

Legend





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DALTON POWER PROJECT

GOLDEN SUN MOTH POPULATIONS NEAR DALTON, NSW



2.4 Correspondence

In order to confirm the beginning and duration of the flying season for GSM in the Southern Tablelands, a number of contacts were established to source up to date species specific information regarding current species behaviour, and to track 'week to week' survey finding results from known reference sites throughout the 2011/2012 season (**Appendix A**). Information used to guide the timing of URS surveys was collected by continual liaison with a range of stakeholders, including consultant ecologists, government officers, community groups and local landowners, including:

- Rod Pietsch, Responsible Officer: Golden Sun Moth, NSW OEH (Queanbeyan);
- Rainer Rehwinkel, Senior Threatened Species Officer, NSW OEH (Queanbeyan);
- Melissa Maly Assistant Director NSW Assessment Section (DSEWPaC),
- Tim McGrath Threatened Species Officer (DSEWPaC),
- Alison Rowell, Biologist and Environmental consultant;
- Nathan Garvey, Biosis Research (Wollongong);
- Geoff Robertson, Friends of Grasslands (FOG) (Canberra);
- Bob Spiller, Secretary, Jerrawa Creek Landcare Group (JCLG);
- John Walsh, Landowner, Mt Pleasant, Dalton; and
- Michael Mulvaney, Conservation Planning and Research, Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate.

Furthermore, both Rod Pietsch and Rainer Rehwinkel (NSW OEH) were invited to join URS surveys conducted within the Project area. However, due to a high workload (Rod Pietsch *pers. comm.*), a joint survey did not eventuate.

2.5 Reference Sites

GSM has been recorded historically at a number of sites in and around the Southern Tablelands (**Figure 1A** and **1B**). A series of known GSM locations (**Table 1**) (described in Clarke and O'Dwyer 1999, Clarke 2000, Clarke and Whyte 2003, DEWHA 2008) were researched so to locate a reference site in close proximity to the Project area so as to facilitate examination of known GSM habitat.

However, a number of potential constraints were recognised in terms of utilising one of these sites as a reference site, including the duration of elapsed time since surveys were last conducted (12 - 13 years) on the sites closest to the Study Area (Clarke and Whyte 2003). In addition, many sites were located on privately-owned lands, hence limiting access by URS ecologists.

In the Southern Tablelands, a number of GSM populations are known to occur within travelling stock routes (TSRs) (JCLG 2009, Rehwinkel 2011). TSRs provide ideal reference sites, in so far as they avoid potential issues encountered with access to privately-owned lands.

Site Name	Easting	Northing	Elevation	Area	Land Tenure	RLPB	Survey
Binalong	648613	6161547	480	0.2	Private/Cemetery	Yass	1999
Blackburn	679584	6157088	660	25	TSR	Yass	1998/1999
Bookham	648968	6147495	650	< 1	Private/Cemetery	Yass	1999
Bowning	666722	6150700	560	20	Roadside/TSR	Yass	1999
Coolalie	680921	6147277	640	3	TSR	Yass	1998/1999
Costellos Ck	673423	6158169	660	5	TSR	Yass	1998
Davis 1999	678998	6153055	720	10	TSR	Yass	1999
Davis 1998	679215	6153555	700	10	TSR	Yass	1998

Table 1 Population Locations of GSM in the NSW Southern Tablelands

Site Name	Easting	Northing	Elevation	Area	Land Tenure	RLPB	Survey
Deringullen	671981	6152177	590	5	TSR	Yass	1998/1999
Eadys New	680250	6161555	660	10	TSR	Yass	1999
Flakeney Ck	677194	6171387	680	5	TSR	Young	1998
Ginninderra Rd	698178	6108187	640	91	Private	Yass	1999
Glencoe	690856	6117960	640	5	Private	Yass	1998/1999
Glenlothian	654829	6162355	520	2.5	Private	Yass	1999
Gocup	610125	6097246	300	5	TSR	Gundagai	1999
Gounyan Rd	683316	6133801	680	20	Roadside/Private	Yass	1999
Graces Flat Rd	661426	6148614	580	> 100	Roadside/Private	Yass	1999
Gundaroo	707272	6121153	590	1	Crown Land	Braidwood	1999
Harrys Ck Rd	667442	6173883	530	10	Private	Young	1999
Jeir Ck	686684	6121784	590	20	Roadside/Private	Yass	1999
Kia-Ora	698750	6114328	620	25	Roadside/Private	Yass	1998/1999
Lagoon	655499	6172555	460	3	TSR	Yass	1998/1999
Lambs	673297	6147359	520	50	TSR	Yass	1998/1999
Laverstock Rd	670610	6161692	650	1	Private	Yass	1999
Letchworth	699592	6083683	600	55	Crown Land	Braidwood	1999
Marked Tree Rd	708477	6122574	630	10	Crown Land	Braidwood	1998/1999
McInerneys	664478	6158879	700	10	TSR	Yass	1998/1999
Merryville	679753	6129003	580	5	TSR	Yass	1998/1999
Moorbys Lane	667655	6165261	640	1	Private	Yass	1999
Nanima	691110	6123660	620	10	TSR	Yass	1998/1999
Poplars	698316	6082243	600	1	Private	Braidwood	1999
Pudman	677194	6171387	680	5	TSR	Young	1999
Rye Park	675114	6178732	530	0.5	Recreation Res.	Young	1999
Spring Range	691273	6110913	650	2	Private	Yass	1999
Springvale	666287	6177545	470	20	Roadside/Private	Young	1999
Sutton	705575	6106784	620	1	Private/Crown	Braidwood	1999
TSR19	680250	6161555	660	10	TSR	Yass	1998
Tallagandra Ln	698816	6112134	670	1	Roadside/Private	Yass	1999
Tarengo	652959	6184236	580	10	TSR	Young	1999
Valrosa	666359	6176807	530	50	Roadside/Private	Young	1999
Wargeila	673423	6158169	640	5	TSR	Yass	1999
Warroo	669440	6128227	510	10	TSR	Yass	1998/1999
Washpen Ck	661629	6144686	580	30	Private	Yass	1998/1999
Wolverhampton	672824	6185664	580	10	TSR	Young	1998/1999

The scope of the URS survey effort did not allow for GSM. surveys to be undertaken at known reference sites by URS ecologists. Instead, URS ecologists utilised information provided by independent sources to determine if GSM was flying at known reference sites at the time of URS



surveys within the Project site. This is discussed in detail in **Section 4.1.1**. URS ecologists did, however, visit one known reference site, close to the Project site, to make a habitat based assessment to guide the GSM survey effort undertaken for the Project. This is discussed below.

2.5.1 Reference Site: TSR-19

The closest known GSM reference site to the Project site, within a TSR, is TSR-19, also referred to as Eady's New (**Table 1**). TSR-19 is located < 20 km straight west of the Project site (**Figure 1A**). According to GSM surveys undertaken at TSR-19 in 1998 (Clarke and O'Dwyer 1999), at the time of survey the reference site was dominated by *Austrodanthonia caespitosa* inside the gate and the adjacent paddock. Weeds were also present in large numbers including *Holcus lanatus, Phalaris sp.,* and *Lolium perenne* (**Table 2**). Since 1998 the weather in the region has been characterised by severe drought across central NSW, followed by higher than average rainfall over more recent years. Thus, due to historical variations in climatic conditions, it is likely that the site habitat suitability for GSM in terms of floristic assemblage at TSR-19 may have changed over time.

A site visit was undertaken to TSR-19 by URS ecologists on 2/11/2011 to examine the current habitat and conditions at the reference site and to use this information to guide the selection of GSM survey sites within the Project area. At the time of the site visit, TSR-19 was supporting a relatively disturbed grassland community, with signs of recent grazing, soil compaction and tyre tracks (**Plate 2**). The dominant grasses within the TSR were Speargrass (*Austrostipa scabra*), Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*), and the exotic Quaking Grass (*Briza maxima*). However, where the site extended to the south west, it appeared to be dominated by *Themeda australis*. In this area, a lot of the canopy species and shrubs appear to be regenerating (< 10 years age) (**Table 2**) and it was evident there was change since the 1998 survey.



