

# Caiguna and Madura Roadhouse SPS and EV Installation - Native Vegetation Clearing Referral

## Supporting Document

September 2024

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project Context

Regional Power Corporation, trading as (T/A) Horizon Power, is a Western Australian (WA) Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) and the state's regional and remote energy provider. Horizon Power operates under the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005* and is governed by a Board of Directors accountable to the Minister for Energy.

Horizon Power is intending to install a minimum of 54 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout regional Western Australia, to facilitate the decarbonisation of the transport network, in accordance with the Western Australian Climate Policy and Electric Vehicle Strategy. To facilitate a well-planned and distributed charging network, Horizon will need to install charging stations and associated infrastructure including Stand-alone Power Systems (SPS). This referral is for 2 locations within the Shire of Dundas, the Caiguna and Madura Roadhouses that require minor clearing of native vegetation to install EV charging stations and associated SPS (**Figure 1** and **Figure 2** respectively).

A total of up to 0.16 ha of vegetation will be cleared for the Project at the two locations.

## 1.2 Scope and Purpose

The purpose of this document is to demonstrate that the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project satisfies the three Criterion outlined in 'Guideline: Native Vegetation Clearing Referrals' (DWER, 2021) and, as such, is considered an activity with a 'very low environmental impact activity' that does not require a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP).

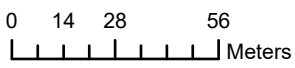
To demonstrate the above, this document includes:

- An overview of the activity and a description of the proposed clearing.
- Avoidance, mitigation and management measures that have been or will be applied to minimise the clearing of native vegetation and reduce the likelihood of environmental impacts associated with the activity.
- An assessment of the clearing against the three Criterion specified in DWER (2021).

A Standard Construction Environmental Management Plan is also provided, as this is a standard requirement of the Horizon Power Environmental Management System for projects clearing native vegetation where an exemption does not apply.



Figure 1 Madura Roadhouse Location

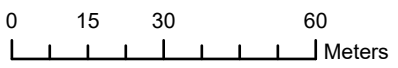


Scale: 1:2,000





Figure 2 | Caiguna Roadhouse Location



Scale: 1:1,500



## 2 Description of the Activity

Horizon Power is proposing to install an EV Charger and associated SPS system at the Caiguna Roadhouse and Madura Roadhouse. The description of the Proposed Clearing required is provided below.

Horizon Power has obtained agreement from Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) as the landowner for the Caiguna site, and is negotiating access for the Madura site.

### 2.1 Extent of Proposed Clearing

A total cleared area of 0.16 ha is required for Caiguna and Madura roadhouses. This includes the following:

- Levelling 700 m<sup>2</sup> areas and hard packing with 100 mm of roadbase for the SPS installation
- Digging holes for solar footings and fence, approximately 1.5 m deep with a nominal 250 diameter
- Levelling 8 m x 10 m areas for the installation of concrete foundations for EV Charger and Switchboard to a maximum depth of 0.6 m deep

An indicative photograph of SPS installation with EV chargers is included below.

*Plate 1 Indicative SPS and EV chargers*



### 2.2 Proposed Clearing Location

Cadastral information is detailed below. Note one of the parcels, the Road Reserve (PIN 1210493) does not have a certificate of title.

*Table 1 Caiguna and Madura Roadhouse Land Parcels*

| Lot on Plan                | Volume/Folio |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Caiguna Roadhouse</b>   |              |
| Road Reserve (PIN 1210493) | -            |
| <b>Madura Roadhouse</b>    |              |
| Lot 38 on Parcel 031656    | LR3127/974   |
| Lot 40 on Parcel 032865    | LR3129/129   |

### 2.3 Proposed Clearing Method

Clearing will be undertaken via backhoe / bulldozer (i.e. mechanical clearing).

### 2.4 Avoidance, Mitigation and Management Measures

Horizon Power will utilise the existing cleared areas where possible to reduce the disturbance and clearing to vegetation.

Horizon Power is a mature and competent asset manager with an established Environmental Management System and extensive assets across Western Australia under active management. Clearing activities are undertaken following standardised processes and will be implemented in accordance with our Standard

Construction Environmental Management Plan (**Appendix A**), which includes the following measures to minimise potential impacts:

- Clearing has been minimised through placement of assets in existing cleared and already disturbed areas.
- The clearing locations will be demarcated prior to clearing activities.
- Standard weed and hygiene management practices which will be applied to these works.
- Clearing will be undertaken slowly and in a one-way direction to allow fauna to move offsite if present.

