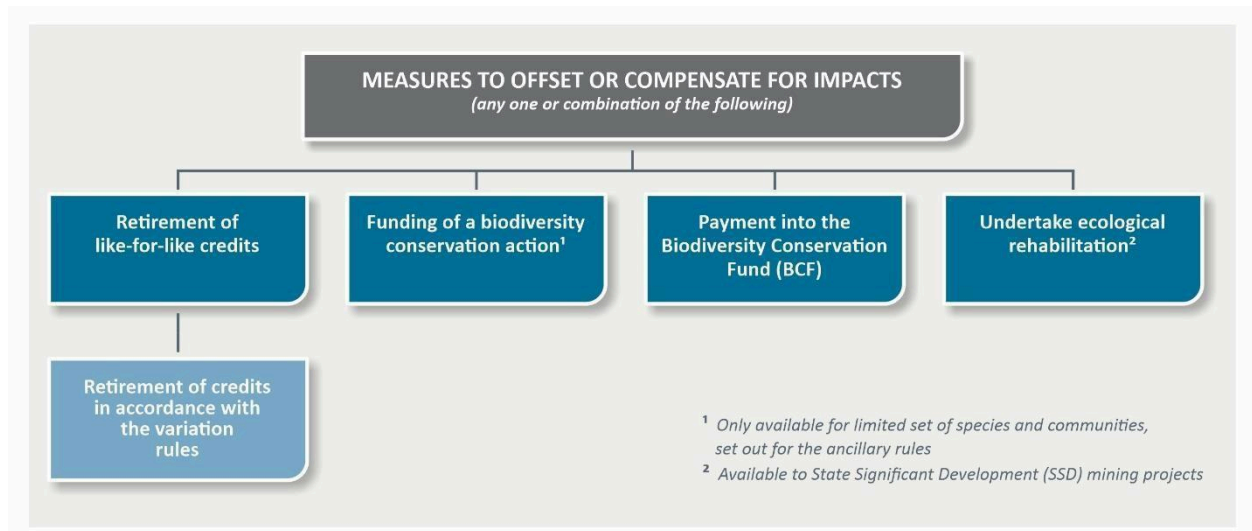


Plate 1 NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme offset options

Funding of a biodiversity conservation action is only available for a limited set of species and communities, as set out in the *Ancillary rules: Biodiversity conservation actions* (OEH, 2017). The project is not a State significant development (SSD) mining project and thus ecological rehabilitation was not available. This meant that offsets needed to be provided via retirement of like-for-like credits, retirement of credits in accordance with the variation rules, or payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF).

The various options available to meet the offset requirements of the project for impacts occurring outside of KNP are discussed below.

### 2.1 Retirement of like-for-like credits from existing sites

The rules for like-for-like credits are outlined in section 6.3 of the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017* (BC Regulation). This states:

- (2) In the case of impacts on threatened ecological communities, like-for-like biodiversity credits represent—
  - (a) the same threatened ecological community located in—
    - (i) the same or an adjoining Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia subregion as the impacted site, or
    - (ii) any such subregion that is within 100 kilometres of the outer edge of the impacted site, and
  - (b) if the threatened ecological community contains hollow bearing trees—vegetation that contains hollow bearing trees.
- (3) In the case of impacts on the habitat of threatened species that are ecosystem credit species or other native vegetation (other than impacts on threatened ecological communities), like-for-like biodiversity credits represent—

- (a) the same class of native vegetation located in—
    - (i) the same or an adjoining Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia subregion as the impacted site, or
    - (ii) any such subregion that is within 100 kilometres of the outer edge of the impacted site, and
  - (b) the same or a higher offset trading group, and
  - (c) if the impacted habitat contains hollow bearing trees—vegetation that contains hollow bearing trees.
- (4) In the case of impacts on threatened species that are species credit species, like-for-like biodiversity credits represent the same threatened species.

The IBRA subregions within 100 km of the outer edge of the project from which credits can be used to offset impacts arising from the project are outlined in Table 2.

