

ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION

An application for an Environmental Significance Opinion (ESO) has been received under section 138 of the *Planning Act 2023* (the Act). In accordance with section 140(4) of the Act, I provide the following environmental significance opinion:

APPLICANT

Riverview Projects, as represented by Jack Racklyeft.

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

The proposal is for the addition of a new conductor to be added to the already existing line 3C Canberra to Stockdill 330kV. The additional line is required to provide increased capacity to the line between the Canberra substation located off Parkwood Drive in the north and the Stockdill Drive Substation. Works will involve the attachment of the new line to the already existing tower infrastructure constructed in 2018 under EIS201732500.

The additional conductor is required due to changes in the broader network with the relocation of nearby transmission lines that are being progressed under a separate application process (Upper and Lower Tumut 330kV Transmission line realignment EIS202300023). The addition of a new conductor to the already existing line will enable the larger relocation of transmission infrastructure to occur.

LOCATION

The project will span multiple blocks including:

Block	Section	Division
1559, 1560, 1600, 1634, 1635	0	Belconnen
1	121 and 131	Holt
2	132	Holt
1	7	Strathnairn
10	9	Strathnairn

MATTERS TO WHICH THIS OPINION APPLIES

This opinion applies only to the development proposal as described in the application.

OPINION

Provided the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the following conditions, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

This opinion is granted subject to the following conditions made under section 140(4) of the Act.

- Corona discharge and EMF impacts are to be fully addressed as part of the Development Application (DA) process.

Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.

George Cilliers

Territory Planning Authority

12 January 2026

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The proposed development is a proposal mentioned in Schedule 1 of the *Planning (General) Regulation 2023* – development proposals requiring environmental impact assessment, being:

Part 1.2 item 2(a) - proposal that involves electricity transmission line construction, including additions or realignment works, exceeding 500m in length, that are intended to carry underground or above-ground transmission lines with a voltage of 132kV or more.

The proponent is seeking an environmental significance opinion to remove the requirement for an environmental impact statement on the grounds that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, and has applied to the Territory Planning Authority for an opinion to that effect.

Meaning of *significant* adverse environmental impact – *Planning Act 2023*, section 104

An adverse environmental impact is ***significant*** if—

- (a) the environmental function, system, value or entity that might be adversely impacted by a proposed development is significant; or
- (b) the cumulative or incremental effect of a proposed development might contribute to a substantial adverse impact on an environmental function, system, value or entity.

In deciding whether an adverse environmental impact is ***significant***, the following matters must be taken into account:

- (a) the kind, size, frequency, intensity, scope and length of time of the impact;
- (b) the sensitivity, resilience and rarity of the environmental function, system, value or entity likely to be affected.

In deciding whether a development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact it does not matter whether the adverse environmental impact is likely to occur on the site of the development or elsewhere.

CONSULTATION WITH ENTITIES

In deciding whether a development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact the Territory Planning Authority consulted with entities, in accordance with section 139 (1) of the Act. Entity responses are provided below:

Work health and safety commissioner

The Work Health and Safety Commissioner does not have any comments on the proposed works identified in this application for an Environmental Significance Opinion (reference ESO202500055).

This response has been provided on the basis of the information contained in documents which was

made available to WorkSafe ACT for the Work Health and Safety Commissioner's consideration by the Impact Assessment team as at 10.22 am on Monday 1 December 2025.

This response does not take into account any subsequent changes to those documents, nor any other information held by the Impact Assessment unit.

In providing this response, the Work Health and Safety Commissioner is not approving or endorsing any proposed work arrangements or any proposed risk control measures, and nothing in this response affects the safety duties of person who may be involved in carrying out the proposed work under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Environment Protection Authority

Thank you for referring the attached Environmental Significance Opinion (ESO) application ESO 202500055 - Line 3C Canberra to Stockdill Substation 330KV to the Office of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for review.

EPA supports the preparation of an ESO and has no comments to offer.

Emergency Services Commissioner

ACTSES has reviewed the subject DA and are unable to provide an assessment as no flood study/mapping is available. Flood mapping should be available through CED and/or SLA and should be sourced from them.

Technical Regulator

The proposed works, the inclusion of additional line, would require no additional vegetation removal, construction of access tracks or expansion of the development footprint from the original construction of Line 3C assessed under the ACT Second Electrical Supply Project EIS 201732500. Additionally, these works will occur within the previously approved development footprint and existing easement. No new towers, easements, or access tracks will be constructed.

With the consideration of new line inclusion, on the existing network footprint, we note that the ESO application does not adequately consider corona discharge and EMF impacts, mentioned below:

- 1) Noise impacts: Application for the ESO confirms construction related noise will be managed in accordance with AS 2436 through daytime works and Operation noise (Corona discharge) will be monitored and mitigated if complaints arise, using measures such as hardware corona rings or at-property acoustic treatments. Corona discharge should be addressed at the design stage, not as a reactive measure after complaints.
- 2) Electromagnetic Fields (EMF): EMF modelling studies are required due to the proposed additional conductor.

UTR note following on the ESO application:

- An EIS is not required, as works occur within the existing network footprint and were

previously assessed under EIS 201732500.

- Corona discharge and EMF impacts should be fully addressed as part of the Development Application (DA) process.

Director-General of ACT Health

Thank you for the documentation received on 1st December 2025 regarding the ESO for proposed inclusion of a new conductor on the existing transmission towers for Line 3C Canberra to Stockdill 330 kV (the Project) in Multiply blocks.

The Health Protection Service (HPS) notes this construction of an additional conductor on the existing Line 3C transmission towers does not pose any public health risks.

The Project involves the addition of an electrical transmission line exceeding 500 m in length with a transmission voltage of more than 132 kV an application therefor an ESO is required.

These works would require no additional vegetation removal, construction of access tracks or expansion of the development footprint from the original construction of Line 3C assessed under the ACT Second Electrical Supply Project EIS 201732500. Through the avoidance and mitigation measures, significant impacts to the environment have been avoided.

There are no further public health concerns in relation to the ESO application

POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The new conductor will span approximately 4500m and will be mounted to existing steel tower infrastructure already in operation. Works will involve brake and winch sites only for line tensioning. Access for the works will utilise already existing access routes to the transmission line easements and no trenching or ground works will be required. The project areas are not known to be at risk of flooding and as such no flood mapping has been requested.

It has been demonstrated that if the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the above conditions attached to the ESO, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

