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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

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

132 KV TRANSMISSION LINE  
MANJIMUP TO MINERAL SANDS MINE AT BEENUP (813)

STATE ENERGY COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

**1 Proponent Commitments**

The proponent has made a number of environmental management commitments in order to protect the environment.

- 1-1 In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments made in the Consultative Environmental Review and in response to issues raised following public submissions; provided that the commitments are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement. These commitments are consolidated in Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 707 as Appendices 1A and 1B. (A copy of the commitments is attached.)

**2 Implementation**

Changes to the proposal which are not substantial may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

- 2-1 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 Proponent**

These conditions legally apply to the nominated proponent.

- 3-1 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.

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#### **4 Management of Forest Clearing in Areas with National Estate Values**

- 4-1 The proponent shall minimise clearing in areas with national estate values.
- 4-2 To achieve the objective of condition 4-1, prior to construction, the proponent shall design the location of the centreline of the transmission line at the Donnelly River crossing to take maximum advantage of the cleared area on the southern side of Palings Bridge.
- 4-3 The proponent shall construct the transmission line crossing at the Donnelly River to the requirements of condition 4-2.
- 4-4 To achieve the objective of condition 4-1, prior to construction, the proponent shall design the location of the centreline of the transmission line crossing the area proposed for listing on the Interim List of the Register of the National Estate in Gray Forest Block such that it is located:
  - (1) within the area clear felled in 1984 north-east of the creek crossing; and
  - (2) along the forest track in the uncut area south-west of the creek crossing such that clearing of older large Karri trees is minimised. This clearing is to be determined in consultation with the Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- 4-5 The proponent shall construct the transmission line crossing in Gray Forest Block to the requirements of condition 4-4.

#### **5 Management of Forest Clearing Generally**

Minor changes can be made to the powerline route within the approved corridor to minimise environmental impacts such as clearing on slopes and in stream reserves.

- 5-1 Prior to construction, the proponent shall design the location of the centreline of the transmission line, within the approved transmission line corridor, in consultation with the Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- 5-2 The proponent shall subsequently construct the transmission line to the requirements of condition 5-1.

#### **6 Stewart Road**

The line was to be offset from Stewart Road due to visual impacts, but this will result in unnecessary clearing of good quality forest.

- 6-1 Prior to construction, the proponent shall design the location of the centreline of the transmission line within the area cleared for Stewart Road such that the amount of new clearing is minimised.
- 6-2 The proponent shall subsequently construct the transmission line to the requirements of condition 6-1.

#### **7 Visual Resource Management**

The proponent and the Department of Conservation and Land Management are currently determining a corridor near the Vasse Highway to minimise visual impact.

- 7-1 Prior to construction, the proponent shall design the location of the centreline of the transmission line in the vicinity of the Vasse Highway in consultation with the Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- 7-2 The proponent shall subsequently construct the transmission line to the requirements of condition 7-1.

**8 Time Limit on Approval**

The environmental approval for the proposal is limited.

- 8-1 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.)

**9 Compliance Auditing**

In order to ensure that environmental conditions and commitments are met, an audit system is required.

- 9-1 The proponent shall prepare periodic "Progress and Compliance Reports", to help verify the environmental performance of this project, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority.

**Procedure**

- 1 The Environmental Protection Authority is responsible for verifying compliance with the conditions contained in this statement, with the exception of conditions stating that the proponent shall meet the requirements of either the Minister for the Environment or any other government agency.
- 2 If the Environmental Protection Authority, other government agency or proponent is in dispute concerning compliance with the conditions contained in this statement, that dispute will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

Kevin Minson MLA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

**23 MAR 1994**

# **PROPONENT'S COMMITMENTS**

**132 KV TRANSMISSION LINE**

**MANJIMUP TO MINERAL SANDS MINE AT BEENUP (813)**

**STATE ENERGY COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

## APPENDIX A

Note: Commitments marked with an asterisk \* have been amended.  
Refer to Appendix B.

### LIST OF COMMITMENTS

The following commitments have been developed by SECWA to reduce the potential impact of transmission line construction and maintenance in the study area. They would be implemented at the appropriate time and to the satisfaction of the registered land proprietor and/or relevant authority.

#### **1 - Clearing Profiles**

SECWA undertakes the commitment to ensure that the clearing methods and profiles described in Sections 6.1.2.1, 6.1.2.2, 6.1.2.3 and 6.1.2.4 are enforced during the construction and operation of the transmission line.

#### **2 - 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 permanent closure of access not required for operation and maintenance;
- o position poles to avoid sensitive features;
- o place poles at maximum feasible distance from major drainage crossings; and
- o implement a clearing methodology developed to minimise the risk of soil erosion.

#### **3 - Fauna Survey**

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

#### **4 - Agricultural Land**

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

In areas where poles are potentially visible to local residents, they will be located, wherever possible, to take advantage of vegetation backdrops and terrain to reduce their visibility on the skyline.