Plate 2 TSR-19 Reference site (2/11/2011)

 Table 2
 Comparison of Site Floristic Assemblage of TSR-19 Over the Last Decade

Scientific name	Common name	Clarke & O'Dwyer, 1999	URS site visit, 2011
Acacia irrorata	Green Wattle		
Austrodanthonia caespitosa	Ringed Wallaby Grass	++	
Austrostipa scabra	Speargrass		++
Briza maxima*	Quaking Grass		++
Eucalyptus blakelyi	Blakely's Red Gum		
Eucalyptus cinerea	Argyle Apple		
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha	Red Stringybark		
Eucalyptus melliodora	Yellow Box		
Holcus lanatus*	Yorkshire Fog	++	
Juncus usitatus	-		
Leptorhynchos squamatus subsp. alpinus	Scaly Buttons		
Lolium perenne*	Perennial Ryegrass	++	
Lomandra multiflora subsp. multiflora	Many-flowered Mat-rush		
Nassella trichotoma*	Serrated Tussock		
Phalaris sp.*	Canary Grass	++	
Plantago lanceolata	Plantago		



Scientific name	Common name	Clarke & O'Dwyer, 1999	URS site visit, 2011
Poa sp.	Tussock Grass		
Themeda australis	Kangaroo Grass		++

* Denotes exotic species

++ Indicate dominant species

Methodology

3.1 Field Survey

The URS field survey effort was conducted under the authority of a current NSW Scientific Licence issued under Clause 23 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002* and section 132C of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (now NSW Office of Environment and Heritage), and an Animal Research Authority issued by the Director-General's Animal Care and Ethics Committee (ACEC) of NSW Department of Primary Industries (now NSW Industry and Investment). GSM surveys were carried out in accordance with the 'Background Paper to EPBC Policy Statement 3.12 – Significant Impact Guidelines for the Critically Endangered Golden Sun Moth (Synemon plana)' (DEWHA 2009), which includes recommended survey effort.

The recommended survey effort included targeted survey for GSM within areas of potentially suitable habitat between 10am and 2pm on cloudless, relatively still days where the temperature is above 20 °C by 10am, and when it had not rained for two days prior to survey (as per DEWHA (2009) guidelines).

3.1.1 Survey Effort and Timing

Following literature reviews and expert advice (outlined in **Section 2.3** and **2.4**), the peak flight activity of GSM occurs annually from mid-November until early January. Between years there is seasonal variation with flights occurring earlier in some years, where warm dry springs take place, and later (accompanied by an extended season) when cool moist spring periods are encountered (Cook and Edwards 1994). As a result of an above average number of cold and rainy days during November and into December 2011, which presumably delayed moth emergence, surveys were undertaken between December 2011 and January 2012 by suitably qualified and experienced ecologists.

3.1.2 Weather Conditions

The results of surveys undertaken in 2008 and 2009 (FOMC 2009) suggest that although the surveys were undertaken on days with similar temperature ranges, the number of GSM observed at sites was significantly greater on windless days, when compared to windy days. These findings outline the importance of surveying in optimum weather conditions in order to increase the chances of observing maximum numbers of the species at a given site.

The nearest weather station to the Project site that is able to provide forecast details is located at Yass, followed by the station at Goulburn. Rainfall data is collected at Dalton Post Office.> However no temperature or forecast data is available from this site.

Local weather conditions for Yass, approximately 30 km south-west of the Project area (with similar elevations), and Goulburn, were tracked closely in order to identify the most favourable days to undertake targeted GSM surveys as part of the current survey (BOM 2011). Weather forecasts for the Yass and Goulburn region were downloaded daily using the Weatherzone iPhone application (Weather Company 2011). The application uses data obtained directly from the Bureau of Meteorology resources. This weather data was also compared to data sourced directly from the Bureau of Meteorology website for confirmation of predicted weather conditions. **Appendix B** provides details of weather conditions during URS surveys as recorded at the Yass weather station. **Appendix B** also provides rainfall data for Dalton Post Office. The rainfall data collected from Dalton Post Office is not quality checked (BOM 2012).

3 Methodology

3.1.3 Survey Methods

URS Ecologists employed a number of visual sampling techniques in the survey design in order to maximise detection success of GSM within the Project area. Visual surveys included a combination of fixed observation point surveys (Sites 1 - 9) along with random meander traverses and opportunistic surveys throughout the Project area (**Figure 2**). Surveys were conducted within areas of potential suitable habitat on warm days with little or no wind between 10:00am and 2:00pm, as per the DEWHA (2009) guidelines for the species.

A recent publication (FOG 2009) identified the success of opportunistically identifying GSM while traversing to sample pre-determined monitoring plots. This suggested that walking transects are a more productive methodology for sampling the presence of the species in a given area, than quadrats. This is probably due to the fact that walking encourages moths into flight (generally referred to as "flushing"), and thus greatly improves the chances of detecting the species (TAMS 2010). Consequently, URS ecologists aimed to undertake opportunistic surveys when travelling to and from fixed monitoring points.

3.1.4 Survey Sites

A site reconnaissance was undertaken on 7 December, 2011 to identify suitable GSM survey sites within the Project area. Survey sites were chosen based on the presence of potentially suitable GSM habitat and key habitat features. The following key habitat features were taken into consideration when identifying suitable survey sites:

- Presence of native grasses suitable for GSM habitat, such as; *Austrodanthonia spp.*, *Austrostipa scabra* and *A. bigeniculata.*
- North east facing aspect;
- Availability of inter-tussock space; and
- Low ratio of exotic flora species.

Survey sites were also selected so as to avoid impacts from vehicle movement on site, edge effect, and particularly disturbed or degraded locations.

As a result of this, a total of nine survey sites were chosen to conduct targeted GSM surveys (**Figure 2**).

Survey sites were also positioned so as to include survey effort within areas proposed for the offset site to accompany the project, as well as portions of the development footprint. Sites were also selected on the basis of good visibility (e.g. slightly raised locations that provided good vision of surrounding areas). All sites were located within vegetation classified as either Natural Temperate Grassland (as listed under the EPBC Act) or Box Gum Woodland (as listed under the TSC Act). The majority of sites were selected within vegetation classified as Natural Temperate Grassland due to the presence of better condition understorey vegetation within this community, corresponding with GSM suitable habitat.



Legend AGL Site Boundary Plant Footprint Gas Pipeline (northern and Access Road) Gas Pipeline (southern) Communications Tower and Hut Footprint Communications Tower Services and Access Track Moomba-Sydney Pipeline Transmission Line Vegetation Communities (URS): Natural Temperate Grassland^ Box Gum Woodland* Grey Box Over Exotic Pasture Red Stringybark over Exotic Pasture Disturbed Shrubland Exotic Pasture Plantation Survey Sites (incl. random meanders) **WWWW** Random Meander Traverses * TSC Listed Community ^ EBPC Listed Community 100 200 400 Ŵ Datum: GDA94 Grid: MGA Zone 55 Source: Aerial Image from AGL Whilst every care is taken by URS to ensure the accuracy of the digital data, URS makes no representation or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness, suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for any expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which may be incurred as a result of data being inaccurate in any way for any reason. Electronic files are provided for information only. The data in these files is not controlled or subject to automatic updates for users outside of URS. PATH: T:\JOBS\43177661\WORKSPACES FILE NO: 43177661.098-2.MXD DRAWN: SB APPROVED: AC DATE: 25/01/2012 AGL DALTON POWER PROJECT **GOLDEN SUN MOTH** SURVEY LOCATIONS Figure: 2 Rev. A A3

3 Methodology

3.2 Survey Limitations

Surveys aimed to cover as much ground as possible during the survey period. Consequently, random meanders were undertaken to provide as much coverage as possible. However, given the size of the Project area, surveys were not undertaken across the entire site. Rather, surveys were performed in a series of survey sites selected on the basis of what was considered to be preferred habitat for the species.

Surveys were undertaken during the optimal survey period recommended for the species, based on extensive consultation with OEH and DSEWPaC. Each survey was carried out by two experienced ecologists, both of whom are very familiar with the site.

Surveys were undertaken following the passing of at least two days since the last rainfall wherever possible. However, it should be noted that weather forecasts for the Yass and Goulburn region are not completely representative of the microclimatic conditions experienced at the Dalton site. Therefore, the accuracy of rainfall predictions for the region could not be completely guaranteed. **Appendix B** provides data for December rainfall in Dalton, as well as Yass.

The survey was limited by the current weather conditions being experienced as a result of the La Niña event, which has resulted in higher than average rainfall over the 2011/2012 spring and summer periods. Consequently, weather conditions were not always ideal for survey. However, survey effort was undertaken on what were considered to be the most appropriate days weather-wise, given the current weather conditions.

In addition, where surveys were limited by sporadic wet weather, URS ecologists were advised to correlate URS survey dates with references sites that had recorded GSM 'flying' on that same day (pers comm Rod Pietsch, NSW OEH). This correlation strengthened URS's survey effort, via verification from independent GSM observers. As a result, URS survey effort was undertaken either on days that met the requirements for survey as outlined by DEWHA (2009), or on days when GSM was sighted elsewhere at reference sites within the region.

4.1 Field Survey

4.1.1 Survey Effort and Timing

GSM were observed to be flying on 24 November, 2011 in Melbourne, Victoria (Nathan Garvey, *pers. comm.*) and the survey season was confirmed to have started in the ACT and Southern Tablelands in the week of November 21 - 272011 (*pers. comm.* Rod Pietsch NSW OEH) URS surveys for GSM commenced within the study area soon after the former date, pending suitable weather conditions, and continued until the second week of January 2012 (**Table 3**).