*Table 2 IBRA subregions within 100 km of the outer edge of the project*

IBRA region	IBRA subregion
Australian Alps	Snowy Mountains
Australian Alps	Victorian Alps
NSW South Western Slopes	Inland Slopes
	Lower Slopes
Riverina	Victorian Riverina
South East Corner	South East Coastal Ranges
South Eastern Highlands	Bondo
	Highlands-Northern Fall
	Kybeyan-Gourock
	Monaro
	Murrumbateman

At the time of preparation of the BOP in May 2023, limited credits were available that would be suitable as offsets for the project, with no credits available under the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) that would meet project needs. Snowy Hydro identified four potential Biodiversity Stewardship Sites it progressed through various biodiversity assessment stages and which would provide a large proportion of the like for like credits required to offset project impacts. Two of the four sites did not progress. Of the two remaining sites, establishment of BSAs on each site (Tumba Top and Christmas Hill) was completed (see Section 3.1).

The remaining credits not produced by the Stewardship Sites have been secured from the market. Table 3 provides a summary of the credit types and numbers required, and shows the number that have been secured.

Table 3 Summary of credits required vs. secured to offset project impacts outside KNP

PCT/species	Offset trading group	Credits required	Credits secured
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; $\geq 70\%$ and $< 90\%$	87	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	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	825
Gang-gang Cockatoo	N/A	1,721	1,721
Eastern Pygmy-possum	N/A	1,789	1,789
Yellow-bellied Glider endangered population on the Bago Plateau	N/A	1,697	1,697
Masked Owl	N/A	417	417

In March 2025 an update was made to the BOP at the request of DPHI to clarify offset arrangements for plant community type (PCT) 285. This PCT was previously included in the Upper Riverina Dry Sclerophyll Forests;  $\geq 70\%$  and  $< 90\%$  offset trading group. Under the revised classification of plant community types in NSW, which occurred in 2023, PCT 285 was amalgamated into PCT 3930. PCT 3930 is in the Montane Bogs and Fens;  $< 50\%$  offset trading group meaning any credits created under the new PCT classification could not be used to offset impacts to PCT 285 as they do not meet the like-for-like requirements as set out under the BC Act. Snowy Hydro sought confirmation from DCCEEW and DPHI that PCT 3930 credits are equivalent and suitable to offset the impacts to PCT 285. Confirmation was provided (27 February 2025) and Snowy Hydro secured a parcel of 87 PCT 3930 credits to offset impacts to PCT 285.

Snowy Hydro has secured and retired like-for-like credits for all ecosystem credits, the Eastern Pygmy-possum, the Yellow-bellied Glider endangered population on the Bago Plateau and the Masked Owl. Snowy Hydro has been able to partially secure like-for-like credits for the Gang-gang Cockatoo from one of the Stewardship Sites and by purchasing all available credits from the market. Following reasonable steps to obtain like-for-like credits, Snowy Hydro has addressed the outstanding Gang-gang Cockatoo credit liability of 1,634 credits via application of the variation rules (see Section 2.2).

## 2.2 Credits under the variation rules

Following reasonable steps to obtain like-for-like credits, Snowy Hydro sought to retire credits under the variation rules. The variation rules allow broader trading as follows:

- For ecosystem credits:
  - they represent the same vegetation formation
  - they are in the same or a higher offset trading group
  - they represent a location that is in:



- o the same IBRA region as the impacted site, or
  - o a subregion that is within 100 km of the outer edge of the impacted site
- if the impacted habitat contains hollow bearing trees - they represent vegetation that contains hollow bearing trees or artificial hollows.
- For species credits:
  - if the impacted species is a plant—they represent a plant
  - if the impacted species is an animal—they represent an animal
  - they represent a species that has the same or a higher category of listing under the BC Act as a threatened species
  - they represent a location that is in:
    - o the same IBRA region as the impacted site, or
    - o a subregion that is within 100 km of the outer edge of the impacted site.

With the exception of Gang-gang Cockatoo species credits, all other types of credits have been addressed by securing and retiring like-for-like credits.

