



Australian Government

Water for the Future



Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam Water Transfer Pipeline - Native Animal Impacts

The Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam Water Transfer Pipeline is being developed by the NSW Department of Commerce, in collaboration with Bega Valley Shire Council. Ecological assessments have been undertaken to assess the potential for biodiversity impacts and implement measures to protect the environmental values of areas that would be affected.

Regional values

Nearly 600 native animals have been recorded in the Bega Valley Shire. Of these, 67 are listed as threatened at a State or National Level. These include the Glossy Black Cockatoo and Gang Gang Cockatoo, the Masked and Sooty Owl, as well as several threatened mammals and frogs which are also present in the area. The Giant Burrowing Frog is a cryptic species with suitable habitat in the area although it is rarely recorded.

Habitat values

Along the pipeline route, a range of animal habitat occurs. Agricultural land with patches of woodland can provide important connectivity between more vegetated areas. Woodlands are important refuges. Additional habitat is provided by watercourses such as Newlands Creek, and farm dams along the route. Habitat features include hollow bearing trees, specific feed trees (providing pollen or leaves as food for animals) as well as understorey habitat. Other significant features include mature eucalypts and angophoras which provide potential nesting places for a huge variety of native animals. These habitat features are rare and declining in the Bega Valley.

Potential impacts

The pipeline could affect native animals through the removal of habitat and inadvertent death to some individual animals during the construction phase (for example, frogs becoming trapped in trenches, possums in trees to be removed). Trenches may also represent a temporary movement barrier to smaller animals. The greatest potential for habitat disturbance exists where the pipeline would need to cross water courses, such as Newlands Creek.



Measures to reduce impacts

Measures would be put into place to reduce the risk to native animals. These include:

- Avoidance of mature trees and hollow bearing trees
- Trenches would be back filled progressively and not left open over night
- Construction staff would be made aware of the potential for the Giant Burrowing Frog to become trapped in the trenches and would develop safe procedures to remove them
- Work would not be undertaken at night, and noise control measures would be put in place to avoid disrupting nocturnal fauna
- Care would be taken to avoid pollution of habitat by implementing erosion and sedimentation plans

Photographic Plates



Photograph 1: Female Giant Burrowing Frog
(Image: Andrew Claridge ©)



Photograph 2: Giant Burrowing Frog
(Image: Andrew Claridge ©)