While GSM surveys on each day were conducted in suitable weather conditions as per the *Survey Guidelines* (DEWHA 2009), it should be noted that the weather conditions experienced during the broader survey period were atypical due to the prevalence of a La Niña event across the Southern Hemisphere. La Niña events are typified by above average rainfall in the eastern part of Australia over the spring and summer period, and in 2011 produced the third wettest year on record in Australia (BOM 2012).

This period of extensive rain and cool temperatures experienced in the region limited the number of suitable survey days across the recommended survey period. Even so, the recommended survey guidelines of four suitable days, staggered at least a week apart to increase the likelihood of detection of the species, was met (**Table 5**).

A total survey effort of 56 hours was expended by two ecologists undertaking targeted GSM surveys within the Project site, over eight mostly non-consecutive days (**Table 3**). An additional 98 hours was expended by two ecologists undertaking random meander transects throughout areas of suitable GSM habitat, which constitutes opportunistic GSM surveys, to bring the total survey effort to 154 hours (**Table 3**).

Of this total, 17 hours and 13 minutes was spent searching for GSM when it was active on other sites in the ACT and NSW during 2011-12 surveys (**Table 5, Table 6**).

No GSM were found within the Project site during URS surveys. A number of additional species not previously recorded on the site but recorded during GSM surveys is provided in **Appendix C**.

Table 6 provides a summary of the dates of URS survey that coincide with observations of GSM at reference sites in the ACT.

Dates	Survey Method	Person Hours*		
December 7, 8, 14, 21, 22 and 29, 2011 & January 3 and 10, 2012	Random meander transects in and around Survey sites (1-9)	56		
October 24, 25, 26 and 31, 2011 November 1, 2 and 3, 2011	Random meander transects throughout areas of suitable habitat	98		
Total Effort		154		
*total time spent on site doubled to account for presence of two ecologists.				

Table 3 Total Survey Effort for GSM



4.1.2 Weather Conditions

In order to determine the most suitable weather conditions for GSM survey in Dalton for each upcoming week, and hence what days survey would be carried out on, weather forecasts for the Yass and Goulburn region were downloaded daily using the Weatherzone iPhone application (Weather Company 2011). These were also compared to predictions on the Bureau of Meteorology website.

Microclimatic conditions were recorded at each survey site, using a handheld weather station (Kestrel 2500) and, and are summarised in **Table 4**. Full details of weather conditions recorded at the Yass weather station during GSM surveys are found in **Appendix B**.

Table 4 provides a summary of weather conditions as recorded by URS ecologists on the days of GSM surveys. Survey 1b was abandoned due to cloud cover.

Survey	Date	Temp (℃) at 10:00am	Wind speed (km/ hr)	Cloud cover (% average)	Survey hours
Survey 1a	7/12/2011	21.9 ℃	1.7km/ hr	40%	4:27 hours
Survey 1b	8/12/2011	20.8 ℃	1.0km/ hr	90%	1:00 hour
Survey 2	14/12/2011	21.8 ℃	3km/ hr	20%	4:56 hours
Survey 3a	21/12/2011	25° C	1.9km/ hr	80%	4:20 hours
Survey 3b	22/12/2011	29.2° C	1km/ hr	25%	3:22 hours
Survey 4	29/12/2011	28.8 ℃	3.2 km/ hr	0%	3:11 hours
Survey 5	3/01/2012	35.8 ℃	4 km/ hr	0%	3:10 hours
Survey 6	10/01/2012	26.9 ℃	2.9 km/ hr	30%	3:32 hours

Table 4 Summary of survey effort and weather during URS GSM surveys

*Grey highlight denotes surveys that did not meet the environmental requirements for survey under Survey Guidelines for GSM (DEWHA 2009)

Table 5 provides details of weather conditions on days when GSM survey was undertaken by URS. Only those days when weather met survey guidelines as per DEWHA (2009) are shown in this table.

Date		14/12/2011	22/12/2011	29/12/2011	3/1/2012	10/1/2012
Surveyors		Alex Cave & Kathryn Chesnut	Alex Cave & Kathryn Chesnut	Alex Cave & Jane Murray	Alex Cave & Kathryn Chesnut	Alex Cave & Kathryn Chesnut
Temp Range During URS Survey (℃)		21.1 – 25.9	22.9 – 29.2	22.1 – 28.8	29.5 – 38.6	20 – 26.9
Wind During URS Survey		Light, intermittent (1.4 – 4.7 km/ hr)	Light, intermittent (1 – 3.3 km/ hr)	Light, intermittent (2.3 – 5.4 km/ hr)	Light, intermittent (2.6 – 4.3 km/ hr)	Light to medium winds (2.3 – 6.8 km/ hr)
Date of Last Rain (according to BOM, 2011)*		12/12/2011	20/12/2011	28/12/2011	28/12/2011	28/12/2011
Cloud Cover During URS Survey (average)		20%	25%	0%	0%	30%
Time	Start	10.23am	9.59am	10.12am	10.10am	9.55am
of URS	Finish	3.19pm	1.21pm	1.23pm	1.20pm	1.27pm
ourrey	Total Hours	4 hrs 56 mins X 2	3 hrs 22 mins X 2	3hrs 11 mins X 2	3 hrs 10 mins X 2	3 hrs 32 mins X 2
GSM	URS Survey Locations	1 – 9	1 – 9	1 – 9	1 – 9	1 – 9
	GSM Sightings at Reference Sites	(4) @ Crace Grassland Reserve, Gungahlin (<i>pers. comm.</i> Tom O'Sullivan)	N/A	(4) @ York Park, Canberra (<i>pers. comm.</i> Alison Rowell)	 (37) @ Canberra Airport, Canberra (<i>pers. comm.</i> Alison Rowell); (2) @ Mulanggari (<i>pers. comm.</i> Kris Nash); 	N/A

Table 5 Details of weather conditions of GSM surveys

*see Survey Limitations (Section 3.2).

As outlined in **Section 2.5** and **3.2**, reference sites that were being surveyed by independent researchers were utilised to strengthen URS survey effort, given the less than ideal weather conditions during much of the usual flying period. **Table 6** shows the dates of URS surveys and the number of moths sighted at reference sites.

Table 6Dates of URS surveys compared with sightings of GSM by independent researchers at
reference sites.

URS Survey Date	Date	Number of Moths Sighted at Reference Site	Location of Reference Site
Survey 1a	7/12/2011	18	Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve (Gunghalin ACT)
Survey 1b	8/12/2011	9	York Park, ACT
Survey 2	14/12/2011	4	Crace Nature Reserve, ACT
Survey 3a	21/12/2011	30	Macgregor West, ACT
Survey 3b	22/12/2011	N/A	N/A
Survey 4	29/12/2011	N/A	N/A



URS Survey Date	Date	Number of Moths Sighted at Reference Site	Location of Reference Site
	2/01/2012	2	Mulanggari Nature Reserve, ACT
Survey 5	3/01/2012	37	Canberra Airport, ACT
Survey 6	10/01/2012	N/A	N/A

4.1.3 Survey Sites

The Project site is dominated by extensive areas of moderate to high quality woodland, native grasslands and derived grasslands, particularly in the western portions of the site (**Figure 2**). Vegetation across the nine survey sites was in moderate condition, with only light grazing having taken place within sections of the offset site (predominately site 4 and 9). Grazing has resulted in a slight reduction in diversity compared to some previous field surveys, with reductions in herbaceous and forb complexity, and a slight increase in the density of exotic species in some locations.

The majority of the vegetation throughout the site has relatively low species diversity, possibly resulting from previous land uses. Vegetation mapped as Natural Temperate Grassland generally has a high percentage of ground coverage throughout much of its occurrence, with a dominance of the following grass species:

- Spear grass (Austrostipa scabra);
- Kangaroo Grass (Themeda australis);
- Wallaby Grass (Austrodanthonia spp.);
- Spear grass (Austrostipa scabra); and
- Spear grass (Austrostipa bigeniculata).