In relation to Gang-gang Cockatoo species credits, reasonable steps in accordance with the *Ancillary rules: Reasonable steps to seek like-for-like biodiversity credits for the purpose of applying the variation rules* (OEH, 2017), have been taken to identify and purchase like-for-like credits from the market, including contacting credit holders on the public registers, purchasing all available credits, and placing an entry on the 'credits wanted' register which did not generate any substantive leads. After undertaking these reasonable steps, an outstanding residual liability of 1,634 Gang-gang Cockatoo species credits remained.

Snowy Hydro made a submission to DPHI on 02 May 2025 requesting approval to apply the variation rules to address the remaining 1,634 Gang-gang Cockatoo credits.

DPHI advised that the Planning, Offsets, Threatened Species and Ecosystems (POTSE) Division within the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy ,the Environment and Water had carefully reviewed the supplied information and were satisfied that reasonable steps had been taken to source like-for-like Gang-gang Cockatoo credits in accordance with the Ancillary rules (OEH, 2017).

DPHI were satisfied that the proposal was consistent with the Ancillary Rules, and the request to apply the variation rules received NSW Planning Secretary approval on 27 June 2025. It was noted that the use of variation rules must comply with Clauses 6.4 and 6.6A of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017*.

A parcel of Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) credits within the NSW South Western Slopes IBRA Region, and Inland Slopes IBRA Subregion were identified as suitable and were subsequently purchased and retired on 23 July 2025. An assessment against the relevant clauses of the BC Regulation is provided in Appendix 1 demonstrating how the application of the variation rules complies with the requirements of the BC Regulation.

## 2.3 Payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund

The offset liability for all impacts occurring outside of KNP could have been met by paying \$25.55 million (M) into the BCF (Table 4).

As of 23 July 2025, the Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project Biodiversity Offsets Package has been delivered in full by transferring and retiring the required numbers and types of credits. Therefore no request to make payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund will be necessary. Refer to section 3.2 for further detail.

*Table 4 Total credits and cost of payment into the BCF for impacts of project outside of KNP*

Credit type	Credits	Payment into BCF (all impacts outside KNP)
Ecosystem	1,364	\$8,004,085.60
Species	5,625	\$17,541,496.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,988</b>	<b>\$25,545,581.72</b>

Notes: Costs calculated using BCF charge quote from 15 December 2023 (no indexation)

## 3 Biodiversity offset package

The biodiversity offset requirements outlined in Section 1.3 have been met via retirement of a combination of like-for-like credits and credits under the variation rules. No payment of the residual offset liability into the BCF is required.

### 3.1 Biodiversity stewardship sites

Snowy Hydro investigated potential biodiversity stewardship sites for the project, including land within the locality of the project. Snowy Hydro assisted landowners in developing BSA applications over four sites to generate credits to meet the needs of the project. Two of these ultimately progressed to approved BSAs, with credits created and transferred to Snowy Hydro.

Sites were identified via a spatial analysis which identified potential properties that could support the ecosystem and species credits required to offset impacts of the project outside of KNP. A total of 95 lots across 52 landholders were identified as potentially supporting suitable PCTs and threatened species habitat.

Based on the above, contact was made with landowners to ascertain their interest in entering into a BSA, with preliminary assessments, including PCT mapping and initial surveys for the Yellow-bellied Glider, undertaken at five properties. This preliminary work identified that four properties had the capacity to generate sufficient credits to meet a significant proportion of the offset requirements for the project across two offset trading groups and one species, with the Yellow-bellied Glider confirmed at two properties.

Detailed information on each property is provided below.

#### 3.1.1 Lot 16, DP 755852 (Tumba Top)

A BSA has been executed over part of Lot 16, Deposited Plan (DP) 755852, the 'Tumba Top' BSA. This property is located approximately 11 km east of Tumbarumba.

The Tumba Top BSA has secured the entire offset liability for the Subalpine Woodlands <50% cleared offset trading group, as well as meeting a significant portion (84%) of the offset liability

for the Yellow-bellied Glider endangered population on the Bago Plateau and a portion (2%) of the offset liability for the Gang-gang Cockatoo (Table 5).

