Appendix 2 Griffith

Native Vegetation

No native vegetation community is present onsite and therefore no EECs are present onsite. Some native flora species are likely to occur but these would be subject to periodic removal by cropping activities. The site is highly modified and of low value as habitat to threatened flora.

Adjacent to the proposal site, vegetation within the Hamilton Road and Mirrool Branch Canal Road reserves include a mix of native shrubs and trees, pasture grasses and weeds. Both areas are mapped as Weeping Myall (Acacia pendula) Woodland (NSW Spatial Data, including the NSW VIS 3884 map sheet). A larger area of Myall woodland also occurs along the irrigation channel to the east of the proposal site. Approximately 72.19 ha of similar vegetation occur within 2km of the proposal site.

While these Hamilton Road and Mirrool Branch Canal Road reserves are degraded and have established exotic species present (including Date Palm Phoenix dactylifera and Flaxleaf Fleabane Conyza bonariensis), Weeping Myall Woodland (see below) is classified as an EEC under both the TSC Act and the EPBC Act and it is assessed as such. The community is unlikely to provide habitat to any threatened flora however, being weedy and subject to high levels of edge effects.

Weeping Myall open woodland of the Riverina and NSW South-western Slopes Bioregions	
Occurrence	This vegetation community occurs within the road reserve and the irrigation channel to the east of the proposal site is dominated by patches of Weeping Myall along with planted exotic trees north of the proposal area.
Structure	Trees: 2 - 5m 40% cover Shrubs: to 3m 0% cover Ground: < 50cm 80-90% cover Bare earth: (<5% cover) Fallen timber and leaf litter 10% cover
Conservation Status	Conservation status in NSW : Endangered *Myall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain, Murray-Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes bioregions* Commonwealth conservation status: Endangered *Weeping Myall Woodlands*
Condition	The woodland remnant is highly modified, being no more than one tree width and containing several exotic tree species. The understorey also contains a high percentage of weed species.

Threatened Species

- Spotted harrier
    - The Spotted Harrier occurs in grassy open woodland including acacia and mallee remnants, inland riparian woodland, grassland and shrub steppe. It is found most commonly in native grassland, but also occurs in agricultural land, foraging over open habitats including edges of inland wetlands.
- Barking Owl
    - The Barking Owl inhabits eucalypt woodland, open forest, swamp woodlands and, especially in inland areas, timber along watercourses. Denser vegetation is used occasionally for roosting. During the day they roost along creek lines, usually in tall understorey trees with dense foliage such as Acacia and Casuarina species, or the dense clumps of canopy leaves in large Eucalypts.
- Diamond Firetail

- The Diamond Firetail is widely distributed in NSW, in grassy eucalypt woodlands. It also occurs in open forest, mallee, Natural Temperate Grassland, and in secondary grassland derived from other communities. It is often found in riparian areas and lightly wooded farmland.

The proposal would not directly impact upon any other threatened species, population or ecological community.

Management

- Minimise the clearing of any Weeping Myall Woodland EEC in the road reserve (Figure 1) during the construction of the new site entry points and the ancillary infrastructure connecting the site to the nearby substation.
- Rehabilitation and visual screening plantings should maximise the use of native species that form part of the local Weeping Myall Woodland, where appropriate. Species include;
  - Weeping Myall (Acacia pendula),
  - Western rosewood (Alectryon oleifolius subsp. elongatus);
  - Poplar box (Eucalyptus populnea);
  - Black box (Eucalyptus largiflorens).

Figure 2: Parkes Biodiversity Map