4.1.3.1 Site Characteristics

Site One -	- Communications	Tower	Services
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Easting 702416.8946 ; Northing 6159448.3585								
Altitude	Aspect	Bare- ground	Exposed rock	Land use	Position	Slope	Weed : native	
601 m	Southerly	20%	15%	Recent & historical grazing	Upper slope, close to ridge	10%	50 : 50	
Scientific name		Common name		(%) Cover	Nativ	e/ Exotic		
Austrodani	thonia sp.		Wallaby Grass		50%	Native)	
Austrostipa	a sp.		Speargrass		30% Native)	
Acetosella	vulgaris		Sheep sorrel		10%	Exotic	;	
Taraxacum officinale		Dandelion		< 5%	Exotic	Exotic		
Holcus lanatus		Yorkshire Fog		< 5%	Exotic	;		
Elymus sca	aber		Common Wh	eatgrass	< 5%	Exotic	Exotic	

Site Two – Development Footprint (south)

Easting 701336.8310; Northing 6159549.5675

Altitude	Aspect	Bare- ground	Exposed rock	Position	Slo	ope	Weed : native		
562 m	Easterly	5%	5%	Gentle side slope	5%		10 : 90		
Scientific	name		Common na	ime	(%) Cover		Nativ	e/ Exotic	
Austrodani	honia caespitos	a	Ringed Walla	aby Grass	85%		Native	9	
Acetosella	vulgaris		Sheep Sorre	1	5%		Exotic		
Austrostipa	a scabra		Speargrass		5%		Native		
Taraxacun	n officinale		Dandelion		< 5%		Exotic		

Site Three – Development Footprint (north)

Easting 7	Easting 701234.4660; Northing 6159672.7873													
Altitude	Aspect	Bare- ground	Exposed rock	Land use	Position	Slop	Weed : native							
601 m	Northerly	5%	15%	Historical grazing	Lower slope	5%	5 10 : 90							
Scientific	name		Common na	ime	(%) Cover		ative/ Exotic							
Austrodani	thonia caespitos	а	Ringed Walla	aby Grass	45%	N	ative							
Austrostipa	a scabra		Speargrass		30%		ative							
Taraxacun	n officinale		Dandelion		5%		xotic							
Kunzea an	nbigua		Tick Bush		5%	N	ative							
Acetosella	vulgaris		Sheep's sorr	el	5%		xotic							
Poa sieber	riana		Grey Tussoc	k Grass	5%		ative							
Lolium per	enne		Perennial Ry	regrass	5%		xotic							

Site Four – Powerline Easement Gully, Offset Area

Easting 7	Easting 700797.8277; Northing 6159122.8683													
Altitude	Aspect	Bare- ground	Exposed rock	Land use	Position	Slope	Weed : native							
542 m	North- westerly	10%	5%	Current and historical grazing	Lower slope, south of gully	5%	10 : 90							
Scientific	name		Common na	ime	(%) Cover	Nativ	Native/ Exotic							
Austrodant	thonia caespitos	а	Ringed Walla	aby Grass	30%	Native	Native							
Austrostipa	a scabra		Speargrass		25%	Native	e							
Themeda a	australis		Kangaroo Gi	rass	15%	Native	e							
Acetosella	vulgaris		Sheep Sorre	1	15%	Exotic	>							
Lomandra	filiformis		Wattle Mat-r	ush	5%	Native	Э							
Briza maxi	та		Blowfly Gras	s	5%	Exotio	>							
Lolium per	enne		Perennial Ry	regrass	5%	Exotio	2							
Wahlenber	rgia gracilis		Australian Bl	uebell	< 5%	Native	e							
Taraxacun	n officinale		Dandelion		< 5%	Exotic	Exotic							



Easting 7	Easting 700981.8664; Northing 6158951.3898														
Altitude	Aspect	Bare- ground	Exposed rock	Land use	Position	Slope	Weed : native								
539 m	South-west	5%	15%	Historical grazing	Mid-slope	10%	10 : 90								
Scientific	name		Common na	me	(%) Cover	Nativo	e/ Exotic								
Austrodant	thonia caespitos	а	Ringed Walla	aby Grass	45%	Native	ve								
Austrostipa	a scabra		Speargrass		20%	Native)								
Lomandra	filiformis		Wattle Mat-r	ush	10%	Native)								
Themeda a	australis		Kangaroo Gi	rass	10%	Native)								
Juncus usi	itatus		Tussock Rus	sh	5%	Native)								
Dichelachr	ne hirtella		Plumegrass		5%	Native)								
Holcus lana	atus		Yorkshire Fo	g	5%	Exotic	;								
Taraxacum	n officinale		Dandelion		< 5%	Exotic	;								

Site Five – Southern Spur, Offset Area

Site Six – Powerline Easement South-east Slope, Offset Area

Easting 700430.8296; Northing 6159069.0604													
Altitude	Aspect	Bare- ground	Exposed rock	Land use	Position	Slope	Weed : native						
543 m	South-east	5%	5%	Historical grazing	Mid-slope	10-15%	15 : 85						
Scientific	name		Common na	me	(%) Cover	Nativ	ve/ Exotic						
Austrodani	thonia caespitos	а	Ringed Walla	aby Grass	35%	Native	Native						
Austrostipa	a scabra		Speargrass		30%	Native	9						
Lolium per	enne		Perennial Ry	regrass	10%	Exotic	;						
Echinopog	on ovatus		Forest Hedge	ehog Grass	5%	Native	9						
Holcus lan	atus		Yorkshire Fo	g	5%	Exotic	;						
Acetosella	vulgaris		Sheep's sorr	el	5%	Exotic	;						
Eragrostis			Brown's Love	egrass	5%	Native	9						
Themeda a	australis		Kangaroo Gr	rass	5%	Native	9						
Lomandra	filiformis		Wattle Mat-ru	ush	< 5%	Native	Native						

Site Seven – Cocky's Gate, Offset Area

Easting 7	Easting 700183.2255; Northing 6159389.8164											
Altitude	Aspect	Bare- ground	Exposed rock	Land use	Position	Slope	Weed : native					
554 m	North-west	5%	5%	Recent and Historical grazing	Mid-slope	5%	40 : 60					
Scientific n	ame		Common nam	пе	(%) Cover	Native	e/ Exotic					
Phalaris aqu	uatica		Phalaris		25%	Exotic						
Austrodanth	ionia caespitosa		Ringed Wallab	oy Grass	20%	Native						
Austrostipa	bigeniculata		Kneed Speargrass		20%	Native						
Acetosella v	rulgaris		Sheep's sorrel		10%	Exotic	Exotic					

Themeda australis	Kangaroo Grass	10%	Native
Lolium perenne	Perennial Ryegrass	5%	Exotic
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion	5%	Exotic
Trifolium sp.	Clover	< 5%	Exotic

Site Eight – Walsh's Fenceline, Offset Area

Easting 7	700416.5380; I	Northing 6	158084.2568						
Altitude	Aspect	Bare- ground	Exposed rock	Land use	Position	Slope	Weed : native		
554 m	North-west	20%	20%	Historical grazing	Upper slope	10%	5 : 95		
Scientific	name		Common na	me	(%) Cover	Nativ	Native/ Exotic		
Themeda a	australis		Kangaroo Gi	rass	40%	Native	e		
Austrostipa	a bigeniculata		Kneed Spear	rgrass	30%	Native	e		
Austrodani	thonia caespitos	a	Ringed Walla	aby Grass	20%	Native	e		
Austrostipa	a scabra		Speargrass		30%	Native	e		
Phalaris ad	quatica		Phalaris		10%	Exotio	2		
Taraxacun	n officinale		Dandelion		5%	Exotic	>		
Wahlenber	rgia gracilis		Australian Bl	uebell	< 5%	Native	e		

Site Nine – Gas Pipeline (south)

Easting 7	Easting 702586.9015; Northing 6159177.5332												
Altitude	Aspect	Bare- ground	Exposed rock	Land use	Position	Slope	Weed : native						
528 m	South-west	10%	5%	Current grazing	Lower-slope	5%	10 : 90						
Scientific	name		Common na	ime	(%) Cover	Nativ	e/ Exotic						
Austrostipa	a scabra		Speargrass		50%	Nativ	e						
Austrodani	thonia caespitos	а	Ringed Walla	aby Grass	40%	Nativ	е						
Themeda a	australis		Kangaroo Gi	rass	10%	Nativ	e						
Eucalyptus	s melliodora		Yellow Box		5%	Nativ	е						
Juncus usi	itatus		Tussock Rus	sh	5%	Nativ	e						
Lolium per	enne		Perennial Ry	vegrass	5%	Exoti	0						



Conclusion

URS ecologists completed a survey for GSM to meet requirements outlined by NSW OEH, DSEWPaC and DP&I as part of the approvals process for the proposed Dalton Power Project.

Survey was undertaken within areas of suitable habitat for the species, based on habitats found in known reference sites documented within scientific literature. URS survey effort was considered to have met survey requirements for the species as outlined in *Background Paper to EPBC Policy Statement 3.12 – Significant Impact Guidelines for the Critically Endangered Golden Sun Moth (Synemon plana)* (DEWHA 2009). The survey effort was also informed by expert guidance throughout the survey from:

- Rod Pietsch/Rainer Rehwinkle (NSW OEH);
- Melissa Maly/Tim McGrath (DSEWPaC);
- Michael Mulvaney (ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate);
- Alison Rowell (Biologist and Environmental consultant);
- Bob Spiller (Jerrawa Creek Landcare Group);
- John and Mary Walsh (landowners);
- Geoff Robertson (Friends of Grasslands); and
- Nathan Garvey (Biosis Research).

No GSM were found within the Project area, which included the plant footprint, communications tower and access road, gas pipeline (northern portion) and proposed offset site.

Based on the above survey results, it is concluded that survey requirements for the species have been adequately met and that GSM **does not occur** within the Project area.



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Limitations

URS Australia Pty Ltd (URS) has prepared this report in accordance with the usual care and thoroughness of the consulting profession for the use of AGL and only those third parties who have been authorised in writing by URS to rely on the report. It is based on generally accepted practices and standards at the time it was prepared. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report.