*Table 5 Credits generated by the Tumba Top BSA*

PCT	Trading group	Credits generated	Credits required	Percentage of credit requirement met
680	Southern Tableland Grassy Woodlands; >90%	2	0	-
1100	Tableland Clay Grassy Woodlands; >=70% and <90%	22	0	-
1196	Subalpine Woodlands; <50%	897	825	>100%
952	Subalpine Woodlands; >=50% and <70%	501	0	-
	Gang-gang Cockatoo	30	1,721	2%
	Yellow-bellied Glider ( <i>Petaurus australis</i> ) endangered population on the Bago Plateau	1,422	1,697	84%

All credits from this site have been secured by Snowy Hydro, the total fund deposit (TFD) has been paid and the site is now in active management. Credits from this site relevant to the offset liability have been retired on 23 May 2025. Snowy Hydro continues to hold some surplus credits from the site, which are available on the market for transaction.

### 3.1.2 Lot 2, DP 556593 (Heinecke)

A BSA was proposed to be developed within Lot 2, DP 556593, the 'Heinecke' property. This property is located approximately 10 km north-north-east of Tumbarumba.

Surveys undertaken included detailed PCT mapping, plot surveys to ascertain vegetation condition and credit yield, and targeted surveys for the Yellow-bellied Glider using acoustic recording devices. These surveys recorded two PCTs within the site (300 and 952) as well as the Yellow-bellied Glider.

However, a combination of issues has resulted in Snowy Hydro deciding not to progress with a BSA over this site.

### 3.1.3 Lots 1 and 2, DP 812949 (Twin Rivers)

A BSA was proposed to be developed over Lots 1 and 2, DP 812949, the 'Twin Rivers' property. This property is located approximately 11 km east of Tumbarumba, and immediately adjacent to the Phillips property on the southern side.

Surveys undertaken included detailed PCT mapping, plot surveys to ascertain vegetation condition and credit yield, and targeted surveys for the Yellow-bellied Glider using drone imaging. These surveys recorded one PCT within the site (952) as well as the Yellow-bellied Glider and Gang-gang cockatoo.

However, a BSA over this site did not progress due to the landholder opting to withdraw from the process.

### 3.1.4 Lots 23, 24, 40, 46, 47, 48 and 202, DP 755874 (Christmas Hill)

A BSA has been executed over Lots 23, 24, 40, 46, 47, 48 and 202, DP 755874, the 'Christmas Hill' property. This property is located approximately 9 km north-north-east of Tumbarumba and immediately south of the Heinecke property.

The Christmas Hill property contributed to securing the residual offset liability for the Yellow-bellied Glider endangered population on the Bago Plateau (Table 6). Whilst this site generated credits which could assist with meeting the offset liability for the Southern Tableland



Wet Sclerophyll Forests <50% cleared offset trading group and the Subalpine Woodlands <50% cleared offset trading group, the credits were not required as the liability was met by credits from other sources.

*Table 6 Credits generated by the Christmas Hill BSA*

<b>PCT</b>	<b>Trading group</b>	<b>Credits generated</b>	<b>Credits required</b>	<b>Percentage of credit requirement met</b>
296	Southern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forests; <50%	454	0	-
307	Southern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forests; <50%	256	0	-
300	Southern Tableland Wet Sclerophyll Forests; <50%	336	452	74%
952	Subalpine Woodlands; >=50% and <70%	556	825	67%
	Yellow-bellied Glider (Petaurus australis) endangered population on the Bago Plateau	550	1,697	32%

Snowy Hydro transferred 275 Yellow-bellied Glider credits from this site to fulfill the remaining credit balance for this species. Christmas Hill retains surplus credits, which are available on the market for transaction.

### 3.2 Residual offset liability

A summary of the credits obtained, their sources, retirement status and the residual offset liability is provided in Table 7. This table also demonstrates that payment into the BCF is not necessary because the offset obligation has been met.

