Replacement of Lift Safety Circuit
Brumby T-bar, Blue Cow

Statement of Environmental Effects

- ADDENDUM -

Addendum prepared by:

Tanya Bishop

Environmental Manager

Perisher Blue Pty Ltd

October 2012

1 Contents

1 INTRODUCTION

This addendum to the previously prepared Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) for the replacement of a lift safety circuit, Brumby T-bar, Blue Cow (August 2012), outlines an amendment to construction methods originally proposed. This amendment relates to techniques for installation of the safety cable between Towers 2 and 3 of Brumby T-bar (Figure 1.1).

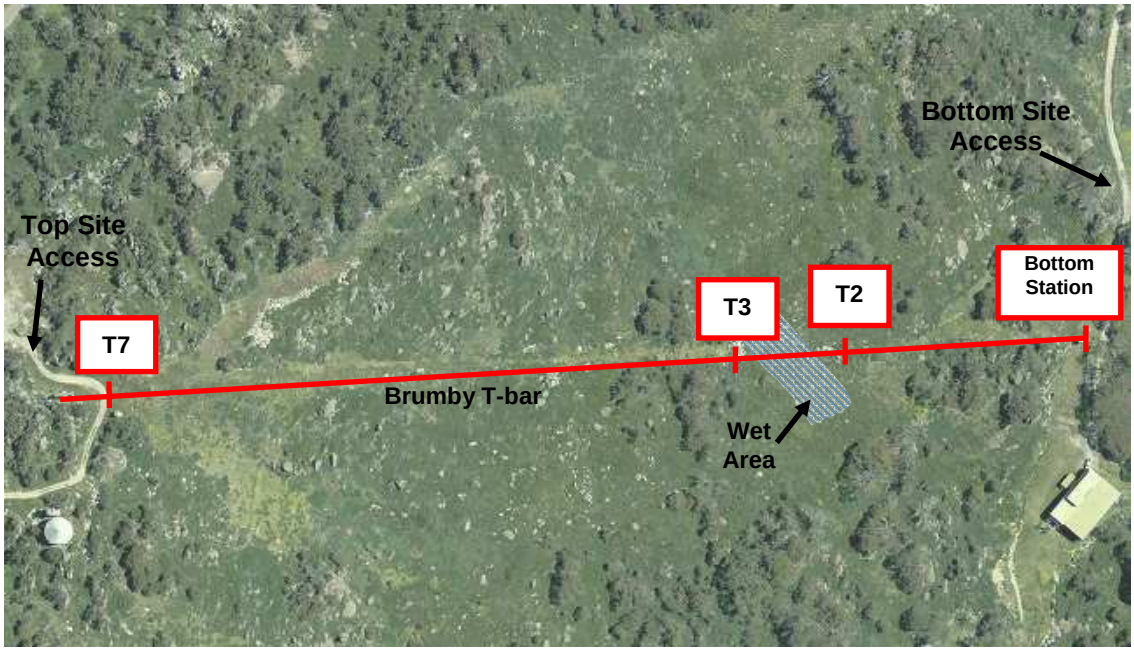


Figure 1.1 - Project Location

2 OBJECTIVES

The objective of the proposed modified technique is to effectively install the safety cable for the T-bar, while avoiding **damage and disturbance** to the Montane Peatlands and Swamps endangered ecological community and the Alpine Bogs and Associated Fens community which are listed as threatened ecological communities under the TSC and EPBC Acts respectively.

3 AMENDED PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION

3.1 Brumby T-bar alignment, Tower 3 to Tower 2

The length of lift line between Towers 3 and 2 of Brumby T-bar is approximately 60m (see Figure 3.1).

The area immediately below Tower 3 of the Brumby T-bar slopes downwards steeply to a man-made rock embankment, which acts as a retaining wall for the slope. Below the embankment, is an area of wet vegetation approximately 50 metres wide. This wet area runs perpendicular to the lift line, sloping gently from the northwest to the southeast, and varies in vegetation type across its width, from bog to tall wet heath, with a single eucalypt regenerating from a stump. Some works have been conducted previously in this area,

namely the cutting of trees and blasting and placement of rock to form the T-bar line. This rock placement was carried out approximately 20 years ago, and has since become partially overgrown with heath vegetation.

To minimise impacts on this wet area, specific construction techniques will be adopted, including careful route selection, restriction of excavator and vehicle access, and appropriate rehabilitation techniques.

The proposal involves trenching the cable into the ground from Tower 3 to the rock wall. From here, the cable will be laid on the ground surface, between boulders and heath until it reaches the base of the wall. **From this point, the cable will continue on the ground surface diverting north from the T-bar line through areas of higher heath and boulder cover, to avoid a section of bog and wet heath.** The cable will then continue above ground along the T-bar alignment through a further area of heath and boulders, for a distance of approximately 30 metres until it reaches Tower 2 (see Figure 3.1).

The vegetation in this area, although previously disturbed in some sections, is largely intact wet heath and bog with minimal previous impacts. One eucalypt in the area will not be affected by this proposal, but may be trimmed for separate maintenance purposes, as it is regrowth of a previously cut stump.