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Appendix A Stakeholder Liaison



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Appendix A - Stakeholder Liaison

Jerrawa Creek Landcare Croup Newsletter



Golden Sun Moth

Do people use the website so well maintained by our webmaster? Well, I was recently contacted by a fauna ecologist who was wanting help in finding places where the Golden Sun Moth [Synemon plana] might be present in our district. Googling brought her to our website on which Don has placed LandWaterLife which she read and found that the Golden Sun Moth was among the endangered species that have been recorded here.

As Rainer Rehwinkel and his department was the main source of the endangered species information in *LandWaterLife* I have referred her to him. However, if you think you have seen the Golden Sun Moth, particularly around Dalton, and are willing to share your information with the researcher please let me know so I can put her in touch with you. A description of the Golden Sun Moth follows.



Male Golden Sun Moth



Female Golden Sun Moth

Scientific name: Synemon plana Conservation status in NSW: Endangered National conservation status: Critically Endangered

Appendix A - Stakeholder Liaison

Ecological Consultants Association (ECA) Forum

ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION
There are 35 messages under the topic 'General'
Posted by : Nathan Garvey 28/11/11 12:12 pm
Hi Kath,
GSM has started flying in Victoria, but I have not heard of any flying around Canberra as yet. the report Steve refers to is from 2010. Rob Speirs has informed me that his preferred reference site in Canberra is York Park in Barton, across the road from the Press Club (as per Steve's post).
Cheers,
Nathan
Docted by - Stavo Sass 25/41/44 0-57 am
Hey Kath,
this link
http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/21572/APPENDIX_6Letter_of_advice_from_BluegumGolden_Sun_Moth _13_October_2010.pdf
provides a report by Biosis for a site in Canberra, and states detection of GSM at the intersection of Captain Cook Crescent and Austin Street., Griffith (in the middle of Canberra)! Field surveys for that report were done in November.
Other locations they discuss within the central Canberra area are York Park, St Marks Church in Barton, St Johns Church in Reid, and at the corner of Stuart St and McIntyre Street, Griffith.
Hope this helps
Cheers,
Steve Sass
Depted by : Kath Choony
Does anyone have any hot tips on current surveys for Golden Sun Moth around the Southern Tablelands?
I'm interested to try and find a reference site, or for any information anyone local might have on when the species starts flying in the area.

If you have any information, I'd love to hear it - kathryn_chesnut@urscorp.com / (02) 8925 5563.



Appendix B Weather conditions during survey period

B

Appendix B - Weather conditions during survey period

Table 1_ Weather Conditions for Yass (November)

Yass, New South Wales November 2011 Daily Weather Observations

		Ten	ips 🛛	Dain	C.u.e	e	Ma	x wind g	ust		A	9a	m	-	The second second	-	· · · ·	3p	m		-
Date	Day	Min	Max	rtain	cvap	Sun	Dim	Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cld	Dim	Spd	MSLP	Temp	RH	Cld	Dim	Spd	MSLI
		°C	°C	mm	mm	hours	1.2.1	km/h	local	°C	36	eighths		km/h	hPa	' C	%	eighths		km/h	hPa
1	Tu	4.5	23.2	0						13.5	78	8	SE	2		22.5	83	1	W	15	_
2	We	10.6	23.4	0		1.111	1.000		1111	13.8	85	3	w	9	100	23.1	76	4	SW	17	
3	Th	8.0		0						14.7	86	5		Calm		22.6	75	1	SW	7	
4	Fr	1.1.1		0										1.1		24.3	78	0	w	2	
5	Sa	S	in second	0		1.00			1000	41 T.								1.00			
6	Su		30.5	0		1000	1		S-14					+						·	
7	Mo	5.0	28.5	0		ingent all	1.00		1. 11	19.8	92	8	N	7	-	27.5		7	W	7	
8	Tu	16.5		14.6		1.1	1.000		11111	22.5	96	3	WSW	2	1000	23.9	98	8	N	7	
9	We	1.00	30.2	7.4			1.000			1.5.1	1.1		1		(a)	29.1	99	6	WNW	19	
10	Th	15.8	21.9	11.0						16.7	100	В	NNW	19		20.6	98	3	w	26	
11	Fr	5.0		0						13.7	96	0		Calm		22.6		1		Calm	
12	Sa			0						1.000				1.1						-	
13	Su			0	1										_	_		_		_	_
14	Mo	1	31.0	0						a Decel	1.1			TIT		29.5	97	5	NNW	30	
15	Tu	8.0	30.1	0						19.5	100	0		Calm		28.6	95	0	w	7	
16	We	7.6	20.6	0						15.1	97	B	1.1	Calm	M 1	19,4	98	8	NNE	2	
17	Th	10.8	27.0	0						17.4	96	6	E	7		24.6		4	Allen	Calm	
18	Fr	10.5		0						17.5	95	7		Calm	· ()	29.5		3	WNW	11	
19	Sa	1.0	1.1							1.00						100			-		
20	Su		32.0	1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·													-				-
21	Mo	6.5	24.0	3.2	1	1000				11.0	100	7		Calm		23.0	100	8	SW	4	-
22	Tu	9.0	17.0	0		1.111			1.111	14.0	100	В	Con 3	Calm	100	1.1	12.24	1		12.4	
23	We	10.5	22.0	9.0						15.0	94	7	SSE	7		21.5	95	4	NNE	11	
24	Th	10.5	17.5	0						14.5	94	В	ESE	11	-	16.0	95	8	E	17	
25	Fr	11.0		14.2						13.5	94	В	SE	9		15.5	100	8	SE	7	
26	Sa	S	1.252																		
27	Su		24.5				_			_				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	_		_				
28	Mo	8.5	31.0	28.0	-					21.5	95	3		Calm		29.5	96	4	WSW	2	
29	Tu	13.5	32.0	0						23.0	1.1	5		Calm	1.000	31.0	1.00	3	N	20	
30	We	16.5	25.5	12.6	-	12.572				24.0	96	8	w	9	-	19.0	95	8	NW	6	-
atistic	s for No	vember	2011																		
	Mean	9.9	25.9	11						16.9	94	5		4		24.0	92	4		10	
	Lowest	4.5	17.0	11 14				3		11.0	78	0	1.000	Calm		15.5	75	0	1	Calm	
	Highest	18.5	32.0	28.0						24.0	100	8	NNW	19		31.0	100	8	NNW	30	
	Total			100.0				-				1.0									

Observations were drawn from Yass (Rural Fire Service) (station 070358)

Observations for Yass used to be taken at a different site about 1 km to the south; if you require tense please contact us. The closest station with pressure and sunshine observations is at Canberra, about 60 km to the southeast. The closest station with evaporation is at Burnhuck Dam, about 35 km to the southeast. IDCJDW2152201111 Prepared at 15:10 GMT on 2 Jan 2012 Copyright © 2012 Bureau of Meteorology Users of this product are determed to have read the information and accepted the conditions described in the noise at http://www.bom.gov.au/demail/au/W0000.pdf

Australian Government

Appendix B - Weather conditions during survey period

Table 2_ Weather Conditions for Yass (December)

Yass, New South Wales	
December 2011 Daily Weather Observations	
Observations from a site just north of the centre of Yass.	



