

An independent external audit was carried out for Stage A – Network (west/east) on 14 May 2014 by NGH Environmental. A summary of the audit findings and follow up actions is provided in the table below:

No.	Section of report	Details	Follow up action
Correction Action Requests			
1	3.4.2	The Landscape Management Plan (LMP) is not a practical document that is easy to implement on site by on site staff. Given that a large portion of the LMP still requires implementation, consideration should be given to developing a practical Landscape Management Procedure or equivalent that provides guidance to the contractor of their obligations.	ACTEW and Guideline have held workshops with staff to clarify the objectives and requirements of the LMP, and its relationship with the CEMP to better assist with implementation. This included a specific focus on the Network Contractor's actions from the LMP Action Plan (Table 9).
2	3.4.2	A Bushland Regenerator was required to provide a report with mapping that identified the areas subject to weed invasion. The report has not been prepared.	The first six monthly report for the Plant Establishment Period (PEP) was provided to GTPL in June 2014, following the audit, and identified areas susceptible to weed invasion, which will continue to be monitored.
3	3.4.2	Topsoil stripping commenced prior to the Bushland Regenerator report was completed and its findings action.	It is acknowledged that topsoil stripping commenced prior to a Bushland Regenerator preparing a report to advise of any specific stripping requirements. However as the audit report notes, topsoil stripping has been undertaken in a staged approach and generally been reused in the same area which would have helped to limit potential spread of weeds. Weed control measures are in place as part of PEP monitoring.
4	3.4.2	Inadequate soil testing was undertaken prior to the commencement of landscaping works.	It is acknowledged that soil testing was not undertaken at commencement of landscaping works. However the soils on site are not identified as saline, sodic or expansive and the process during construction to strip and stockpile the topsoil for reuse in the same area would have reduced the risk of spreading any potentially chemically hostile sub-soils.
5	3.4.2	Landscaping reporting including the 6-monthly and quarterly reports are not being completed.	As per CAR 2, the first six monthly report during the PEP was issued to GTPL in June 2014, following the audit. Quarterly reporting is the responsibility of the Landscape Overlay Contractor and is not part of the Network (east) scope.

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6	3.4.2	Photographic monitoring points have not been established.	Six photographic monitoring points have now been established along the Stage A Network (east) alignment. Photos and an index map were included in the June 2014 landscaping report.
7	3.4.2	Native plant cover and weed cover targets are not being monitored.	Native plant cover and weed cover are now being monitored by Guideline and their landscape subcontractor and will continue to be visually monitored on a six monthly basis throughout the PEP to ensure targets are met.

Observation of Concern

1		'High weed infestation' areas are not defined in the FFMP and there are no maps that indicate where these areas are.	Appendix D of the Flora and Fauna Management Plan comprises a weed and pest management strategy and identifies weed species present in the area (refer to Table 7.3 of the plan). Section D.5 identifies three weed infestation categories within the Stage A Network (east) study area, including one of 'high weed infestation'. Section D.6 outlines the weed management procedure adapted from the Weed and Pest Management Strategy prepared by Biosis. This strategy includes the targeted removal of the three woody weeds in the 'high weed infestation' area. These areas of 'high weed occurrence' are shown in the figure 'Flora/Fauna Mapping – Vegetation communities and weed occurrence' in Appendix E, by the diagonal blue hatching in the western portion of the study area.
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