### 3 Existing Environment

Due to the heavily disturbed state of the Caiguna and Madura Roadhouses sites, an ecological survey specific to the Project has not been completed. Clearing of native vegetation will be limited to up to 3 trees at the Caiguna site and 6 trees as well as 0.07 ha area of native vegetation at the Madura site. Site photographs is provided in **Appendix B**.

### 4 Suitability for the Clearing Referral Process

The ‘Guideline: Native Vegetation Clearing Referrals’ (DWER, 2021) Section 5.3 outlines those clearing activities not considered to be suitable for the Clearing Referral process. Table 2 demonstrates that the proposed clearing activity is suitable for assessment under the Clearing Referral process.

*Table 2 Assessment of Suitability for the Clearing Referral Process*

| Aspect  | Assessment  | Suitable? (Yes/No) |
|---|---|--------------------|
| The referral process cannot be used for proposed clearing on land subject to an agreement to reserve or a conservation covenant under the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945 (SLC Act) | Land is not subject to a conservation covenant.   | Yes                |
| The referral process cannot be used for proposed clearing on land subject to an environmental protection covenant under Part VB of the environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act)       | Land is not subject to an environmental protection covenant.  | Yes                |
| The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that is not likely to be completed within two years.   | The works are proposed to commence in November 2024.  | Yes                |
| The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that will contravene the requirements of a soil conservation notice issued under Part V of the SLC Act                       | The proposed clearing activity will not contravene the requirements of a soil conservation notice issued under Part V of the SLC Act.                                       | Yes                |
| The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that will or is likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance (MNES)                 | The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on MNES. No EPBC Act listed flora, fauna or ecological communities are likely to be impacted.              | Yes                |
| The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that includes marine native vegetation clearing activities   | No clearing of marine native vegetation is not proposed.  | Yes                |
| The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that may impact on protected or otherwise significant flora or fauna   | The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on protected or otherwise conservation significant flora or fauna (as detailed in <b>Section 5</b> ).      | Yes                |
| The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that will be within a highly cleared landscape or an area containing limited or restricted native vegetation types.          | The proposed clearing is not within an extensively cleared landscape or an area containing limited or restricted native vegetation types, as detailed in <b>Section 5</b> . | Yes                |

| Aspect   | Assessment  | Suitable? (Yes/No) |
|--|---|--------------------|
|  | More than 99% of Pre-European Vegetation Association extents remain.  |                    |
| The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that is on land previously reserved as an environmental offset under the conditions of another approval under the EP Act. | A review of the DWER Offsets Register (via spatial dataset DWER-078; GoWA, 2022) indicates that the land is not reserved as an environmental offset under the conditions of an approval under the EP Act. | Yes                |

## 4 Assessment Against DWER Criterion

### 4.1 Criterion 1: The area proposed to be cleared is small relative to the total remaining vegetation

The proposed clearing activity satisfies Criterion 1, as detailed in the following tables.

Table 3 Assessment of the Proposed Clearing Activity Against Criterion 1

| Aspect  | Assessment  |
|---|---|
| Extent of proposed clearing   | The total proposed clearing is 0.16 ha<br>This is less than the 5 ha threshold for clearing activities located South of the 26° latitude line.      |
| Threshold for remaining extent of native vegetation association or complex in the relevant IBRA bioregion | More than 30% of the relevant vegetation associations remain within the relevant IBRA bioregion, therefore; a permit is not required on this basis. |
| Threshold for remaining native vegetation surrounding the boundary of the proposed clearing               | Within a 10 km buffer of the proposed clearing more than 30% native vegetation is remaining. Therefore, a permit is not required on this basis.     |

Table 4 Pre-European Vegetation Association Extents within the Development Envelope

| Vegetation association       | Scale                      | Pre-European extent (ha) | Current extent (ha) | % Remaining | % of current extent in all DBCA managed land (proportion of current extent) |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---|
| <b>Madura Roadhouse</b>      |                            |                          |                     |             |   |
| 122: Roe Plain               | State: Western Australia   | 662,055.95               | 661,765.68          | 99.96       | 0.33  |
|                              | IBRA bioregion: Hampton    | 252,377.91               | 252,377.91          | 100.00      | 0.18  |
|                              | IBRA Subregion: Hampton    | 252,377.91               | 252,377.91          | 100.00      | 0.18  |
|                              | LGA: Shire of Dundas       | 607,815.07               | 607,815.07          | 100.00      | 0.09  |
| <b>Caiguna Roadhouse</b>     |                            |                          |                     |             |   |
| 482: Nanambinia – Coolgardie | State: Western Australia   | 1,628,465.01             | 1,612,811.44        | 99.04       | 8.92  |
|                              | IBRA bioregion: Coolgardie | 1,283,952.66             | 1,283,952.66        | 100.00      | 9.44  |
|                              | IBRA Subregion: Mardabilla | 1,283,925.47             | 1,283,925.47        | 100.00      | 9.44  |



|  |                      |            |            |        |      |
|--|----------------------|------------|------------|--------|------|
|  | LGA: Shire of Dundas | 989,366.98 | 989,366.98 | 100.00 | 7.50 |
|--|----------------------|------------|------------|--------|------|