Table 7 Credits obtained and residual liability

PCT (OTG)/ Species	Credit liability	Source	No. of credits obtained	Credits retired	Payment into BCF required	Obligation met
<b>Ecosystem credits</b>						
PCT 285 (OTG - Upper Riverina Dry Sclerophyll Forests; >=70% and <90%)	87	Market purchase	87	Yes	No	Yes
PCT 300 (OTG - Southern Tableland Wet Sclerophyll Forests; <50%)	452	Market purchase	452	Yes	No	Yes
PCT 1196 (OTG - Subalpine Woodlands; <50%)	825	Tumba Top BSA	825	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Species credits</b>						
Gang-gang Cockatoo ( <i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i> )	1,721	Tumba Top BSA	30 credits	Yes	No	Yes
		Market purchase	57 BOS equivalent credits			
		Market Purchase	1,634 <sup>2</sup> variation credits			
Eastern Pygmy-possum ( <i>Cercartetus nanus</i> )	1,789	Market purchase	1,789	Yes	No	Yes
Yellow-bellied Glider ( <i>Petaurus australis</i> ) endangered population on the Bago Plateau	1,697	Tumba Top BSA	1,422 credits	Yes	No	Yes
		Christmas Hill BSA	275 credits			
Masked Owl ( <i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> )	417	Market purchase	417	Yes	No	Yes

Notes:

1. Unless otherwise stated, all credits are like for like credits.

2. Obligation met using a variation offset, as approved by NSW Planning Secretary on 27/06/2025. Refer to Section 4- Gang-Gang Cockatoo Credits, in this update for further detail.

The Christmas Hill and Tumba Top biodiversity stewardship sites have addressed the entire offset liability for the Subalpine Woodlands <50% cleared offset trading group and the Yellow-bellied Glider endangered population on the Bago Plateau. They have also met a portion of the offset liability for the Gang-gang Cockatoo.

### 3.2.1 Purchase of credits from the market

Snowy Hydro has secured all remaining outstanding credits from the market under the like-for-like rules and by applying the variation rules. Refer to Table 7 for further detail on the sources of credits.

### 3.2.2 Payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund for residual offset liability

The required numbers and types of credits have been obtained either from the Tumba Top or Christmas Hill BSAs or purchased from the credit market and credits have been retired.

Therefore no residual payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund is required.

Section 6.30 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017* provides that retirement of a biodiversity credit is to be conclusively presumed if the retirement is recorded in the public register. Extracts from the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Public Register- Transactions Register have been compiled and presented in Appendix 2, and demonstrate that the necessary numbers and types of credits have been retired in relation to obligations B18 of SSI-9717 and Condition 7 of EPBC 2018/8363.

Note that a parcel of Gang-gang Cockatoo credits, established under the previous BioBanking Scheme, was purchased and retired; evidence of BOS equivalence and retirement is also provided in Appendix 2.



## 4 Timing and responsibilities

The timing and responsibility for the actions required by this BOP are outlined in Table 9.

*Table 8 Timing and responsibility of tasks required by this BOP*

Component	Activity	Status	Expected date	Responsibility
BOP	Preparation of BOP	Complete	Q2 2023	EMM
	Consultation with BCD	Complete	Q4 2022	EMM
	Approval of BOP	Complete	Q2 2023	DPE
Bank guarantee	Payment of bank guarantee	Complete	Prior to carrying out any development outside KNP	Snowy Hydro
Phillips, Heinecke, Twin Rivers and Christmas Hill biodiversity stewardship sites	Preliminary investigation	Complete	Q2 2022	EMM
	Detailed investigation	Complete	Q3 2022	EMM
	Targeted surveys	Complete	Q2 2023	EMM
	Submit application for BSA	Complete	Q1 2024	EMM
	Approval of BSAs	Complete (Tumba Top and Christmas Hill)	Q4 2024	BCD
	Signing of BSAs	Complete (Tumba Top and Christmas Hill)	Q1 2025	Landholder / Snowy Hydro
	Transfer of credits	Complete (Tumba Top and Christmas Hill)		
	Retirement of credits	Complete	Q2 2025	Snowy Hydro
Sourcing of residual offset liability from the credit market	Search for credits available on the market to meet residual offset liability (like-for-like or variation)	Complete	Q4 2023 – Q2 2025	N+A
	Negotiation with landholders around credit availability and pricing	Complete	Q1 – Q2 2025	Snowy Hydro
	Purchase, transfer and retirement of credits (if available)	Complete	1 September 2025	Snowy Hydro
Payment into the BCF for residual credit liability	Application for payment into the BCF for residual offset liability	Closed- not required	Q2 2025	N+A
	Payment into BCF	Closed- not required	Q2 2025	Snowy Hydro
BOP implemented	All measures outlined in the BOP implemented and all credit liabilities met	Complete	1 September 2025	Snowy Hydro

## 5 References

Jacobs. (2022). Biodiversity Development Assessment Report: Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project. Prepared for TransGrid. Sydney: Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd.

