Stony Creek Transmission Line

Application Number: **03182** Commencement Date: **08/10/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Stony Creek Transmission Line

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (non-renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Transmission Line

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/01/2055

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

The Project involves the development and construction of a transmission line and switching station, connecting the approved Stony Creek Wind Farm to the existing transmission infrastructure approximately 20 km north-east. A single preferred Transmission Line option is being considered, including a micro-siting corridor.

The Stony Creek Transmission line has been designed in conjunction with the Powerline Transmission Lines High Level Structural Design Criteria Guidelines which are designed in accordance with AS/NZS 7000 Overhead Line Design and other relevant Australians standards and legislation.

The 275 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission conductor line is a metal cable which will facilitate the safe transportation of high voltage electricity. The overhead transmission conductor lines will be supported by transmission poles which will be securely fastened to concrete footings. These transmission poles are on average separated by 200 m.

The Transmission Line is approximately 20 km long and will run in close proximity to an existing Ergon Energy easement route (1932428/1) to the Powerlink transmission network at Ergon Energy site 61 km WNW of Maryborough (460339).

The Project will be constructed within a defined area of up to 97.2 ha, referred to as the Development Footprint. The Development Footprint represents the maximum potential disturbance area of the Project, with the actual disturbance of the Project not expected to occur across the entire Development Footprint. The Development Footprint has been refined to account for ecological values identified within a 200 m buffered investigation area surrounding the initial transmission line route, referred to as the Project Area. The Project Area covers a total of 936.2 ha.

The construction phase activities have the potential to impact ecological values within the Development Footprint through:

- Vegetation clearing for the plantation of transmission poles;
- Vegetation trimming for electrical clearances;
- Direct mortality or injury to native fauna during construction activities;
- Construction traffic and machinery movements;
- Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas due to an introduction or spread of weed and pest species; and

Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas because of noise, dust, runoff, and erosion, including impacts to downstream environments.

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

No

1.2.4 Related referral(s)

EPBC Number	Project Title
2022/09333	Stony Creek Wind Farm

1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).

The Stony Creek Wind Farm is approximately 11 km west of the town of Biggenden in the North Burnett Region of Queensland. The Project Area for the wind farm is 4,465.2 ha and the land on which the Project infrastructure will be located (the disturbance footprint) occupies 249 ha or 5.6% of the total Project Area.

SCWF (2022/09333) was approved and includes a powerline to connect the wind turbines to a nearby 66kV Ergon energy transmission line. Through detailed design it was revealed that this line was not capable of receiving all of the electricity from the windfarm.

This referral enables the construction of a powerline that connects the Approved Stony Creek Wind Farm to an existing 275kV Powerlink transmission line approximately 20km north east of the windfarm site.

This development will be constructed at the same time as the Stony Creek Wind Farm and the project development footprint connects the approved Stony Creek Wind Farm development footprint.

In order to facilitate the construction of the wind farm, including excavation and access roads, there is an unavoidable requirement for the clearing of vegetation. The key activities likely to impact ecological resources during construction include:

- Vegetation clearing for new access tracks, temporary construction compounds and laydown areas, borrow pits, water storages, concrete batching plant, turbine pads, trenches for power and instrumentation cables, electrical substation and overhead powerlines, and associated earthworks;. The clearing of vegetation may result in a direct impact to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) through the removal of habitat, direct impacts on flora and fauna, and the disruption of ecological processes;
- Excavating trenches requires the clearing of vegetation and disruption of soil structure, which may impact vegetation and geological stability and acoustic disturbance, potentially impacting MNES;
- Construction traffic movements and plant operation (rock crushing and concrete batching plant) may result in collisions with fauna, acoustic disturbance, habitat destruction and localised air pollution, potentially impacting MNES.

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

The Stony Creek Wind Farm Transmission Line Ecological Assessment Report (ERM, 2025) outlines the specific Commonwealth, State and Local legislation, administering authority and the regulatory framework associated with the Project (Section 2, Table 2-1). These include:

Commonwealth Legislation:
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

- This act administers the protection of the environment within Australia – particularly MNES, which include the following relevant matters for the project:
  - Threatened species and ecological communities;
  - Migratory species;
- A desktop and on-ground ecological assessment has identified one known, likely or potential occurrence of listed threatened and migratory species within the Project Area.
- Impact assessments for the proposed development were undertaken in accordance with the precautionary principle to avoid impacts to MNES and minimise clearing impact to potential MNES habitat.

EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy 2012

- The Environmental Offsets Policy applies where a significant residual impact on an MNES is expected to occur as a result of the proposed development. The policy provides guidance on the role of offsets and when a proposed offset is considered suitable.