## 4.2 Criterion 2: There are no known or likely significant environmental values within the area

The proposed clearing activity satisfies Criterion 2, as detailed in the following tables.

Table 5 Assessment of the Proposed Clearing Activity Against Criterion 2

| Environmental value                 | Assessment   |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Vegetation type and condition       | <p>The project is located within Pre-European Vegetation Association 122 for the Madura Roadhouse and 482 for the Caiguna Roadhouse. More than 99% of these vegetation associations remain.</p> <p>The vegetation types of these vegetation associations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 122: Mulga, other wattle, casuarina <i>Atriplex</i> spp. <i>Maireana</i> spp. with <i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>A. papyrocarpa</i>, <i>Allocasuarina cristata</i></li> <li>– 482: Wheatbelt; York gum, salmon gum etc. <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>, <i>E. salmonophloia</i>. Goldfields; gimlet, redwood etc. <i>E. salubris</i>, <i>E. oleosa</i>. Riverine; rivergum <i>E. camaldulensis</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Vegetation condition within the project areas is predominately highly degraded, with the exemption of a small area for the Madura Roadhouse (0.07 ha) which appears to be in good or better condition (see <b>Appendix B</b> for photograph of area).</p> |
| Significant fauna                   | <p>The small scale of proposed clearing for the Project and the already highly degraded nature of the selected locations, means the Project is unlikely to impact significant fauna or fauna habitats.</p>   |
| Fauna habitat                       | <p>Fauna habitat within the Project is limited to 3 trees at Caiguna, 6 trees at Madura and a small area (0.07 ha) of native vegetation at Madura. The clearing of this habitat is unlikely to significant impact any fauna species.</p>   |
| Significant ecological linkage      | <p>No significant ecological linkages were identified.</p>   |
| Mapped ecological community         | <p>No Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or listed under the EPBC Act or <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act) or Priority Ecological Community (PEC) listed by DBCA were identified (DBCA-038; GoWA, 2024).</p>   |
| Significant flora                   | <p>No Significant Flora species have been recorded within 10 km of the Caiguna and Madura project areas (DBCA-036; GoWA, 2024).</p>  |
| Mapped wetlands and/or watercourses | <p>No impacts to waterways and no water extraction from a waterway is proposed for the project. No significant wetlands or rivers intersect the project area (DBCA-045 and DWER-036; GoWA, 2024).</p>  |
| Water resources                     | <p>The project does not overlap any Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWAs) or Surface Water Areas (spatial dataset DWER-085, DWER-082 and DWER-033; GoWA, 2022).</p> <p>The Australian Groundwater Explorer identified groundwater levels as approximately 35 m below ground level at Madura and approximately 60 m below ground level at Caiguna (Gov WA, 2024).</p> <p>No impacts are expected with digging being to 2 m depth or less.</p>  |
| Conservation reserve                | <p>No DBCA managed conservation areas occur within 15 km of the DE. The closest DBCA managed area is Nuytsland Nature Reserve, located approximately 33 km south of the Madura project area and 18 km south of the Caiguna project area (spatial dataset DWER-046; GoWA, 2024).</p>  |
| Land and soil quality               | <p>A review of Acid Sulphate Soil (ASS) risk mapping (spatial dataset DWER-048; GoWA, 2024) indicates there is no mapped ASS is within 20 km of the project areas.</p> <p>No contaminated sites occur within 20 km of the DE (spatial dataset DWER-059; GoWA, 2024).</p>   |
| Environmental heritage              | <p>There are no National or World Heritage Areas mapped as overlapping the project.</p>  |

### 4.3 Criterion 3: The state of scientific knowledge of native vegetation within the region is adequate

No EPBC Act or BC Act listed flora are located within the project areas.

