

Water NSW Special and Controlled Areas Wet Weather Management Plan for Emergency Access

Endeavour Energy network assets and associated infrastructure

July 2025



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1.INTRODUCTION

Endeavour Energy is responsible for building, maintaining and operating an electricity network that connects 2.7 million people living and working across Sydney's Greater West, the Blue Mountains, the Southern Highlands, Illawarra and the South Coast of NSW.

Due to rapid industry changes, we are transitioning from a traditional 'poles and wires' business to a distributed system operator. We're working with customers, stakeholders and regulators to help deliver a clean energy future where smart meters, batteries and solar enable customers to generate, store and sell back electricity into the grid.

Endeavour Energy is 50.4 percent owned by an Australian-led consortium of long-term investors in the private sector operating the network under a 99-year lease. The private sector consortium comprises of funds and clients managed by Australia's Macquarie Asset Management, Canada's British Columbia Investment Management Corporation and Qatar Investment Authority. The remaining 49.6 percent is held by the State of NSW via a corporation constituted under the Electricity Retained Interest Corporations Act 2015.

Endeavour Energy's network spans over 25,000 square kilometres and is made up of more than 430,000 power poles and streetlight columns, 202 major substations and 32,600 distribution substations connected by nearly 60,600 kilometres (more than the distance from Sydney to London and back) of underground and overhead cables. It integrates with renewable energy sources including 200,000 residential solar connections, industrial solar and embedded large-scale batteries.

