# Environment

**Western Power is committed to protecting and enhancing the environmental, heritage and social values in all of our activities, products and services.**

We take a systematic approach to the environmental management of our network operation and expansion activities, and consider environmental factors early in our planning processes.

We're committed to protecting the environment through comprehensive assessments, implementing avoidance and minimisation strategies, preventing and remediating pollution events, and applying the waste hierarchy. These actions safeguard the State's unique biodiversity as we move towards a cleaner, more sustainable energy future for all.

We recognise that in managing the network and the safe and reliable delivery of power supply to the community that we're unable to completely avoid all impacts on environmental values. That's why we follow a rigorous process to identify and assess any potential impacts in the planning stage.



## Our rigorous impact assessment process considers:

- values, sensitivity and quality of the environment likely to be impacted
- impact extent (intensity, duration, size, and geographic footprint)
- resilience of the local environment
- consequence of the likely impacts (or change), including off-site and indirect impacts
- consistency with legislative and regulatory objectives
- cumulative effects on the environment of a proposal with one or more past, present and reasonably foreseeable future activities
- level of confidence in the prediction of residual impacts and the success of the mitigation
- community input and values.

To help reduce or avoid adverse environmental risks and impacts, we apply a mitigation hierarchy framework of avoid, minimise, rehabilitate and offset actions.

All network builds undergo a robust desktop assessment of available information to identify potential environmental values that may be impacted and/or require regulatory approvals and management.

## More information

For more information on Clean Energy Link, visit **westernpower.com.au**

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## What happens when a potential environmental risk or impact is identified?

**Where there is a risk or an approval required, further investigation is undertaken, including:**

- consultation with stakeholders and regulators
- field inspections
- biological, noise or other relevant surveys or investigations to ensure adequate information to make informed decisions
- environmental impact assessments
- development of controls or actions to minimise impacts and promote improved performance, typically detailed in an environmental management plan.

An assessment of the impacts on environmental aspects is completed to determine the relevant approval types and pathways, including clearing vegetation and referral requirements.

Western Power holds a State-wide clearing permit under the Environmental Protection Act 1986, which approves clearing of native vegetation for projects where the proposed clearing of native vegetation isn't considered to have a significant environmental impact.

Due to project complexity, scale or level of native vegetation clearing impacts, we may need to apply for a project specific Clearing Permit.

Where environmental impacts are likely to be significant and/or relate to more than just the clearing of native vegetation, we refer our projects to the WA Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for assessment under the State legislation (Environmental Protection Act 1986) and/or Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under Commonwealth legislation (Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999).

These Government agencies will decide whether or not to assess the referred project. Where the regulator determines it doesn't need to assess the project, it will be delivered in accordance with any other relevant approvals and Environmental Management Plans. If the regulator does assess the project, it will be subject to a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment and be open to a period of public consultation. Project delivery will only begin once approved and relevant approval conditions are met.

For more information on Western Power's State-wide clearing permit, please visit our website.




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