The Caiguna project area lies within the Hampton IBRA region, specifically the Hampton subregion, described by Kendrick & Mau (2002). It is characterised by:

“Quaternary marine dune systems on a coastal plain of the Eucla Basin, backed by stranded limestone scarp. Areas of marine sand are also perched along the top edge of the scarp. Various mallee communities dominate the limestone scree slopes and pavements, as well as the sandy surfaces. Alluvial and calcareous plains below the scarp support eucalypt woodlands and Myall open low woodlands.”

The Madura project area lies within the Coolgardie IBRA region, specifically the Mardabilla subregion, described by Kendrick & Mau (2002). It is characterised by:

“Mallees and shrublands on sandplains are associated with lateritised uplands, playas and granite outcrops. Diverse woodlands are rich in endemic eucalypts, on low greenstone hills, valley alluvials and broad plains of calcareous earths. In the west, the shrublands are rich in endemic Proteaceae, in the east they are rich in endemic acacias. Redbrown loams and aeolian sands over sheet and nodular kankar. Eucalyptus woodland over broomebush/greybush, bluebush and saltbush.”

Both IBRA subregions have over 99% of Pre-European vegetation remaining. The landforms of the Hampton bioregion include marine dunes and limestone escarpments (DCCEEW, 2021). Landforms of the Coolgardie bioregion include granite rocky outcrops, low greenstone hills, laterite uplands and broad plains (DCCEEW, 2008). In addition, 276 surveys have been undertaken in the Shire of Dunas which includes the Coorgardie and Hampton regions on the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA) database (DWER, 2024). This indicates the area has sufficient information to determine that the state of scientific knowledge of native vegetation within the region is adequate.

### 4.4 Criterion 4: Conditions will not be required to manage environmental impacts

Due to the low environmental impact of the clearing activity, controls are not considered to be required to manage environmental impacts for these works.

Avoidance, mitigation and management measures have and/or will be applied to the scope of works, as detailed in **Section 3.4**. Given the application of these measures, as well as the abundance of native vegetation within and surrounding the Project and the limited clearing proposed, it is considered that clearing can be undertaken without conditions being applied to further manage environmental impacts.

It is considered, therefore, that Criterion 4 is satisfied and conditions under a NVCP are not required.

## 5 References

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), 2021. *Guideline: Native Vegetation Clearing Referrals*. Available at: <<https://www.wa.gov.au/service/environment/environment-information-services/guideline-native-vegetation-clearing-referrals>> Accessed September 2024.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW). (2024). Hampton Bioregion. Available from: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/env/resources/a8015c25-4aa2-4833-ad9c-e98d09e2ab52/files/bioregion-hampton.pdf>.

DCCEEW. (2008). Coolgardie Bioregion. Available from: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/env/resources/a8015c25-4aa2-4833-ad9c-e98d09e2ab52/files/bioregion-coolgardie.pdf>.

DWER, 2024. Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA), [https://biocollect.ala.org.au/ibsa#projectId%3D9fd85782-ef71-4dfb-87f6-a028e15c2521%26q%3D\\*dampier\\*%26queryText%3D\\*dampier\\*%26max%3D30%26sort%3DdateCreatedSort](https://biocollect.ala.org.au/ibsa#projectId%3D9fd85782-ef71-4dfb-87f6-a028e15c2521%26q%3D*dampier*%26queryText%3D*dampier*%26max%3D30%26sort%3DdateCreatedSort), accessed September 2024.

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J.E. May and N.L. McKenzie (2002). Coolgardie 1 (COO1 – Mardabilla subregion).

Government of Western Australia (GoWA), 2024. Australian Groundwater Explorer. Assessed on the 30/08/2024. Available from: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/groundwater/explorer/map.shtml>.

GoWA (2022). *Data WA*. Available at: <https://data.wa.gov.au/>, accessed September 2024.

*Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)*

*Threatened and priority ecological communities (DBCA-038)*

*Threatened and priority flora (DBCA-036)*

*Directory of important wetlands (DBCA-045)*

*Pre-European vegetation (DPIRD-006)*

*RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)*

*Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)*

# Attachment A: Standard Construction Environmental Management Plan

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# Horizon Power

## Standard Construction Environmental Management Plan

September 2024



**HORIZON**  
POWER

## Contents

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## 1 Context and Scope

Horizon Power is a Western Australian (WA) Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) and the state’s regional and remote energy utility. Horizon Power operates under the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005* and is governed by a Board of Directors accountable to the Minister for Energy. Horizon Power is an experienced asset manager undertaking active management of vast electricity networks across WA, utilising mature and robust operational, health and safety, and environmental systems.

This Standard Construction Environmental Management Plan (SCEMP) has been developed to outline standard environmental management practice and measures to be implemented by Horizon Power and its contractors during all of Horizon Power construction low-risk projects. This includes, but is not limited to, measures to manage dust, erosion and spread of weeds during clearing of native vegetation.