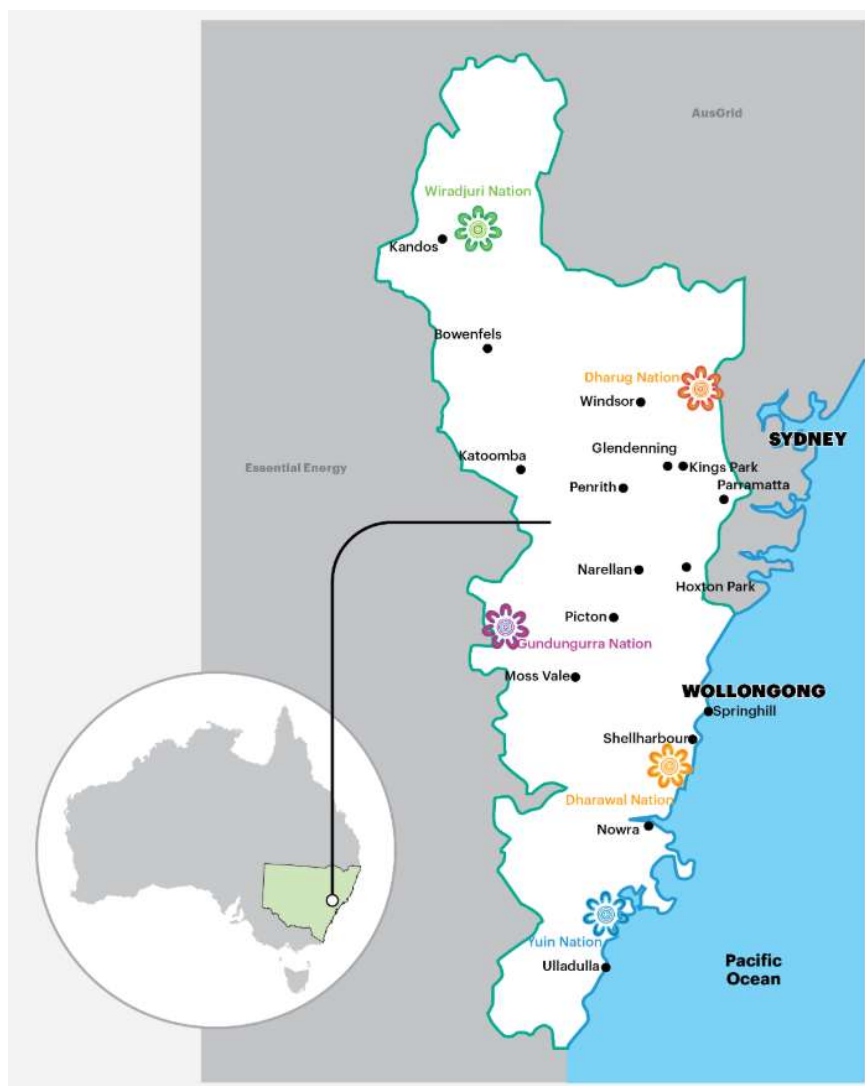


Figure 1 The Endeavour Energy network area

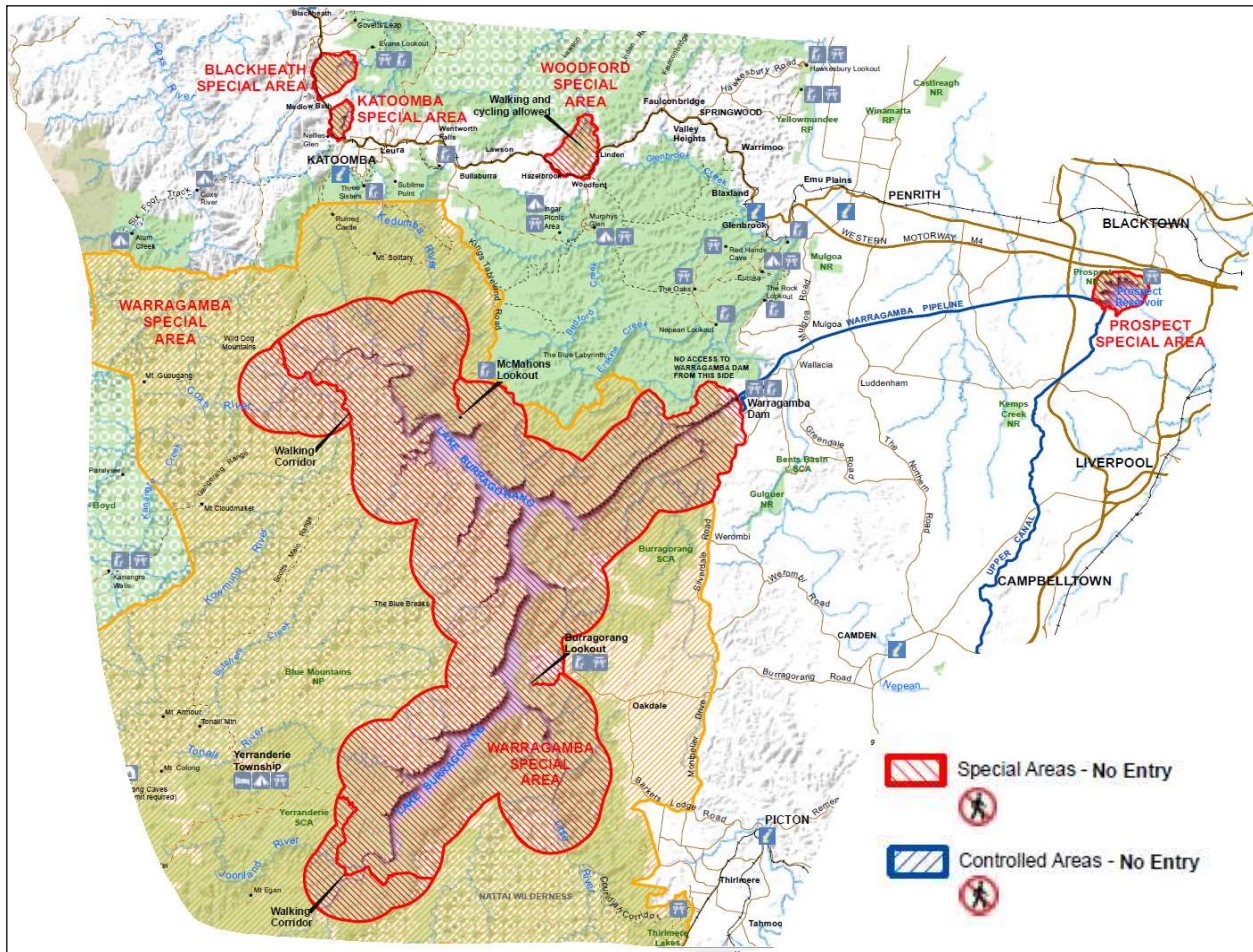


Figure 3 Location of Warragamba Special Area, Prospect Special Area, Blackheath, Katoomba and Woodford Special Areas and the Upper Canal and Warragamba Pipeline (Controlled Areas) in a regional context.

Access to these areas is subject to stringent access conditions designed to protect the quality of drinking water supply for Sydney and Wollongong. A consent has been issued by Water NSW under the *Water NSW Act 2014* to access these areas in order to conduct activities permitted under any current approvals issued by State and Commonwealth agencies under any relevant legislation, including the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and in accordance with the *Protocol between Water NSW and Endeavour Energy regarding procedures for the inspection and maintenance of Endeavour Energy network assets and associated infrastructure on land declared and acquired under the Water NSW Act 2014* (the 'protocol'). 'Inspection' and 'maintenance' works are clearly defined in the protocol and are reflected in Endeavour Energy's Environmental Management Standard (EMS) 0012 - Notification of access to National Parks and Water NSW Special Areas and Controlled lands.

In accordance with the Protocol, all Endeavour Energy employees and contractors must undertake the mandatory online Water NSW induction prior to entering Water NSW Special Areas or Controlled Lands. The induction will be renewed every three (3) years and will cover all Special and Controlled Areas. The online induction can be accessed via: [Link for Contractor/Visitor Site Induction](#) (Note: select 'Declared Catchment' for Question 5, and a site induction pack will be available to view).