		Ten	Temps		Evan	an Sun	Ma	x wind g	ust		9am					3pm					
Date	Day	Min	Max	rtain	evap	Sun	Dirn	Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cld	Dim	Spd	MSLP	Temp	RH	Cld	Dirn	Spd	MSL
		°C	°C	mm	mm	hours	1.2.1	km/h	local	°C	36	eighths	-	km/h	hPa	°C	%	eighths	S	km/h	hPa
1	Th	5.0	22.5	15.2	-	1000				12.5	88	3	i	Calm		20.5	100	1	W	2	
2	Fr	9.5	1.000	0		1.1.1	1.000		0.0.00	13.8	97	7	SE	6		19.0	95	6	10 M	Calm	
3	Sa	1000		0							1							1.1			
4	Su		25.5	0			A							-							
5	Mo	3.5	20.0	0						12.5	100	0	SE	9		19.0	100	3	ESE	0	
6	Tu	5.5	1.5.0	0						14.0	63	4	SE	4					Y		
7	We		23.0	0							27	1.00.7				1.1				10.00	
8	Th	6.8	23.5	0						17.0	71	8		Calm		22.0	55	7	NE	7	
o	Er	11.0		0						18.5	68	2	SE	4		24.5	30	7	NE	7	
10	53									10.0			2			24.0	00	7			
	C.	1.00	27.0				1.00					1.000					10.00		1.1.1		
12	Ma	12.0	21.0	70						17.0	00	0		Calm		24.0	51			Calm	
12	To	13.0	20.2	1.0						10.0	70	0		Gain		24.0	45		COM	Caim	
10	14	13.0	24.0			1.11				10.0	14	•	505			22.0	40	3	-SOW		
14	vve	<i>(.</i> u	24.0	0						10.0	01	1	ESE	4		21.5	31	2	WSW	1	
15	In	9.5	25.0	0						15.5	69	4	NNE	2		23.5	43	1	E	2	
16	Fr	9.5	C	0						17.0	66	0	SE	8		24.5	44	4	ESE	22	
17	Sa	1.1				1.0			1-0-1		1.1		-				1.2.1	1.0	4.54	-	
18	Su		26.6	-	_	1.1	1 gen.		12.4.14					1				-	in all state		-
19	Mo	11.3	21.0	20.0		1.00	1.00		1.1.1	17.0	95	8		Calm		16.5	95	8	WSW	4	
20	Tu	11.0	27.5	19.5		10.111			1000	17.5	2.1	3	1.00	Calm		26.0	1 1	3	WSW	4	
21	We	15.5	25.0	0			1.00			20.5		6	ESE	7		23.0		6	SE	11	
22	Th	14.5	25.0	0						20.0	1.1	4	+	Calm		23.5		7	NE	9	
23	Fr	10.0	1.00	0						19.5	82	1	SE	7		27.0	85	4		Calm	
24	Sa										1.1		1.00				1.11				
25	Su															1 1					
26	Mo				-																
27	Tu		31.0				1.1.0		1.1.11	1.1	1.14	1.00				1.71	1.01	1.00		1	
28	We	11.0	26.0	12						17.0	66	8	SE	7		23.5	47	1	s	4	
29	Th	10.0	26.0	0						19.0	52	0	F	11		25.6	30	0	NNE	9	
30	Fr	11.0		0						18.5	50	2	SE	11		24.0	44	2	NE	8	
31	Sa			0							-			1			1	-			
atistics	for De	cember	2011	U											-		1000			-	
	Mean	9.0	24 01	-	-		-	-	(16.8	74	4	-	4	-	22.80	80	21	1	5	
	owest	3.5	20.0	-	-					12.5	52	0		Calm	-	18.5	30	0		Calm	_
-	inhest	15.5	31.0	20.0	_			-		20.5	100	0	#	11	-	27.0	100	0	EGE	22	
	Total	10.0	51.0	82.7	-			-		20.0	iuu	0			_	£1.U	100	0	LOL		-
	TOtal			05.7								1.00									-

Observations for Yass used to be taken at a different site about 1 km to the south; if you require tense please contact us. The closest station with pressure and sunshine observations is at Canberra, about 60 km to the southeast. The closest station with evaporation is at Burthjuck Dam, about 35 km to the southwest.

IDCJDW2152201112 Prepared at 13:11 GMT on 7 Jan 2012 Copyright © 2012 Bureau of Meteorology Users of this product are desmed to have read the information and accepted the conditions described in the notes at Mito: inverve hom nov availationativities/IDCJ.0W0080.ndf Appendix B - Weather conditions during survey period

Table 3_ Weather Conditions for Yass (January)

	s from a st	e just north	of the cent	tre of Yass	s												100	E. C.B.	Bureau o	f Meteor	LOHOR
1	1	Temps		Dain	Euro	e	Max wind gust		9am							-	3	m	-	-	
Date	Day	Min	Max	Rain	Evap	Sun	Dim	Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cld	Dim	Spd	MSLP	Temp	RH	Cld	Dirn	Spd	MSLF
	0.0	*C	°C	mm	mm	hours	1	km/h	local	•C	%	eighths		km/h	hPa	*C	%	eighths	1000	km/h	hPa
-	Mo	-	34.5		-			_			-	-	-		-		-			-	-
3	Tu	8.5	35.0	0	2.00		1111	1.1		24.0	65	1	1	Calm		34.5	27	2	SW	0	
4	We	16.0	32.5	0						24.5	65	6	WSW	4	2	30.0	35	8	SSW	7	
5	Th	15.0	31.0	0	10 C					19.5	60	1	X 21	Calm		29.2	43	5	NNW	6	
6	Fr	14.0	1.11	0						17.5	76	7	E	6		25.0	36	1	E	6	
7	Sa	1.1	2.0	0	P										1.00					-	
8	Su		32.0	0			1				- 1		+ L			-			2011		
8	Mo	10.0	23.5	0	-	· · ·				18.0	42	1	in the second	Calm		22.0	31	2	WNW	17	
10	Tu	9.2	24.0	0	1.000			1.1		18.5	47	4	WSW	6	- LI	23.3	34	4	W	0	
11	We	12.0		0						14.0	53	6	W	19			-		-		
atistic	s for the	first 11	days of	Januar	y 2012											100				_	_
	Mean	12.1	30.4	1.1			1. I. I.	1.000		19.4	58	3		5		27.3	34	3	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	9	
1	Lowest	8.5	23.5	1	1					14.0	42	1	11	Calm	1	22.0	27	1	#	6	
3	Highest	16.0	35.0	0	1					24.5	76	7	W	19	1 2 6	34.5	43	8	WNW	17	
-	Total	7		0.0	1		11.1.1.1.1.1.1.1		11.11								1.1.17	1 1			1

Observations were drawn from Yass (Rural Fire Service) (station 070358) Observations for Yass used to be taken at a different site about 1 km to the south; if you require tense please contact us. The closest station with pressure and surshine observations is at Caniterna, about 60 km to the southest. The closest station with evaporation is at Burmiyuck Daw, about 35 km to the southwest. IDCJDW2152.201201 Prepared at 23:37 UTC on 10 Jan 2012 Copyright & 2012 Bureau of Meteorology Users of this product are descried to have read the information and accepted the conditions described in the notes at http://www.bom.gov.au/demated/wwW002.000000.pdf



Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology

Daily rainfall

Observations of Daily rainfall are nominally made at 9 am local clock time and record the total for the previous 24 hours. Rainfall includes all forms of precipiation that reach the ground, such as rain, drizzle, hail and snow. About rainfall data

Station: Dalton Post O	ffice			Number:	70112	Opened	: 1898	Now: C	Open			
Lat: 34.72° S Lo	on: 149.18	B°E E	levation:	530 m								
					Key	: Units = n	mm <i>12.3</i> =	Not quality	y controlled	I. ↓ = Part	of accumu	lated total
2011	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Νον	Dec
1st	0	0	0	0	0	2.4	0	0	0	6.6	0	0
2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3rd	0	34.0	0	0	3.2	0	5.6	0	0	0	0	0
4th	4.6	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	0	0	0	0	0
5th	0	7.0	0	0	0	2.4	0	0	1.6	0	0	0
6th	0	14.6	0	0	0	0	3.1	6.2	8.8	9.6	0	0
7th	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.0	1.8	0	0.6	0	0
8th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
9th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.3	0	6.8	0
10th	0	0	Ļ	\downarrow	0	0	0	0	1.1	0	9.2	1.2
11th	0	0	24.4 2 days	21.2 2 days	0	0	0	9.0	0	0	0	18.0
12th	3.0	18.0	0	5.0	4.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14th	0	0	2.2	0	0	2.0	0	0	0	3.8	0	0
15th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16th	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.2	0	0	0	2.2	0
17th	0	26.4	5.8	0	0	0	2.6	32.0	0	0	0	0
18th	0	3.8	0	0	0	0	2.6	2.8	0	0	0	0
19th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.2	0	0	0	29.2
20th	0	3.8	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	2.0	0	5.8	0
21st	0	0	0	2.4	0	10.4	0	0	0	0	0	0
22nd	0	0	8.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.1	8.4
23rd	13.0	0	0	0	24.6	2.6	5.8	0	0	0	0	0
24th	0	0	0	0	7.8	0	1.2	0	0	2.6	3.4	0
25th	0	0	3.4	0	0	0	1.0	0	1.8	4.0	40.2	0
26th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.4
27th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28th	0	2.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.6	0	0	0
29th	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	10.2	4.8	6.6	0
30th	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	7.6	0	27.2	0
31st	0		0		0		0	0		0		0
Highest Daily	13.0	34.0	8.8	5.0	24.6	10.4	8.0	32.0	10.2	9.6	40.2	29.2
Monthly Total	20.6	110.2	44.6	28.6	39.6	19.8	38.1	54.4	44.0	32.0	109.5	59.2

Annual total for 2011 = 600.6 mm

Summary statistics for all years

Statistic	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mean	52.3	42.0	46.0	42.7	43.0	51.2	55.0	54.2	53.5	59.4	50.9	60.8
Median	43.4	30.6	39.2	27.7	35.9	44.2	46.6	54.4	46.9	48.8	43.9	50.0
Highest Daily	72.0	88.0	92.0	87.6	72.0	63.5	85.3	44.0	47.8	67.2	84.6	78.5
	2nd	20th	15th	8th	30th	10th	26th	28th	13th	17th	20th	8th
	1992	1974	1989	1921	1989	1915	1922	1974	1915	1976	1961	1922

Product Code: IDCJAC0009 reference: 05806518

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Appendix C Additional Fauna - Species list

