



# Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Local Government funding and services

**Hearing Date:** 21 August 2024

**Question[s] taken on notice**

**Directed to:** Wallaloo & Gre Gre District Alliance Inc.

**Received Date:** 9 October 2024

## 1. **Bev McARTHUR, Page 12**

**Question asked:**

**Bev McARTHUR:** Can you elaborate on some of the flora and fauna species that might be –

**Marcia McINTYRE:** Yes, I can probably. It is a well-known area for the swift parrot, powerful owl, barking owl, black falcons, bush stone-curlews, the white – **Alexandra MATTHEWS:** Breasted?

**Marcia McINTYRE:** Yes. There is also another migratory bird, the white needle throat. There are brown treecreepers. The diamond – I have just had a complete blank –

**Bev McARTHUR:** And some of the eucalyptus species?

**Marcia McINTYRE:** Yes. I could read you the –

**The CHAIR:** We might get you to provide those on notice, if that is okay, just because we will need to move on to Ms Broad and wrap up, and I do not want her to miss out.

**Marcia McINTYRE:** Okay. All right.

**Bev McARTHUR:** A detailed list of the issues affecting flora and fauna in these –

**Alexandra MATTHEWS:** And just to quickly add to that, the council have spent a lot of resources developing these –

**David DAVIS:** Protecting.

**Alexandra MATTHEWS:** developing and protecting, why then would you, not allow but sort of –

**Bev McARTHUR:** Potentially destroy them.

**David DAVIS:** But stand by.

**Alexandra MATTHEWS:** Yes.

**Marcia McINTYRE:** The sun moth and a large range of really, really critically threatened orchids. It is an amazing place, let us just put it that way. And all the biolinks joining this up are going to be destroyed. And that is not talking about the issues with erosion and everything that comes with that as well. It is outrageous.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you. Ms Broad, one question and we will need to finish up.

**Response:**

Navarre Green Hub comprises 18,404 hectares (ha) of land in the connection zone of one of the most valuable biodiversity regions in Victoria (right beside 1 National Park, 1 State Forest and 3 Conservation Reserves).

- 102 wind turbines approx 280 high,
- kms of overhead 220kV transmission lines
- A battery energy storage system (BESS).
- Two substations
- Operations and maintenance buildings in each wind farm area
- Internal power collection stations.
- Meteorological monitoring masts
- New access tracks, drainage, where required, and underground cabling.
- On-site quarries.

It is important to note that this project has been declared a controlled action under the EPBC Act highlighting the potential devastating impact on this amazingly rich biodiversity locality.

**It is important to note that this project is directly adjacent to Kara Kara National Park, Mount Bolangum Flora and Fauna Reserve and Morrl Morrl Nature Conservation Reserve. It is within close proximity to Stuart Mill Nature Conservation Reserve, Little Tottington State Forest and Big Tottington Nature Conservation Reserve all of which are listed as Internationally recognised Key Biodiversity Areas from which species particularly birds travel between. The connectivity in terms of bird and animal movement between these reserves will be permanently damaged by the destruction of these critical biolinks and can never be replicated or offset in any meaningful way.**

This windfarm will destroy the habitat of and slaughter the following rare birds and other species:

Swift Parrot (EPBC Critically Endangered)  
Barking Owl (FFG Critically Endangered)  
Powerful Owl (FFG Vulnerable)  
Bush Stone- curlew (FFG Critically endangered)  
Brown Treecreeper (EPBC Vulnerable)  
Speckled Warbler (FFG Endangered)  
Diamond Firetail (EPBC Vulnerable)  
Hooded Robin (EPBC Endangered)  
Black Falcon (FFG Critically Endangered)  
Painted Honeyeater (EPBC Vulnerable)  
Square tailed Kite (FFG Vulnerable)  
Fork-tailed Swift (EPBC Migratory)  
White-throated Needletail (EPBC Migratory)  
Fat-tailed dunnarts (FFG Vulnerable)

Striped legless lizards (EPBC Vulnerable)  
Tree goannas (FFG Endangered)  
Pink tailed Worm -Lizard (EPBC Vulnerable)  
Golden Sun Moth (EPBC Vulnerable)  
Eastern Bentwing Bat (FFG Vulnerable)  
Brush- tailed Phascogale (FFG Vulnerable)  
Squirrel Glider (FFG Vulnerable)

#### Flora

Turnip Copperburr (EPBC Endangered)  
Brilliant Sun Orchid (EPBC Vulnerable)  
Lowly Greenhood (EPBC Endangered)  
Yellow lip spider-Orchid (EPBC Endangered)  
Pomonal Leek-orchid (EPBC Endangered)  
Mclvor spider-orchid (EPBC Endangered)  
Stuart Mill spider-Orchid (FFG Endangered)  
Red Cross spider-orchid (FFG Endangered)  
+ many more listed orchards  
Clover Glycine (EPBC Vulnerable)  
Buloke (FFG Vulnerable)

Devastatingly there will be 134.771 hectares of native vegetation removed from the area - all high quality habitat to the above listed species, they include:

- 23.371 hectares of Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia (EPBC Act: Endangered) (13% of that recorded in the study area);
- 5.627 hectares of White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (EPBC Act: Critically Endangered) (18% of that recorded in the study area); and
- 3.105 hectares of Grey Box – Buloke Grassy Woodland (FFG Act: Threatened) (5% of that recorded in the study area). Brilliant Sun-orchid (EPBC Vulnerable)

We believe that they have massively underestimated the amount and quality of native vegetation that will be removed. Neoen have not determined the route for the transmission so have no idea the impact of it. They have also not incorporated the impact on the loss of vegetation that will need to be removed to get the turbines to the site and even just the construction machinery up the road. Bolangum Inn Road for example is a narrow one and a bit lane road with high quality remnant vegetation and old growth trees right to the edge of road - there will be significant losses there.

There is also a number of onsite quarries proposed, with all associated crushing plants, pads and road infrastructure - location to be determined. We also understand that there will be onsite concrete batching plants. It is further unaccounted destruction, it will permanently destroy the area and increase the erosion and sedimentation issues extensively.