Access to Special Areas and Controlled Areas for the purposes of inspection and maintenance of Endeavour Energy network assets and associated infrastructure activities will be undertaken in accordance with the consent, the protocol and EMS 0012. This includes strict adherence to Catchment Closure Notifications that Water NSW issue by email to Endeavour Energy recipients to restrict access to these areas during wet weather events exceeding threshold values (>10 mm in a 24 hour period; referred to as a 'Catchment Closure Notification'). Reflecting the requirements of the consent and the protocol, no inspection and/or maintenance works must be undertaken when a Catchment Closure Notification is issued by Water NSW. Endeavour Energy employees and contractors must subscribe to the Special Area Notification email list to receive specific Special Area notifications, such as closures and fire danger ratings by accessing the following link: [Water NSW Special Area Notifications](#).

Notwithstanding these requirements and conditions, Endeavour Energy has statutory obligations to respond to emergency situations involving network assets and associated infrastructure. Accordingly, 'emergency works' are defined in the protocol with the same meaning as the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007*, as follows, but only in so far as such works relating to maintaining or restoring electricity supply:

Works for the purpose of maintaining or restoring infrastructure facilities or equipment in order to ensure public safety or to protect buildings or the environment due to:

- *a sudden natural event, including a storm, flood, tree fall, bush fire, land slip or coastal inundation;*
- *accident, equipment failure or structural collapse; or,*
- *damage caused by vandalism or arson.*

provided the works involved no greater disturbance to soil or vegetation than necessary and are carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Blue Book (a Landcom Managing Urban Stormwater publication).

2.OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The objective of this Management Plan is to provide for the necessary environmental considerations when lands declared under the *Water NSW Act 2014* are accessed for the purposes of undertaking emergency works during a Catchment Closure Notification period. It provides a high-level environmental risk assessment and the relevant control measures to mitigate potential impacts on drinking water quality and local ecosystems.

Hazards and risks pertaining to the safety of personnel entering these lands will be managed through the preparation of a site-specific Work Hazard and Risk Assessment in accordance with Company Procedure GSY 1066 Worksite Hazard and Risk Assessment.

This plan applies to Endeavour Energy employees and contractors while carrying out emergency works associated with Endeavour Energy's network assets and associated infrastructure. This plan will be incorporated into EMS 0012 and made available to employees and contractors.

3.ENVIRONMENTAL RISK IDENTIFICATION

The potential environmental risks pertaining to accessing Special Areas and Controlled Areas for the purposes of undertaking emergency works during a Catchment Closure Notification period predominantly relate to the impacts caused by plant and machinery. In summary, the following risks are most relevant:

- Increased erosion and sedimentation;
- Increased damage to road surfaces (e.g. bogging of vehicles in soft ground);
- Increased tracking of mud and debris onto roads;
- Increased possibility of weed seeds and pathogen transportation;
- Increased possibility of the mobilisation of oil from plant and machinery and from oil filled equipment;
- Increased generation of waste;
- Increased water turbidity at creek crossings and creeks close to work sites; and
- Increased possibility of direct and indirect impacts on local ecosystems within close proximity to the work site and access and egress points.

4.CONTROL PROCEDURES AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MITIGATION

Where emergency works have been undertaken, Endeavour Energy will advise Water NSW as soon as possible of the location, nature, extent and reasons for the work undertaken via the Water NSW Emergency Incident Number **1800 061 069**. Where necessary, Endeavour Energy and Water NSW will liaise to determine any rehabilitation or other actions required.

Endeavour Energy will adopt the environmental risk management measures documented in Table 1 for emergency works undertaken during Catchment Closure Notification periods.

Table 1 Environmental risk management measures to be adopted for undertaking emergency works during Wet Weather Catchment Closure Notification periods (>10 mm in a 24 hour period)

