

HERRIES RANGE WIND FARM BIODIVERSITY



ACCIONA Energía recognises the importance of protecting Australia's native flora, fauna, and habitats. Extensive ecological studies were undertaken over four years to understand local flora, fauna and habitats to ensure environmental impacts are avoided or minimised wherever possible.

ECOLOGICAL VALUES

A comprehensive field survey program has been undertaken from 2022 to 2026, covering flora, fauna, habitat, vegetation mapping, bird and bat utilisation and species-specific targeted surveys.

 **2022 to 2026**

 **225 days**
of surveying

 **41**
field survey trips

The ecology surveys identified:

- 10 Regional Ecosystems in remnant and regrowth condition
- One EPBC listed Threatened Ecological Community (Box-Gum Grassy Woodland) which the project design avoids entirely
- Two flora species that are threatened at a Commonwealth and State level were confirmed to be present, including:
 - *Macrozamia conferta*
 - *Vincetoxicum forsteri*
- The critically endangered *Calotis glabrescens* (White Burr Daisy) was also confirmed present and significant redesign was completed to avoid areas mapped as 'highly suitable' for this species.

- Six bird species and two mammal species that are threatened at a Commonwealth and State level were confirmed present, including:
 - Diamond Firetail
 - Southern Whiteface
 - Squatter Pigeon (Southern)
 - White-throated Needletail
 - Brown Treecreeper (Southern)
 - Glossy Black-Cockatoo (South-eastern)
 - Koala
 - South-eastern Long-eared Bat
- Short-beaked Echidna was also confirmed to be present which is a conservation significant species in Queensland (Special Least Concern).

The survey findings have informed the project design, helping to avoid and minimise impacts to sensitive ecological areas wherever practicable.

DESIGNING WITH BIODIVERSITY IN MIND

The findings of these ecological assessments have helped shape the Project's design and infrastructure layout through the development of avoidance and mitigation measures. The project was significantly redesigned, reducing the number of turbines from 176 to 112 and relocating infrastructure away from important habitats, threatened species locations, wetlands and wildlife movement corridors. Areas of highest ecological value, including threatened ecological communities, known habitat for species such as the Bulloak Jewel Butterfly, and areas mapped as highly suitable for the critically endangered *Calotis glabrescens*, have been completely avoided through detailed surveys, expert advice and redesign.

- 1 Review findings from ecological studies**
- 2 Update design to avoid areas of ecological value and reduce habitat fragmentation**
- 3 Where ecological values cannot be avoided, minimise impacts to threatened flora, fauna and vegetation communities.**
- 4 Rehabilitate temporary disturbance areas.**
- 5 Restore or offset for any residual environmental impacts that remain.**

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Where impacts cannot be fully avoided, measures will be implemented to minimise and manage them. These include:

- Undertake pre-clearance ecological surveys
- Progressive clearing to give wildlife time to safely move away from work areas
- Retention of important habitat features such as hollow bearing trees, where possible
- Utilise wildlife-friendly design features, including habitat connectivity pinch points and koala crossing structures

- Implement strict weed, pest erosion and sediment controls
- Rehabilitation of temporary construction areas once work is complete.

Comprehensive environmental management plans will also be implemented which include monitoring programs for threatened plants, bird and bat activity, rehabilitation success, weeds and pests and the health of sensitive habitats. Adaptive measures will ensure new information is incorporated and environmental outcomes continue to improve over time.