C

Appendix C - Additional Fauna - Species list

Common name	Scientific name
Aves	
Dusky Woodswallow	Artamus cyanopterus
Rufous Songlark	Cincloramphus mathewsi
White-fronted Chats†	Epthianura albifrons
Invertebrates	
Australian Sheep Blowfly	Lucilia cuprina
Black-headed Pasture Cockchafer	Aphodius tasmaniae
Cabbage White Butterfly	Pieris rapae
Carrion Beetle	Ptomaphila perlata
Christmas Beetle	Anoplognathus sp.
Common Brown Butterfly	Heteronympha merope
Common Grass Blue Butterfly	Zizina labradus
Darkling Beetle	Adelium simalitum
Dragonfly sp. (+)	-
Common Garden Katydid	Caedicia simplex
Gasteruptiid Wasp	Gasteruptiidae sp.
Grasshopper sp. (+)	-
Leaf Case Moth (pupae)	Hyalarcta huebneri
Plague Soldier Beetle	Chauliognathus lugubris
Praying Mantis sp. (+)	-
Robber Fly	Colepia rufiventris
Scorpion Fly	Harpobittacus australis
Slender Gumleaf Grasshopper (nymph)	Goniaea vocans
Spider-hunting Wasp	Heterodotonyx bicolor
Yellow-banded Dart	Ocybadistes walkeri

Additional Fauna species observed since the URS Targeted Threatened Flora Survey Report (21/11/2011)

† -threatened species listed as, Vulnerable (TSC Act)





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Appendix E Estimated Frequency of G Class Stability Conditions



Ε

43177661/01/01



14 October 2011 Project No. 43177661

AGL Energy Limited Level 22, 101 Miller Street North Sydney NSW 2060

Attention: Neil Cooke AGL Dalton - Project Manager

Dear Neil,

Subject: Results and notes of G Class Stability Analysis

This letter provides details in response to OEH submission detailed in Excerpt 1.

Excerpt 1 – OEH Submission

In our adequacy review, OEH noted that the use of TAPM meteorological data in noise assessment has been known to underestimate the occurrence of conditions most likely to enhance noise propagation (inversions and low wind speeds). OEH recommended that the proponent demonstrate that this potential underestimation is not occurring by presenting cumulative distribution functions of wind speeds for the TAPM-generated "site" data versus cumulative distribution functions of wind speeds from surrounding "real" meteorological stations. This information does not appear to have been included in the exhibited NIA, therefore unless the proponent provides further information regarding the occurrence of inversions, OEH has included by way of the suggested conditions below that the noise limits apply under all Stability Class temperature inversions conditions, including G class.

1.1 Differences between TAPM V4, and earlier versions.

The meteorological dataset adopted in the Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) was generated using the CSIRO's TAPM Version 4. It is noted that Version 4 of TAPM features revisions to the parameterisation of the surface layer under stable low wind speed conditions, which relevant to earlier versions, provides a more accurate correlation with a range of datasets from meteorological monitoring campaigns. Relevant to earlier versions of the TAPM model, during night time hours, this has also resulted in an increase in the prediction of frequency of stable conditions, a corresponding reduction in D stability class. It is noted that the data adopted in the NIA featured stable meteorological conditions (E and F) during approximately 50% of the year. Given the requirement of no (or minimal) sunlight for the presence of a stable condition (where the accumulation of stable air occurs due to radiative heat loss from the surface in the absence of winds), this is approaching the theoretical upper limit for the occurrence of stable conditions.



Neil Cooke AGL Dalton - Project Manager 14 October 2011 Page 2

1.2 Comparison of Wind Speed Cumulative Distribution Functions for Goulburn Airport and Project Site

Given the relatively remote nature of the site, there was limited meteorological monitoring data available to the NIA. On this basis, the NIA adopted meteorological data from the Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) for the Project. In accordance with guidance from OEH (air quality technical advisory services unit) on similar projects, this data was prepared using the CSIRO's TAPM model, with the assimilation of wind data from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) Automatic Weather Station (AWS) data, which in this case, was sourced from Goulburn airport. These predictions were then incorporated into the Calmet meteorological model, where TAPM predictions were incorporated, and diagnostic wind effects were incorporated on a finer scale. In response to the submission, URS has prepared a chart of wind speed cumulative distributions as predicted by Calmet for the Project Site, and as measured at Goulburn Airport. These are shown in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1 - Cumulative Frequency Distribution

There are a range of factors that require consideration when comparing the model predictions to the BoM data. These include:

- Averaging Period The BoM data is understood to consist of averages of wind data collected during the final 10 minutes of each hour. In comparison, the Calmet data represents an hourly averaged statistic. In principle, two identical datasets of 1 hour and 10 minute averaging periods should exhibit the same mean, whilst the 10 minute averaged dataset will exhibit a higher standard deviation (which includes an increased observed frequency of calm conditions).
- **AWS Siting** Surface roughness at Goulburn Airport is lower than at the Project site due to the relatively flat nature of the landing strip, and a lower amount of obstructions (such as large trees). For a given regional flow, this effect would result in an increase in observed wind speeds, including a reduction in the observed frequency of calm conditions.



Neil Cooke AGL Dalton - Project Manager 14 October 2011 Page 3

- Geographic Separation Goulburn Airport is located approximately 50km east south-east of the Project site. Slight differences in regional winds would be expected between these two locations.
- **Instrumentation** Instrumentation used by the BoM is expected to be less sensitive than instrumentation which is used for the measurement of wind for air quality purposes. This would lead to an increased in the observed frequency of calm conditions.

Given these factors, the ability to make a meaningful comparison of cumulative frequency distributions is limited. Noting this, the data do not appear inconsistent, in that calms are higher at Goulburn despite the presence of a higher 50th percentile wind speed.

1.3 Estimated Frequency of G Class Stability Conditions

Given that the meteorological data included in the NIA was prepared for air quality purposes, stability class predictions were limited from A through to F. In order to investigate the frequency of G class stability implicit in this dataset, the synthetic meteorological data was processed to provide an estimation of the lapse rate. Appendix E of the INP provides details on methods for estimating stability class. This includes the measurement of the lapse rate using a meteorological monitoring tower with temperature sensors at two levels: One at between 1.5m and 10m, and another at between 50m and 60m.

The wind data from Layer 1 (10 mAGL) and Layer 3 (50 mAGL) of the Calmet meteorological fields was compared for night time hours (6pm to 7am) during the winter months. The differences in temperature were divided by the distance between the layers, in order to provide the lapse rate in units of °C/100m. Stability classes were then derived in accordance with the criteria contained in Table E1 of the INP as shown in **Table 1** below.

Stability category	Range of vertical temperature gradient (°C/100 m)
А	DT/DZ < -1.9
В	-1.9 ≤ DT/DZ < -1.7
С	–1.7 ≤DT/DZ < –1.5
D	-1.5 ≤ DT/DZ < -0.5
E	-0 .5 ≤ DT/DZ < 1.5
F	1.5 ≤ DT/DZ < 4.0
G	4.0 ≤ DT/DZ

Table 1 – Adopted Criteria for the Derivation of Stability Class

Source: NSW Industrial Noise Policy



Neil Cooke AGL Dalton - Project Manager 14 October 2011 Page 4

Further, the results of the analysis are provided in Table 2.

Stability Class	Frequency of O	ccurrence
Other	206	17%
E	294	25%
F	522	44%
G	174	15%

Table 2 – Derived stability classes during night time winter hours

The site-specific synthetic meteorological data adopted in the NIA estimates that the frequency of winter night time G class stability would be below the 30% threshold which the INP has adopted as indicating that G class inversions are of significance. It should be noted that temperature data below 10m was not available for this analysis. Whilst this is within the range (of 1.5-10m) specified in the INP, it is at the limit, and that the use of a lower elevation (e.g. 1.5m) would likely result in the estimation of a higher frequency of winter night time G class stability.

Yours sincerely URS Australia Pty Ltd

Sean Flaherty Senior Acoustic Engineer James Grieve Air Quality Engineer

Appendix F Additional Facility Layout & Elevation Plans



F

FIGURE F-1 – PROPOSED LAYOUT WITH PLANT SCALE AND SETBACK DISTANCES





FIGURE F-2 -- LAYOUT SHOWING ELEVATION SERIES VIEW POINT







Appendix G Hydrogeological Assessment

G

URS



REPORT

HYDROGEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT INCORPORATING 24HR PUMPING TEST

BORE 1 & BORE 2

Proposed Dalton Power Station, Walsh Road, NSW, 2581

Lot 306 & 307 DP754111

BORE LICENCE: 70BL233651 & 70BL233652

PREPARED FOR: AURECON ON BEHALF OF AGL

REPORT NUMBER: HG.12.1.1.LA

DATE: 13 March 2012

HYDROILEX PTY LTD GROUNDWATER GEOLOGY ENVIRONMENT GEOTHERMAL ACN 003.372.834 ABN 57 003 372 834 38 GIBBS STREET, MIRANDA, NSW, 2228 Tel: 02 95401029 Fax: 02 95401002 www.hydroilex.com.au

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hydroilex was commissioned by *Aurecon on behalf of AGL* in December 2011 to manage the drilling, construction and pump testing of two (2) bores identified as 'Bore 1' and 'Bore 2', at the proposed Dalton Power Station, Walsh Road, Dalton, NSW, 2581 (*herein referred to as the site*).