Environmental Risk	Control measures	Responsibility for implementation
Stakeholder Engagement	- Water NSW shall be appropriately notified as detailed in EMS 0012. The relevant Endeavour Energy's Environmental Specialist shall facilitate this process. - This must include as a minimum - Emailing special_area_access@waternsw.com.au; AND calling either the Catchment Management Officer (Kelvin Lambkin) (02) 4640 1282 or 0429 820 008 OR the Water NSW Incident Management Number 1800 061 069. - The contact number of the work site coordinator, work site location including access and egress points, nature, extent and reasons for the work undertaken shall be provided to Water NSW.	Operations Manager Work site coordinator Relevant Environmental Specialist
Environmental Incidents (e.g. oil spills)	- All accidents and emergencies must be reported to relevant Endeavour Energy staff and responded to, as set out in EMS 0008 – Environmental Incident Response and Management. - Ensure spills are contained and call 131 003 and Water NSW Incident Management Number 1800 061 069. - Spill kits shall be available at the worksite. - Consultation with the relevant Endeavour Energy Environmental Specialist shall be undertaken and appropriate mitigative actions will be determined to minimise any actual or potential damage to the surrounding environment.	Operations Manager Work site coordinator Relevant Environmental Specialist
Access tracks and pathways	- Where possible, restrict or defer access during periods of wet weather (>10 mm in 24 hour period). - Where safe to do so, plant and machinery and tools and equipment should be selected to match the conditions. - All vehicles must keep to any existing access tracks. This must be restricted to 4 metres in accordance with EMS 0006 – Maintenance and Construction of Access Tracks. - Undertake site reconnaissance by traversing the access route and worksite on foot to determine the most appropriate safe working pathways and plant/machinery restrictions. This should include an assessment of potential vehicle recovery locations that are not located in areas assessed to be potentially prone to bogging (i.e. soft ground). - Report any track damage immediately to the relevant Environmental Specialist. The relevant Environmental Specialist will consult with Water NSW to develop a scope of works for an appropriately qualified sediment and erosion control professional to stabilise the access track and restore it to the original condition as soon as the Catchment Closure period is lifted.	Operations Manager Work site coordinator Relevant Environmental Specialist

Environmental Risk	Control measures	Responsibility for implementation
Vegetation Management	- No vegetation is to be removed or damaged unless it is required to maintain safe access to the work site. Documented approval is to be obtained from the relevant Environmental Specialist for all vegetation removal outside of this requirement. - Vehicles, plant, equipment and personnel shall be appropriately cleaned (for example, removing soil clods, weed seed, and the like) before entry and when leaving the subject site in accordance with Endeavour Energy's Vehicle and Machinery Hygiene Protocol for Preventing the Spread of Noxious Weeds and Soil and Water Borne Fungal Pathogens to prevent the spread of weeds and fungal pathogens (refer to EMS 0004 – Managing Vegetation Near Electrical Infrastructure and Pest, Weed and Disease Mitigation).	Operations Manager Work site coordinator Relevant Environmental Specialist
Water, erosion and sediment control	- Minimise quantities of chemicals and fuels for what is required for the work and securely contain/bund in your vehicles. - Refuelling or servicing of vehicles and machinery is to occur only on level ground using temporary bunding and do not undertake these activities within 40 metres of a stream or water body. - Park vehicles and machinery carrying fuel/oil/herbicide on level ground at least 40 metres away from streams or water bodies. - Sediment control devices (for example, fences, drain socks, straw bales) should be installed down-gradient of disturbed areas (e.g. spoil stockpiles from pole excavations, wheel ruts) to prevent soil being washed away from the subject site into any watercourses. Where possible, these measures will be implemented at the time or shortly after emergency works being carried out in consultation with the relevant Environmental Specialist. - Disturbed surfaces will be mulched or revegetated to enable stabilisation of the site. Where vegetation has been trimmed or removed, particularly in bushland areas, this should be mulched and spread over the site to provide a seed base and protect the soil. This work shall be carried out in consultation with the relevant Environmental Specialist to determine the most appropriate method of site stabilisation. - Any tracked soil must be swept up or cleared from the public road pavement by the end of each day's work.	Operations Manager Work site coordinator Relevant Environmental Specialist
Storage and transport of oils and fuels	Ensure spill kits are accessible during oil handling activities or when using equipment that contains oil.	Operations Manager Work site coordinator Relevant Environmental Specialist
Waste	All rubbish/wastes shall be removed from site daily and appropriately disposed to a licensed facility and/or segregated into correct receptacles available at the nearest Endeavour Energy's Field Service Centre. Waste dockets shall be obtained for all wastes disposed to licensed facilities.	Operations Manager Work site coordinator Relevant Environmental Specialist

5. REFERENCES

- Company Procedure GSY 1066 Worksite Hazard and Risk Assessment
- Company Environmental Management Standard EMS 0001 – Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plans
- Company Environmental Management Standard EMS 0004 – – Managing Vegetation Near Electrical Infrastructure and Pest, Weed and Disease Mitigation
- Company Environmental Management Standard EMS 0006 – Maintenance and Construction of Access Tracks
- Company Environmental Management Standard EMS 0008 – Environmental Incident Response and Management
- Company Environmental Management Standard EMS 0012 - Notification of access to National Parks and Water NSW Special and Controlled Areas
- Protocol between Water NSW and Endeavour Energy regarding procedures for the inspection and maintenance of Endeavour Energy network assets and associated infrastructure on land declared and acquired under the Water NSW Act 2014.
- Special and Controlled Areas Consent Issued under clause 10 of the Water NSW Regulation 2013 (Consent Number F2021/4154).