OEH. (2017). Ancillary rules: Biodiversity conservation actions. Sydney: Office of Environment and Heritage.

Transgrid. (2022). Amendment Report Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project. Sydney: Transgrid.

## Appendix 1: Assessment against Clauses 6.4 and 6.6A of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017*

<b>6.4 Variation rules under biodiversity offsets scheme (section 6.4(4))</b>	
(1) The circumstances in which the ordinary offset rules for the determination of the like-for-like biodiversity credits required to be retired as a biodiversity conservation measure may be varied are as follows (the variation rules)—	
(a) The proponent who is to retire the biodiversity credits has taken reasonable steps to obtain the requisite like-for-like biodiversity credits and requests the variation of the ordinary offset rules.	DPHI and POTSE are satisfied Snowy Hydro has taken reasonable steps, as indicated by the letter from the NSW Planning Secretary dated 27 June 2025.
(b) In the case of impacts on threatened ecological communities or on the habitat of threatened species that are ecosystem credit species or other native vegetation—the biodiversity credits to be retired need not represent the same threatened ecological community or the same class of vegetation or represent a location in the same or adjoining Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia subregion, so long as— (i) they represent the same vegetation formation, and (ii) they are in the same or a higher offset trading group, and (iii) they represent a location that is in— (A) the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia region as the impacted site, or (B) a subregion that is within 100 kilometres of the outer edge of the impacted site, and (iv) if the impacted habitat contains hollow bearing trees—they represent vegetation that contains hollow bearing trees or artificial hollows.	Not relevant as the Gang-gang Cockatoo is not a threatened ecological community.
(c) In the case of impacts on threatened species that are species credit species—the biodiversity credits to be retired need not represent the same threatened species, so long as— (i) if the impacted species is a plant—they represent a plant, and	Not relevant as the Gang-gang Cockatoo is an animal.
(ii) if the impacted species is an animal—they represent an animal, and	The Gang-gang Cockatoo is an animal, and the Koala is an animal.
(iii) they represent a species that has the same or a higher category of listing under Part 4 of the Act as a threatened species, and	At the date of the approval (2 September 2022), the Gang-gang Cockatoo was listed as Vulnerable under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)</i> and the Koala was listed as Endangered under the <i>BC Act</i> . Both species are now listed as Endangered. The variation offset meets this criterion under either

	circumstance.
<p>(iv) they represent a location that is in—</p> <p>(A) the same or an adjoining Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia subregion as the impacted site, or</p> <p>(B) any such subregion that is within 100 kilometres of the outer edge of the impacted site.</p>	<p>The Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project is located within two IBRA subregions; the Bondo and Snowy Mountains.</p> <p>The Koala credits being used under the variation rules are sourced from the NSW South Western Slopes IBRA region and Inland Slopes IBRA subregion. The Inland Slopes IBRA subregion adjoins the Bondo IBRA subregion and is within 100 km of the outer edge of the impacted site.</p>
<b>6.6A Limitation of variation rules in relation to controlled actions under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (sections 6.4, 6.6 and 6.31)</b>	
<p>(1) The variation rules do not apply to the impact on a listed threatened species or ecological community, or its habitat, of a proposed action that is a controlled action.</p>	<p>The Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection project was declared a controlled action under the EPBC Act on 5 April 2019.</p> <p>The Gang-gang Cockatoo was listed under the EPBC Act in March 2022, after the project was declared a controlled action and following the commencement of the assessment process under the bilateral agreement. Further, the Gang-gang Cockatoo is not listed as a protected matter under the EPBC Act approval (per definition of protected matters).</p> <p>Given the above, the limitations on the variation rules do not apply.</p>

## Appendix 2: Credit Retirement Supporting Evidence

Extracted information from the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Credit Transaction Report

