

Statement of assessment of reasonable equivalence of biodiversity credits

A delegate of the Environment Agency Head of the Department of Planning Industry and Environment has determined that the number of biodiversity credits required to be retired under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act)* as part of the development consent listed in Part 1, are reasonably equivalent to the number and class of biodiversity credits under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)* set out in Part 2.

This document outlines that determination, made in accordance with clause 22(3) of the *Biodiversity Conservation (Savings and Transitional) Regulation 2017*.

Part 1 Existing statutory obligation to retire credits

Request made by:	Taralga Holdings Nominees 1 Pty Ltd (ABN 19 160 611 441)
Date request to re-examine credit equivalence received	9 th March 2020
Development Consent reference	DA241/04/MOD 8
Development name	Taralga Wind Farm

Existing statutory obligation reference	Biodiversity credit name (Plant Community Type name and ID, or threatened species name)	IBRA sub region	Number of credits
DA241/04/MOD 8	Ribbon Gum - Narrow-leaved Peppermint grassy open forest on basalt plateaux, Sydney Basin and South Eastern Highlands, (HN571/ PCT1097)	Crookwell	70
DA241/04/MOD 8	Silvertop Ash - Narrow-leaved Peppermint open forest on ridges of the eastern tableland, South Eastern Highlands and South East Corner, (HN584/ PCT1155)	Crookwell	178
DA241/04/MOD 8	Snow Grass - Kangaroo Grass - Sheep's Burr grassland on undulating basalt plateaux, South Eastern Highlands, (HN588/PCT1185)	Crookwell	2
DA241/04/MOD 8	Speargrass grassland of the South Eastern Highlands, (HN591/PCT1202)	Crookwell	19

DA241/04/MOD 8	River Tussock - Tall Sedge - Kangaroo Grass moist grasslands of the South Eastern Highlands, (HN576/PCT1110)	Crookwell	7
DA241/04/MOD 8	Gang-gang Cockatoo <i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	NA	126
DA241/04/MOD 8	Little Eagle <i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i> ¹	NA	85
DA241/04/MOD 8	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard <i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	NA	59
DA241/04/MOD 8	Rosenberg's Goanna <i>Varanus rosenbergi</i>	NA	210
DA241/04/MOD 8	Striped Legless Lizard <i>Delma impar</i>	NA	52

Part 2 Determination of reasonable equivalence

The number and class of biodiversity credits that are reasonably equivalent under the BC Act are:

Ecosystem Credits

1. **Name of Plant Community Type:** Ribbon Gum - Narrow-leaved Peppermint grassy open forest on basalt plateaux, Sydney Basin and South Eastern Highlands, PCT1097 (HN571)

Number of ecosystem credits required	87 ²
Offset trading group	Tableland Basalt Forest in the Sydney Basin and South Eastern Highlands Bioregion
Hollow bearing trees	Vegetation containing hollow bearing trees
Vegetation class	Southern Tableland West Sclerophyll Forest
Vegetation formation	Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Grassy Sub-formation)
IBRA³ subregion	Crookwell and any IBRA subregion that adjoins the subregion within which the development occurs and any such subregion that is within 100 kilometres of the outer edge of the impact site.

2. **Name of Plant Community Type:** Silvertop Ash - Narrow-leaved Peppermint open forest on ridges of the eastern tableland, South Eastern Highlands and South East Corner, PCT1155 (HN584)

Number of ecosystem credits required	178 ⁴
Offset trading group	South East Dry Sclerophyll Forests with a percent cleared value <50%
Hollow bearing trees	Vegetation containing hollow bearing trees
Vegetation class	South East Dry Sclerophyll Forests
Vegetation formation	Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation)
IBRA⁵ subregion	Crookwell and any IBRA subregion that adjoins the subregion within which the development occurs and any such subregion that is within 100 kilometres of the outer edge of the impact site.