Hydoilex understand the water demand requirements are somewhere in the order of 2-4L/s instantaneous demand. However, the annual demand is expected to be 11.2ML for Stage 1 and 25ML for Stage 2 depending on the operating pattern of the gas turbines. An aggregate yield of 2L/s is required to support a Site allocation for 25ML, assuming pumping duty at fifty per cent. The bores were initially subjected to 24 hour pumping tests immediately after drilling. A second round of pump testing was conducted with loggers installed to record water levels in selected bores, including existing farm bores and Town Water Supply Bores.

This report documents the findings of a hydrogeological assessment incorporating aquifer testing in accordance with requirements for water bores outlined by the *NSW Office of Water* (*NOW*) and consistent with the spirit and principles of the *NSW State Groundwater Policy Framework Document* (NSW Government 1997), the *NSW State Groundwater Quality Protection Policy* (NSW Government 1998) and the *NSW State Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Policy* (NSW Government 2002).

This hydrogeological assessment incorporating aquifer test results indicates the subject bores may be operated under the following regime:

- Bore 1 3.0L/s; 12hr Pumping; 12hrs Recovery; 50ML per year at 50% duty; and
- Bore 2 0.5L/s; 12hr Pumping; 12hrs Recovery; 10ML per year at 50% duty.

The project objectives were to prepare a site specific hydrogeological assessment to demonstrate the sustainability of the proposed operation. Document the hydrogeological setting and aquifer properties. Provide recommendations on potential yields, sustainable pumping regimes and potential impacts in support of a license application to the *NSW Office* of Water (NOW).

A hydrogeological assessment was conducted for the site by undertaking the following scope of work:

- Desktop review of available site data including; previous reports; aerial photographs; geological and topographic maps; *NOW* records; and *Hydroilex* groundwater database;
- Review of the proposed site application and operational requirements;
- Site walk over, observation of physical features, peg target sites;
- Drilling management and borehole design;
- Drawdown and recovery pumping test and analysis;
- Water level monitoring in selected existing bores during pump testing;
- Review of existing groundwater users and bores in the region, including potential impacts; and

• Compilation and review of project findings, preparation of hydrogeological report and recommendations for groundwater management and pumping regime.

Conclusions

Based on the findings obtained during the scope of work the following conclusions may be made:

- The proposal is to license Bore 1 and Bore 2 for irrigation, commercial and industrial purposes to support the construction and long-term operation of the Dalton power station;
- The site is situated on the southern side of the Lachlan River approximately five (5) kilometres north of Dalton in an area underlain by the Ordovician Adaminaby Group which comprises inter-bedded sandstone, phyllite and siltstone sequences;
- Bore 1 was drilled in December 2011 to 114m and constructed with 150mm Class 9 PVC slotted from 54-114m. The drillers airlift reported a cumulative yield of 4.0L/s;
- Bore 2 was drilled in January 2012 to 120m and constructed with 150mm Class 9 PVC slotted from 18-90m. The drillers airlift reported a cumulative yield of 0.7L/s;
- The bores were subjected to two (2) rounds of 24 hour drawdown and recovery pumping tests conducted between December 2011 and February 2012. The aquifer test results indicate the bores are capable of sustaining the following long term pumping regime:
 - ▶ Bore 1 3.0L/s; 12hr Pumping; 12hrs Recovery; 50ML per year at 50% duty;
 - Bore 2 0.5L/s; 12hr Pumping; 12hrs Recovery; 10ML per year at 50% duty.
- Water level loggers were installed in six (6) existing bores during the second round of pump testing. The hydrographs show no drawdown was recorded in monitoring bores associated with pump testing in the production bores;
- Review of registered bores and pumping test results indicates that under the proposed extraction regime the subject bores are not expected to result in any significant measurable impact on the environment and adjoining groundwater users; and
- This hydrogeological assessment incorporating two (2) rounds of 24 hour pump testing concludes the bores are capable of sustaining a combined annual groundwater allocation of 60ML, supported by a significant level of available drawdown, and multiple aquifers with an extensive recharge zone.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions outlined in this report the following recommendations are provided:

- A long-term program of water level monitoring in the production bores should be considered. Water level monitoring will provide important baseline water level data and facilitate the long-term sustainable management of the groundwater resource;
- Install a suitable on-line flow meter on the discharge of the proposed production bore. Record discharge volumes on a regular basis for the production bore. The *NSW Office of Water (NOW)* may require this as a condition of the bore licensing;

- Measure and record water levels in the production weekly if manual or daily with automated logger. The *NOW* may require this schedule as a condition of the bore licensing. *Hydroilex* can advise on the method and can review the water level data on an annual basis;
- Consider collecting groundwater discharge samples on a regular basis (summer and winter) and submit to a NATA registered laboratory for water quality testing; and
- Proceed with the licensing of the production bores for the intended purpose of Irrigation, commercial and industrial, and apply to transfer an annual allocation of:
 - ▶ Bore 1 50ML supported by 24 hour pumping test; and
 - ▶ Bore 2 10ML.

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- Appendix B Pumping Test Results (Round 1)
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- Appendix D Laboratory Certificates of Analysis
- Appendix E Registered Bore Records

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Hydroilex was commissioned by *Aurecon on behalf of AGL* in December 2011 to manage the drilling, construction and pump testing of two (2) bores identified as 'Bore 1' and 'Bore 2', at the proposed Dalton Power Station, Walsh Road, Dalton, NSW, 2581 (*herein referred to as the site*).

Hydoilex understand the water demand requirements are somewhere in the order of 2-4L/s instantaneous demand. However, the annual demand is expected to be 11.2ML for Stage 1 and 25ML for Stage 2 depending on the operating pattern of the gas turbines. An aggregate yield of 2L/s is required to support a Site allocation for 25ML, assuming pumping duty at fifty per cent. The bores were initially subjected to 24 hour pumping tests immediately after drilling. A second round of pump testing was conducted with loggers installed to record water levels in selected bores, including existing farm bores and Town Water Supply Bores.

This report documents the findings of a hydrogeological assessment incorporating aquifer testing in accordance with requirements for water bores outlined by the NSW Office of Water (NOW) and consistent with the spirit and principles of the NSW State Groundwater Policy Framework Document (NSW Government 1997), the NSW State Groundwater Quality Protection Policy (NSW Government 1998) and the NSW State Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Policy (NSW Government 2002).

This hydrogeological assessment incorporating aquifer test results indicates the subject bores may be operated under the following regime:

- Bore 1 3.0L/s; 12hr Pumping; 12hrs Recovery; 50ML per year at 50% duty; and
- Bore 2 0.5L/s; 12hr Pumping; 12hrs Recovery; 10ML per year at 50% duty.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

The project objectives were to prepare a site specific hydrogeological assessment to demonstrate the sustainability of the proposed operation. Document the hydrogeological setting and aquifer properties. Provide recommendations on potential yields, sustainable pumping regimes and potential impacts in support of a license application to the *NSW Office* of Water (NOW).

1.3 SCOPE OF WORK

A hydrogeological assessment was conducted for the site by undertaking the following scope of work:

• Desktop review of available site data including; previous reports; aerial photographs; geological and topographic maps; *NOW* records; and *Hydroilex* groundwater database;

- Review of the proposed site application and operational requirements;
- Site walk over, observation of physical features, peg target sites;
- Drilling management and borehole design;
- Drawdown and recovery pumping test and analysis;
- Water level monitoring in selected existing bores during pump testing;
- Review of existing groundwater users and bores in the region, including potential impacts; and
- Compilation and review of project findings, preparation of hydrogeological report and recommendations for groundwater management and pumping regime.

1.4 LOCATION

The site is situated on the southern side of the Lachlan River approximately five (5) kilometres north of Dalton. Access to the site is via Walsh Road. The site location is depicted in **Figure 1** and the key features required to identify the site are summarised in **Table 1**.

Identifying Features					
Address	Walsh Road, Dalton, NSW, 2581				
Lot/DP	306 & 307 / 754111				
Parish	Dalton				
County	King				
LGA	Upper Lachlan Shire Council				

Table 1 Site Identification

2.0 TOPOGRAPHY

A review of the Dalton 1:50,000 topographic map sheet 8728N was conducted to assess the regional topography and to identify potential groundwater controls in the region. The site topography is shown in **Figure 1**. Generally topography presents a major indicator for groundwater controls including the location of structural lineaments, paleo-channels, recharge and discharge zones, and groundwater flow gradients.

The proposed power station site is situated on a relatively level hilltop. Elevations across the site range from around 500 to 600mAHD. The study area generally drains extending from the centre of the site. Dowlings Creek also flows west along the southern boundary of the site presenting significant control for local groundwater potential.