Note: Section [6.30 Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017](#) provides that retirement of a biodiversity credit is to be conclusively presumed if the retirement is recorded in the public register. The following are extracts from the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Public Register- [Transactions Register](#). The primary source can be accessed via the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Public Registers webpage:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/biodiversity-offsets-scheme/maps-systems-and-resources/public-registers>

### Extract 1- Date and Time Extracted: 1/07/2025 12:23 PM

Transaction Date	Transaction ID	Transaction Status	Transaction Type	From	To	Plant Community Type	Sub Region	Offset Trading Group	Vegetation Formation	Scientific Name	Common Name	Number Of Credits	Price Per Credit (Ex-Gst)	Philanthropic Reason For Transfer Disclosed	Retirement Reason	Other Reason for Retirement	Reference Number of Obligation	Address of Obligation	Local Government Area of Obligation	Date of Consent Approval	Obligation Type	Obligation Assessment Method	Is planning approval modification
May 23, 2025	00057628	Completed	Retire	CR-47650	CR-48057		Inland Slopes			Tyto novaehollandiae	Masked Owl	417	0		For the purpose of complying with a requirement to retire biodiversity credits of a planning approval or a vegetation clearing approval		SSI - 9717 and EPBC 2018/8363	Kosciuszko National Park (Lobs Hole and Ravine) and Nurenmeren mong in the Bago State Forest	Snowy Valleys Council	September 2, 2022	State Significant Infrastructure (SSI)	Biodiversity Assessment Method	No
May 23, 2025	00057628	Completed	Retire	CR-41044	CR-48051	Snow Gum - Mountain Gum shrubby open forest of montane areas, South Eastern Highlands Bioregion and Australian Alps Bioregion	Snowy Mountains	Subalpine Woodlands <50%	Grassy Woodlands			825	0		For the purpose of complying with a requirement to retire biodiversity credits of a planning approval or a vegetation clearing approval		SSI - 9717 and EPBC 2018/8363	Kosciuszko National Park (Lobs Hole and Ravine) and Nurenmeren mong in the Bago State Forest	Snowy Valleys Council	September 2, 2022	State Significant Infrastructure (SSI)	Biodiversity Assessment Method	No



May 23, 2025	00057628	Completed	Retire	CR-41045	CR-48052		Snowy Mountains			Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo	30	0		For the purpose of complying with a requirement to retire biodiversity credits of a planning approval or a vegetation clearing approval		SSI - 9717 and EPBC 2018/8363	Kosciuszko National Park (Lobs Hole and Ravine) and Nurenmeren mong in the Bago State Forest	Snowy Valleys Council	September 2, 2022	State Significant Infrastructure (SSI)	Biodiversity Assessment Method	No
May 23, 2025	00057628	Completed	Retire	CR-41046	CR-48053		Snowy Mountains			Petaurus australis - endangered population	Yellow-bellied Glider population on the Bago Plateau	1422	0		For the purpose of complying with a requirement to retire biodiversity credits of a planning approval or a vegetation clearing approval		SSI - 9717 and EPBC 2018/8363	Kosciuszko National Park (Lobs Hole and Ravine) and Nurenmeren mong in the Bago State Forest	Snowy Valleys Council	September 2, 2022	State Significant Infrastructure (SSI)	Biodiversity Assessment Method	No
May 23, 2025	00057628	Completed	Retire	CR-42480	CR-48054	Bondo Slopes Peppermint Moist Grassy Forest	Bondo	Southern Tableland Wet Sclerophyll Forests <50%	Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Grassy sub-formation)			452	0		For the purpose of complying with a requirement to retire biodiversity credits of a planning approval or a vegetation clearing approval		SSI - 9717 and EPBC 2018/8363	Kosciuszko National Park (Lobs Hole and Ravine) and Nurenmeren mong in the Bago State Forest	Snowy Valleys Council	September 2, 2022	State Significant Infrastructure (SSI)	Biodiversity Assessment Method	No
May 23, 2025	00057628	Completed	Retire	CR-45455	CR-48055	Bondo Montane Flats Swamp Woodland	Bondo	Montane Bogs and Fens <50%	Freshwater Wetlands			87	0		For the purpose of complying with a requirement to retire biodiversity credits of a planning approval or a vegetation clearing approval		SSI - 9717 and EPBC 2018/8363	Kosciuszko National Park (Lobs Hole and Ravine) and Nurenmeren mong in the Bago State Forest	Snowy Valleys Council	September 2, 2022	State Significant Infrastructure (SSI)	Biodiversity Assessment Method	No
May 23, 2025	00057628	Completed	Retire	CR-45541	CR-48056		Bondo			Petaurus australis - endangered population	Yellow-bellied Glider population on the Bago Plateau	275	0		For the purpose of complying with a requirement to retire biodiversity credits of a planning approval or a vegetation clearing		SSI - 9717 and EPBC 2018/8363	Kosciuszko National Park (Lobs Hole and Ravine) and Nurenmeren mong in the Bago State Forest	Snowy Valleys Council	September 2, 2022	State Significant Infrastructure (SSI)	Biodiversity Assessment Method	No