The site is slightly sloping and wet, but with no defined waterways.

No machinery will be bought into this area, and access will be readily achieved from above and below the site.

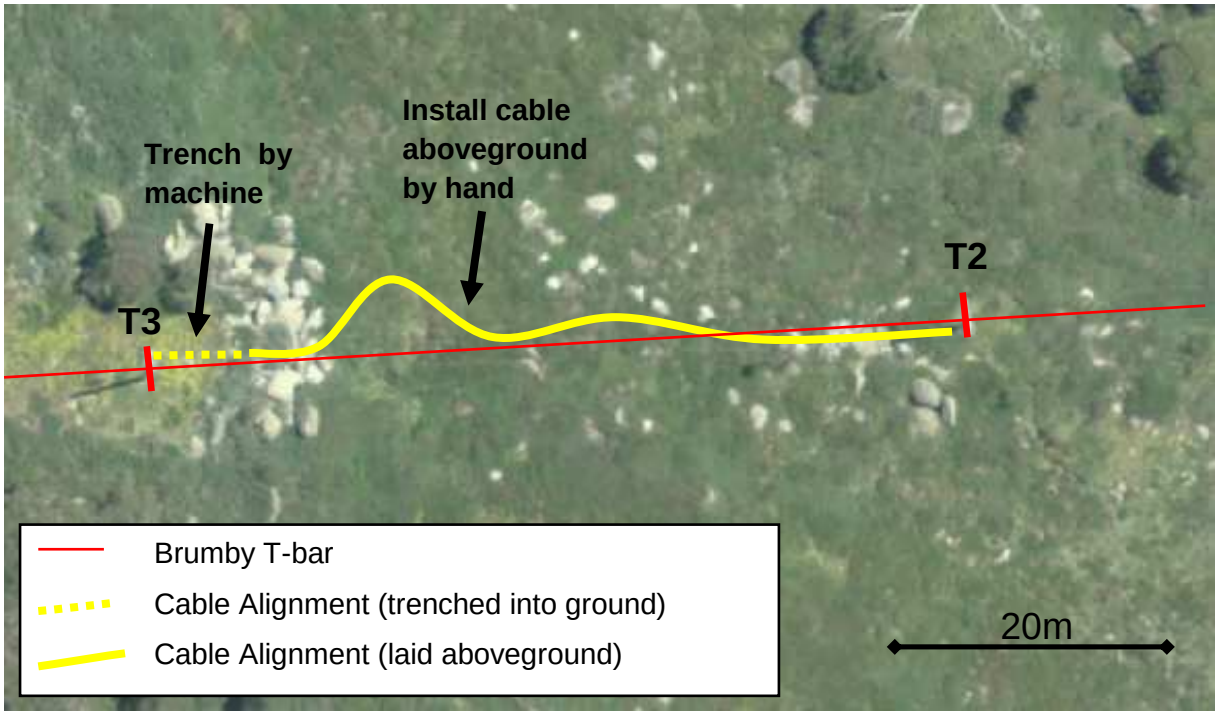


Figure 3.1 – Approximate alignment of cable between Tower 3 and Tower 2, showing above-ground and trenched sections

4 AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT

4.1 Scoping Summary

An environmental scoping assessment was carried out for the project, and is presented in full as *Appendix 1* in the original SEE. The following conclusions were drawn from the exercise, with amendments shown in **bold**:

- There are no major site constraints restricting the proposal in this location. The nature of the works requires access, trenching and the laying of conduit and cable along the length of the Brumby T-bar alignment, and while there are some constraints relating to this site, they have been addressed through careful project planning and specific construction techniques.
- The proposed works may result in physical and ecological disturbance to the following types of vegetation:
    - A small amount of undisturbed natural area;
    - A small amount of previously disturbed but rehabilitated to native condition; and
    - Mostly previously disturbed but rehabilitated with predominantly introduced vegetation.
- None of the project areas are located within land that is part of the riparian corridor identified in the State Environmental Planning Policy (Kosciuszko National Park – Alpine Resorts) 2007;
- **No endangered ecological communities under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservations Act* (TSC Act) or ecological communities listed under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act (*EPBC Act*)* are to be disturbed or damaged by this proposal.** A scat survey failed to indicate the presence of the Broad-toothed Rat between Towers 3 and 2, however given the habitat there is potential for the vulnerable species (TSC Act) to be present at the site. Runways were present adjacent to Tower 2, in an area to be trenched for the proposal;
- There are unlikely to be any other ecological impacts as a result of this proposal. Offsets and/or additional habitat enhancement is not likely to be required following construction;
- No areas of European or Aboriginal cultural heritage significance will be affected by the proposal;
- No sites of geological significance will be affected by the proposal;
- The works will not require a geotechnical assessment, given the depth of excavation for trenching will not exceed 1 metre;
- The proposal will not result in altered snow deposition;
- The proposal would not raise any ongoing issues associated with soil, water or wastewater management.
- The proposal would not have any negative impacts on visual amenity;

- The proposed works would not impact negatively on any recreational or educational uses of the resort or surrounding areas;
- The proposed works would not result in any adverse social or economic impacts;
- There would be no negative impacts on ski resort operation resulting from the proposal;
- There would be no ongoing effects on noise, vibration, air quality and waste management as a result of the proposal.
- The proposal would have no impact on current energy use and conservation;
- Potential construction impacts from the proposal include soil disturbance from trenching activities, plant and vehicle movements along the T-bar alignment, possible removal or blasting of rock along the trench, transport of excess soil and rock, and establishment of storage or transfer areas;
- There are no other significant effects of the proposal on the biophysical or social environment.

