

Annual site and fencing inspection report

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The second bullet point in **Table 2 Offset Strategy Details** in the EPBC Approval (EPBC 2017/7994) for the Lockyer Energy Project requires the following actions to be undertaken:

Monitoring of wildlife friendly boundary fencing (including koala exclusion fencing around the project infrastructure and along the southern boundary of the lot) on a 6-monthly basis to identify maintenance requirements, such as trimming regrowth within 3m of koala exclusion fence and repairing fences to assist in excluding predators.

On 2 October 2023 I inspected all sections of all fencing around the boundary of Lot 191 CSH2361 and can confirm that:

- a. The koala exclusion fence along the southern boundary of the lot, has been damaged. While most of the fence is in good condition, the left-hand gate at the south-east corner of the property has been bent and is no longer koala-proof. It appears that the gate may have been inadvertently opened in an inwards direction at some time (possibly some months ago, as indicated by visible corrosion developed in the cracks on the galvanising), causing the hinge post to press against the left hand angled stanchion and bend it in a clock-wise direction to the right about 250mm, creating a gap in the overhanging netting. See photographs below.





- b. The property accommodates a buried high-pressure gas pipeline, and the pipeline operator maintains vegetation to its own standards, namely a 10 m wide (as opposed to the requirement in the EPBC Approval for a minimum of three metre wide) strip of mown grass (immediately inside and adjacent to the koala exclusion fence) with no woody weeds or trees. Coincidentally, the pipeline easement abuts the southern boundary of the lot. See below photograph.



- c. As no project infrastructure has yet been installed, there is no other koala exclusion fencing present.
- d. The wildlife friendly fences along the western, northern and eastern sides of the lot are in generally good condition. They include a plain top wire, a plain bottom wire, and variously two or three middle wires which are ordinary barbed wire.
- e. One barbed-wire adjacent to the north-eastern gate on Rangers Road is broken and must be restored (see photographs below).



- f. Two star-steel fence posts along the northern boundary fence have been damaged some time ago by heavy machinery (wheel tracks persist) working within Ranger Road, are bent and must be replaced (see photographs below).



- g. The fence maintenance lines along the western, northern and eastern boundaries contain long grass which will require slashing. Very few weeds (and only a few isolated lantana plants) were observed along these fences, which indicates that weed control work conducted in 2022 has been effective.
- h. The area which was cleared of trees in September 2021 (the approved project footprint) contains a number (a few hundreds) of eucalyptus regrowth suckers, up to 4 m tall (see photographs below).



- i. Left untreated there is a risk that this area will revegetate by itself within a short period, thereby requiring repetition of some of the approved clearing work that was performed in 2021. I inspected the area with Graeme Jenkins of Leading Rural Traders on the 2nd of October, and he is available and willing to treat all those suckers by a further hand-spray application of a suitable herbicide within October 2023. Graeme advised me that he must use hand-spray techniques as the presence of many felled tree trunks across the area precludes the use of a truck-mounted boom spray.
- j. The by-wash located on the north-western and western side of the farm dam (located in the southern end of the cleared area) previously showed evidence of erosion and was repaired in 2022 by the application of suitable rock armouring. This work successfully repaired the existing erosion and has been effective in preventing any further erosion. No further action is required (see below photographs).



Actions

I will informally ask the pipeline operator to instruct their mowing contractors to only open the gates in an outward direction, to avoid any further damage.

Graeme Jenkins of Leading Rural Traders accompanied me on my inspection, and has subsequently provided quotations for property maintenance including:

- repair the three damaged fence items including the front gate before the Annual Compliance Audit Report
- mow the 10m wide fence maintenance line along the western, northern and eastern boundaries before the Annual Compliance Audit Report
- apply herbicide to control regrowth within the cleared project footprint before the Annual Compliance Audit Report.

Those quotations will be submitted to Lockyer Energy Management Pty Ltd shortly for approval.