#### 5 - 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. This would be completed under SECWA supervision and in consultation with affected registered land proprietors.

#### 6 - Warren Water Reserve

SECWA undertakes to obtain a clearing permit from WAWA prior to clearing in the reserve and to reforest an area of equivalent size to the area cleared. The location of the area to be reforested will be nominated by WAWA.

#### 7 - Archaeology/Ethnography Survey

Prior to clearing, 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 to avoid destruction of archaeological, paleontological or historic values.

#### 8 - 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 all parties involved would be investigated, and where necessary, dismissed from site.

#### 9 - Seven Day Road and Bibbulmun Track

Where the line crosses Seven Day Road and the Bibbulmun Track the alignment will be surveyed to minimise visual impact by crossing them at right angles and using vegetation and/or topography to screen the line from view. Clearing will be in accordance with Section 6.1.2.

#### 10 - Giblett-Hawke Area

SECWA makes the commitment to implement the following management techniques:

- o to only selectively fell diseased or damaged trees outside of the easement and able to fall on the line;
- o to retain stumps along the easement and minimise disturbance of the soil; and
- o to place poles so that only a minimum number are required within the old growth forest.

#### 11 - 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 poles 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 Figures 9 and 11. SECWA makes the commitment to maintain a 100m buffer either side of the Donnelly River within which minimal ground disturbance practices will be employed, stumps will be retained and heavy construction vehicles will be excluded.

#### 12 - Darling Scarp

For the Darling Scarp, SECWA makes the commitment to use the following management techniques to minimise the potential erosion risk and visual impact. 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 to avoid scarring;
- o new access/maintenance roads will be designed to follow the landscape contours; and
- o poles will be placed to avoid sensitive features, including outcrop and drainage lines and the Vasse Highway.

### 13 - Storry Forest Block

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

- o avoidance of the wetland areas;
- o spanning significant species sites (not erecting poles 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.

### \* 14 - Rare Flora Survey

SECWA makes the commitment to undertake a comprehensive spring survey of vegetation within the corridor, 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.

### 15 - 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).

#### 16 - Weed Control

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

#### 17 - 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.

#### 18 - Rehabilitation

All construction access roads 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 registered land proprietor 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.

#### 19 - Waste Disposal

SECWA will instruct the contractor to remove or dispose of all waste caused by its activities in a manner satisfactory to the registered land proprietor. 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.

#### \* 20 - 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 sites; 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.

Existing cleared sites will be selected wherever possible.

#### **21 - Poles 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 poles design. This would minimise the amount of sensitive features disturbed and/or reduce visual contrast.

#### **22 - Road Crossings**

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

#### **23 - 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.

#### **24 - 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.

#### **25 - Areal Limits of Construction**

The areal limits of construction activities will be predetermined by SECWA in consultation with registered land proprietors, with activity restricted to and confined within those limits. All construction vehicle movement outside the easement will be restricted to predesignated roads.

#### **26 - Electromagnetic Fields**

SECWA is committed to the health, safety and welfare of its employees and all members of the public and will always design and operate all its plants and facilities prudently within current health guidelines as established by Australian health authorities. One such authority is the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council.

SECWA will continue to monitor and sponsor research and to review its EMF policy in the light of the most up-to-date research findings on power frequency electric and magnetic fields.

#### **27 - Community Liaison**

Throughout the construction of the transmission line SECWA will endeavour to keep the local community and interested parties informed about the progress of the project.

## APPENDIX B: NEW AND AMENDED COMMITMENTS

Note: Amendments and new commitments are shown in italics.

### 14. Rare Flora Survey

SECWA makes the commitment to undertake a comprehensive spring survey of vegetation within the corridor, 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.

*Windrows will not be located within sites identified as containing significant species and SECWA will adopt the measures listed below to minimise disturbance to these areas:*

- *Poles will not be erected within significant species sites (SSS).*
- *Access tracks will be located outside SSS wherever possible.*
- *Digging and grading will not be permitted within SSS.*
- *Traffic across SSS will be restricted to that required for laying out the conductors, wherever possible.*

### 20. CAMP SITES

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

- no camp sites shall be located in vested or *unvested* reserves, eg National Parks and Flora and Fauna Reserves;
- camp sites shall not be located on the flood-plains of major rivers or streams;
- wherever possible and practical, camp sites shall be located adjacent to stockpile sites; and
- 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:

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

Existing cleared sites will be selected wherever possible.

28. MAINTENANCE

*SECWA will ensure that all future maintenance work complies with the requirements of the dieback hygiene procedures developed in conjunction with CALM for this project.*

29. COMMENCEMENT OF WORK

*SECWA will not commence clearing activities until a firm written commitment has been received from Mineral Deposits Limited (MDL).*