4.2 Scoping Conclusions

Based on the assessment in *Section 3.1*, the environmental issues which warrant further discussion in this SEE or SEMP are as follows:

- The general physical and ecological impacts associated with trenching and related works to relocate the safety circuit;
- Potential impacts on the threatened species, Broad-toothed Rat;
- Construction impacts; and
- Site restoration following works.

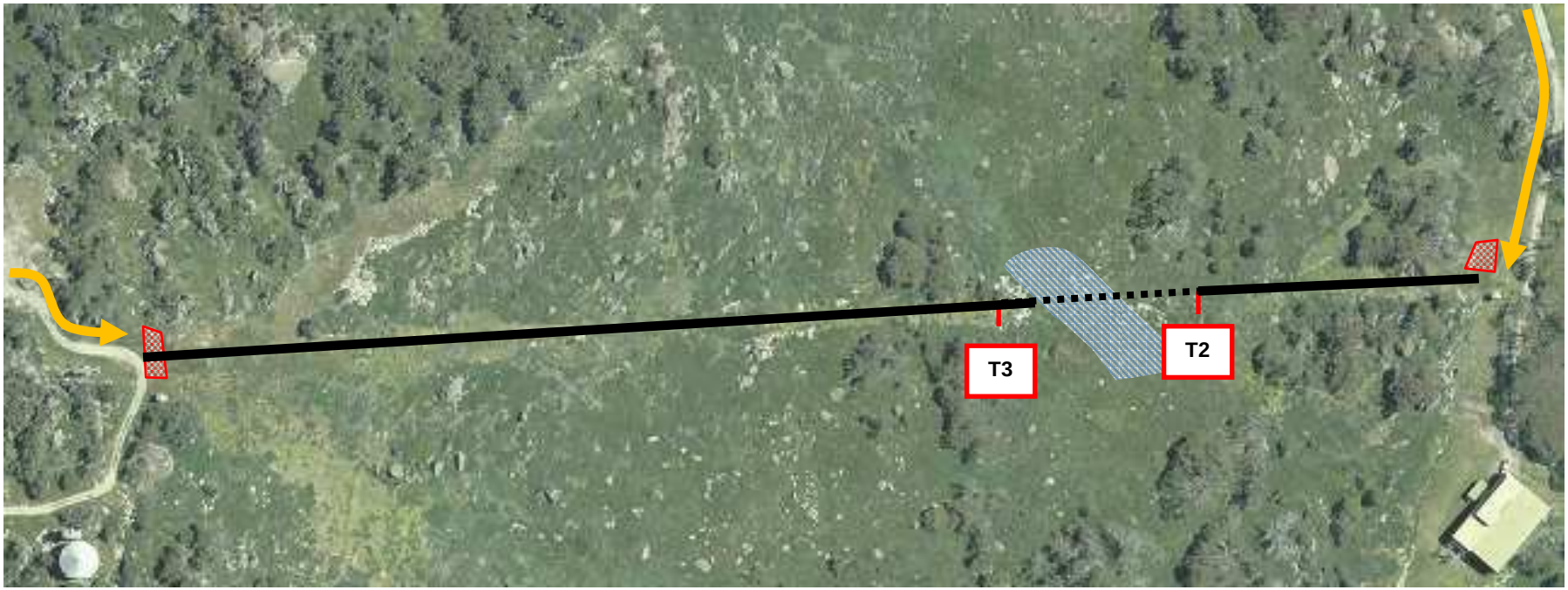
These issues are addressed in the original SEE.

5 CONCLUSION

This amendment relates to the above-ground laying of cable through areas of heath between Towers 2 and 3, to avoid damage or disturbance to an area of Montane Peatlands and Swamps endangered ecological community and Alpine Bogs and Associated Fens community. This is an amendment from the hand-trenching that was originally proposed through this section.

References in the original SEE to hand-trenching between Towers 2 and 3, and impact assessment on Montane Peatlands and Swamps endangered ecological community and Alpine Bogs and Associated Fens community are no longer relevant to this project. The remainder of the SEE content remains current.

6 APPENDIX – AMENDED SITE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



Map Legend	**Towers 2 to 3 (Wet Area) Conditions**	Map Legend	**Remainder of Site Conditions**
	• Minimise impact to wet area • No vehicle or machinery access • Cable to be-placed on ground surface • Native seed only to be used in rehabilitation • Minimal hay to be used in rehabilitation		• Minimise vehicle and machinery access • Site access via established tracks • Establish staging areas on disturbed ground • Sod replacement where possible • Seed mix 50/50 Poa/Chewings to be used in rehabilitation • Layer of hay mulch to be spread for rehabilitation