[illegible]

**Extract 2- Date and Time Extracted: 23/07/2025 12:55 PM**

Transaction Date	Transaction ID	Transaction Status	Transaction Type	From	To	Plant Community Type	Sub Region	Offset Trading Group	Vegetation Formation	Scientific Name	Common Name	Number Of Credits	Price Per Credit (Ex-Gst)	Philanthropic Reason For Transfer Disclosed	Retirement Reason	Other Reason for Retiring	Reference Number of Obligation	Address of Obligation	Local Government Area of Obligation	Date of Consent Approval	Obligation Type	Obligation Assessment Method	Is planning approval modification
2025-07-23	58821	Completed	Retire	CR-49780	CR-51122		Pilliga			Cercartetus nanus	Eastern Pygmy-possum	1789	0		For the purpose of complying with a requirement to retire biodiversity credits of a planning approval or a vegetation clearing approval		SSI-9717 and EPBC 2018/8363	Kosciuszko National Park (Lobs Hole and Ravine) and Nurenmeren mong in the Bago State Forest	Snowy Valleys	2022-09-02			
2025-07-23	58821	Completed	Retire	CR-50342	CR-51123		Inland Slopes			Phascogale cinereus	Koala	1634	0		For the purpose of complying with a requirement to retire biodiversity credits of a planning approval or a vegetation clearing approval		SSI-9717 and EPBC 2018/8363	Kosciuszko National Park (Lobs Hole and Ravine) and Nurenmeren mong in the Bago State Forest	Snowy Valleys	2022-09-02			



## Credit retirement report

**Effective date:** 17-February-2025

**Transaction number:** 202502-RT-1038

### Credit owners' details

**Credit owner ID:** 789

**Name of credit holder:** Snowy Hydro Limited

**Other owner(s):**

No other owners

**Reason for retirement:** Retirement of 57 BOS-equivalent credits for SSI Approval Number SSI9717

Species credit(s) retired					
Number of credits	Credit profile ID	Agreement ID	Species type	Scientific name	Common name
86	245	76	Fauna	Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo

**Key to vegetation formations**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Vegetation formation</b>
ALP	Alpine complex
ASA	Arid shrublands (Acacia)
ASC	Arid shrublands (Chenopod)
DSG	Dry sclerophyll forests (shrub/grass)
DSS	Dry sclerophyll forests (shrubby)
FRW	Forested wetlands
FWW	Freshwater wetlands
GLD	Grasslands
GRW	Grassy woodlands
HLD	Heathlands
MES	Miscellaneous ecosystems
RFT	Rainforests
SAW	Saline wetlands
SWG	Semi-arid woodlands (grassy)
SWS	Semi-arid woodlands (shrubby)
WSG	Wet sclerophyll forests (grassy)
WSS	Wet sclerophyll forests (shrubby)

The credit register provides further information about credit holdings and reports about credit trading activity. To view this information, please visit the public register website at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bimspr/index.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bimspr/index.htm)

For more information, please contact the BioBanking Scheme Manager - phone (02) 9995 6753; email [biobanking@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:biobanking@environment.nsw.gov.au)