## 2 Management Measures

The following are standard management measures listed in Table 1 will be implemented during construction for this Project.

*Table 1 Management Measures to be Implemented During Construction*

| Aspect                     | Management Measure   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Extent of Clearing         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No more than area of clearing as specified in the Sustainability Impact is permitted at the location detailed in the advice.</li> <li>– Clearing will be minimised where possible through placement of assets in existing cleared or areas of minimal vegetation where possible.</li> <li>– The clearing locations are to be demarcated prior to clearing activities.</li> </ul>  |
| Flora and vegetation       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No more than area of clearing as specified in the Sustainability Impact permitted at the location detailed in the advice.</li> </ul>  |
| Fauna                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Clearing of native vegetation will be undertaken in a slow, progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move away from the clearing area.</li> <li>– Construction personnel will not touch, feed or otherwise directly interact with fauna.</li> <li>– Clearing will be undertaken during daylight hours only.</li> </ul>   |
| Weeds                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Contractor will ensure that no weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought onto the site.</li> <li>– All vehicles and machinery will arrive clean on site.</li> <li>– Movement of vehicles and machinery will be restricted to the area to be cleared and existing cleared areas.</li> </ul>   |
| Erosion                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Standard construction measures regarding erosion and sediment control will be implemented during construction works.</li> </ul>   |
| Dust                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Standard construction dust control and mitigation measures will be implemented during clearing. This may include the use of a water trucks, or similar.</li> <li>– Ground disturbance and clearing of vegetation will be restricted during high winds if dust cannot be adequately controlled.</li> </ul>   |
| Noise                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The contractor will comply with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.</li> <li>– Complaints regarding noise will be recorded and investigated by Horizon Power.</li> </ul>   |
| Waste                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Rubbish will be disposed of in appropriate containers and all waste will be removed from the site.</li> </ul>   |
| Hydrocarbons and chemicals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hydrocarbons and chemicals will be appropriately managed on site to prevent spills, including maintaining equipment in good working order in accordance with manufacturers specifications.</li> <li>– No refuelling will be undertaken within 50 m of a waterway, drain or drainage line.</li> <li>– Hydrocarbons will be appropriately stored at least 50 m away from drainage lines and stored in an appropriate bunded container.</li> </ul> |

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| Aspect        | Management Measure  |
|---------------|---|
|               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Refuelling will be undertaken on hardstand or using catch trays only. Uncontrolled refuelling is not permitted.</li><li>– Chemicals will be appropriately stored.</li></ul>   |
| Contamination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Unexpected finds protocols will be applied including immediate stop work if contamination is suspected, with escalation to the Project Manager and Sustainability team.</li></ul>   |
| Heritage      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Should previously unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage materials be uncovered during construction works, works are to stop immediately within 20 m of the find. The Contractor is to contact the Horizon Project Manager and an incident will be raised. The area will be cordoned off and no access permitted to the area until the incident is investigated and resolved.</li></ul> |



## Attachment B: Site Photographs

**Madura Roadhouse** – 6 proposed trees to be cleared for EV Charger installation



**Madura Roadhouse** – 0.07 ha area to be cleared for SPS Installation



**Caiguna Roadhouse** – Three proposed trees to be cleared for SPS and EV Charger installation



Attachment C: Landowner agreement



Enquiries: Bree Atkinson (93236189)

Our Ref: 21/7110

Your Ref:

2/2/2023

Horizon Power - Broome Customer Experience Centre  
8 Short Street  
PO Box 345  
Broome WA 6725

Via email: dan.healy@horizonpower.com.au

Dear Dan

**AUTHORISATION FOR THE APPLICATION OF A CLEARING PERMIT FOR THE  
INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS IN MAIN  
ROADS' ROAD RESERVES.**

Horizon Power is intending to install a number of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout regional Western Australia (WA), to facilitate the decarbonisation of the transport network, in accordance with the Western Australian Climate Policy and Electric Vehicle Strategy.

Main Roads understands that Horizon Power intends to submit a Native Vegetation Clearing Referral for the EV charging stations and Standalone Power Systems (SPS) to the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) as a low impact work. Main Roads is supportive of the application being processed through the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. These locations are in the Pilbara, Kimberley and Midwest Gascoyne Region.

This letter of consent is not considered approval to undertake works, which is in progress through separate approvals.

Yours sincerely,

Brendon Wiseman  
**Acting / Rural Network Operations Management Manager**