² A site value of 65 was used to undertake the credit equivalence for HN571/PCT1097, based on the highest site value recorded on the adjacent planned Rossville Biobank site within HN571/PCT1097. This site value was agreed to following discussions with applicant's ecologist and with staff from Department of Planning Industry and Environment who undertook the fieldwork.

³ Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia

⁴ Matching credits are available from BioBanking Agreement ID 424. In accordance with the approved method there was no recalculation of credit numbers.

⁵ Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia

3. Name of Plant Community Type: Snow Grass - Kangaroo Grass - Sheep's Burr grassland on undulating basalt plateaux, South Eastern Highlands, PCT1185 (HN588)

Number of ecosystem credits required	3
Offset trading group	Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands
Hollow bearing trees	NA
Vegetation class	Temperate Montane Grasslands
Vegetation formation	Grasslands
IBRA⁶ subregion	Crookwell and any IBRA subregion that adjoins the subregion within which the development occurs and any such subregion that is within 100 kilometres of the outer edge of the impact site.

4. Name of Plant Community Type: Speargrass grassland of the South Eastern Highlands, PCT1202 (HN591)

Number of ecosystem credits required	18
Offset trading group	Temperate Montane Grasslands with a percent cleared value $\geq 50\%$ and $< 70\%$
Hollow bearing trees	NA
Vegetation class	Temperate Montane Grasslands
Vegetation formation	Grasslands
IBRA⁷ subregion	Crookwell and any IBRA subregion that adjoins the subregion within which the development occurs and any such subregion that is within 100 kilometres of the outer edge of the impact site.

5. Name of Plant Community Type: River Tussock - Tall Sedge - Kangaroo Grass moist grasslands of the South Eastern Highlands, PCT1110 (HN576)

Number of ecosystem credits required	7 ⁸
Offset trading group	Temperate Montane Grasslands with a percent cleared value $\geq 90\%$
Hollow bearing trees	NA
Vegetation class	Temperate Montane Grasslands

⁶ Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia

⁷ Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia

⁸ Matching credits are available from BioBanking Agreement ID 33. In accordance with the approved method there was no recalculation of credit numbers.

Vegetation formation	Grasslands
IBRA⁹ subregion	Crookwell and any IBRA subregion that adjoins the subregion within which the development occurs and any such subregion that is within 100 kilometres of the outer edge of the impact site.

Species Credits

1. **Name of threatened species:** Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*¹⁰

Number of species credits required	126
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2. **Name of threatened species:** Pink-tailed Worm-lizard *Aprasia parapulchella*¹¹

Number of species credits required	59
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3. **Name of threatened species:** Rosenberg's Goanna *Varanus rosenbergi*

Number of species credits required	The reasonably equivalent credit obligation for this species credit is now met by meeting the ecosystem credit obligations required under the offset obligation for the site.
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4. **Name of threatened species:** Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar*¹²

Number of species credits required	52
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⁹ Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia

¹⁰ Matching credits are available from BioBanking Agreement ID BA 76. In accordance with the approved method there was no recalculation of credit numbers.

¹¹ Matching credits are available from BioBanking Agreement ID BA 294, 309 and 296. In accordance with the approved method there was no recalculation of credit numbers.

¹² Matching credits are available from BioBanking Agreement ID BA 145. In accordance with the approved method credit numbers were not recalculated.

Explanation of the species credit equivalence determination for Rosenberg's Goanna *Varanus rosenbergi*

An assessment of threatened species information including biodiversity credit class has been undertaken by Biodiversity and Conservation Division. In accordance with this review, the species Rosenberg's Goanna that is the subject of the BBAM biodiversity credit obligation is now an ecosystem credit species. Ecosystem credits represent habitat for certain threatened species and are classified by the Plant Community Type (PCT). The ecosystem credits for the PCTs required for this offset obligation are considered by Biodiversity and Conservation Division to meet the credit obligation for the Rosenberg's Goanna. For further information please contact: boscredits@environment.nsw.gov.au

This statement was issued on 9 April 2020.

Authorised by:



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Delegate of the Environment Agency Head