



Our ref: DOC20/896307

Mr Richard Dunicliff
Environmental Officer
Ausgrid
PO Box 487
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Dear Mr Dunicliff

Ausgrid powerline maintenance activities in BCT Conservation Agreements

I refer to your letter dated 2 October 2020.

As delegate of the Minister under section 5.25 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (the BC Act), I can advise that the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) agrees to exclude emergency and routine maintenance work (as defined in State Environment Planning Policy Infrastructure Clause 43) relating to the management of the Ausgrid powerline corridor and any associated access roads from the application of section 5.25(1) of the BC Act carried out for or on behalf of Ausgrid on land subject to a conservation agreement in the following circumstances:

- The work is consistent with Ausgrid's Environmental Handbook, Tree Safety Management Plan and other plans and policies that apply to the carrying out of the work in force and amended from time to time.
- The work is to be carried out within a Conservation Agreement that was entered into for a purpose referred to in section 69C(1)(e) or (e2) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or section 5.20 of the BC Act.
- The works are permitted to involve pruning, lopping, slashing and the use / application of herbicide in accordance with the Environmental Handbook. If there is the possibility of erosion, the stumps and the root structures of vegetation to be controlled should be retained. Where the site is left exposed and has the potential to erode then appropriate measures must be implemented in accordance with recognised mitigation practices.
- Notification in accordance with *Electricity Supply Act 1995* is provided in writing to the landholder and the BCT at least 7 days prior to the work commencing.
- This agreement can be rescinded by either Ausgrid or BCT with 28 days' notice in writing.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Davies
Director Programs