State Legislation:
Biosecurity Act 2014 (and Regulation)

- This Biosecurity Act provides for the management of biosecurity risks in Queensland. The Act provides measures to safeguard Queensland economy, environment, agricultural and tourism industries and way of life from pests, diseases and contaminants.
- Restricted Matters are assigned a Category (or Categories) from 1 to 7, with each Category placing restrictions on the dealings with the Restricted Matters.

Fisheries Act 1994 (Fisheries Act)

- The Fisheries Act provides the principal legislative framework for the regulation around fishing activities and areas that are fish habitat within a given area. This outlines how activities are to be conducted given the importance of the habitat for fish. All waters are protected against degradation by direct or indirect impacts associated with development activities. Measures designed to protect fisheries resources include the declaration of fish habitat areas, protection of marine plants and designation of waterways for fish passage.

Environmental Offsets Framework (Environmental Offsets Act 2014 and Regulation, Environmental Offsets Policy Version 1.7)

- An environmental offset condition may be imposed under various State assessment frameworks for an activity that will or is likely to have a significant residual impact on a prescribed environmental matter that is a MSES. There is a guideline to assist in determining whether or not a significant residual impact is likely.

Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NC Act)

- The Nature Conservation Act 1992 and associated Regulations provide a framework for the creation and management of protected areas and protection of native species. It includes designation of threatened species status and provides for protected plant trigger areas.
- Management plans prepared for the Project prior to construction will be required to consider the requirement of the Act and fauna and flora species protection.

Planning Act 2016 I Planning Regulation 2017

- The Planning Act 2016 guides development within Queensland, while the Planning Regulation 2017 provides the operational requirements for the Planning Act 2016. As the proposed development is situated within Queensland and requires approval under the Queensland planning and development system, the Planning Act 2016 and Planning Regulation 2017 will need to be considered and complied with.

State Development Assessment Provisions (SOAP), State Code 16: Native Vegetation Clearing ("State Code 16")

- State Code 16 provides the assessment criteria for assessable development that is the clearing of native vegetation under the Planning Act 2016 (the Planning Act). It aids in the application in preparing development applications for native vegetation clearing and is consistent with the Vegetation Management Act 1999. State Code 16, and the relevant provisions will be applied when assessing clearing of remnant vegetation, connectivity, and clearing of remnant vegetation intersecting a watercourse.

Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VM Act)

- The Vegetation Management Act 1999 is the regulatory framework for the management of vegetation using the RE classification system. It regulates the broad-scale clearing of vegetation, with the intent of conserving remnant vegetation, preventing the loss of biodiversity, maintaining ecological processes and allowing for sustainable use. There are clearing exemptions for some work activities.

Water Act 2000 (Water Act)

- The Water Act provides the framework for the planning and sustainable use and management of groundwater and surface water in Queensland. It also sets up conditions and controls the activities that may impact upon water resources and quality. The DoR Watercourse Identification Map identifies watercourses and drainage features mapped under the Water Act.
- Consideration of the mapped watercourses will be required in detailed design to ensure a riverine protection permit is either exempt or sought prior to construction.

Local Legislation:
North Burnett Planning Scheme 2014

- The Planning Scheme provides the framework for managing development within the local area including identifying assessable development and outcomes sought to be achieved in the Local Government Area, as the context for assessing development.

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

Indigenous stakeholders:

Ongoing engagement with Wakka Wakka registered native title body corporate commencing in March 2022, including 4 board meetings, a site visit, and multiple phone conversations and email updates. Most recent meeting with the registered native title board was held in September 2024. Alignment between the parties to work toward a cultural heritage management plan prior to Construction.

Council:

6 deputation meetings to the elected council since 2022, the most recent occurring on 03/09/2025.

Neighbouring residents:

Direct phone calls, face to face meetings or a fact sheet provided to every resident with 1km of the project in July 2025.

6 newsletters released to neighbours in the region since 2022.

Broader community:

6 newsletters released via post to the neighbouring community and issued digital to an e-newsletter list since 2022.

Numerous face to face meetings with local business owners, chamber of commerce and other key local stakeholders since 2022.

5 community engagement sessions since 2022 with most recent being a stall attended by 5 project staff at the Biggenden Show in 2025.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) collects your personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act 1988) through this platform for the purposes of enabling the department to consider your submission and contact you in relation to your submission. If you fail to provide some or all of the personal information requested on this platform (name and email address), the department will be unable to contact you to seek further information (if required) and subsequently may impact the consideration given to your submission.

Personal information may be disclosed to other Australian government agencies, persons or organisations where necessary for the above purposes, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act). Your personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

See our Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint.

Alternatively, email us at privacy@dcceew.gov.au.

☑ **Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice ***

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	12002773248
Organisation name	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW

Referring party details

Name	Michael Rookwood
Job title	Associate Partner
Phone	+61730078478
Email	michael.rookwood@erm.com
Address	GPO Box 2892 Brisbane QLD 4001

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	659823104
Organisation name	STONY CREEK PROJECT NOMINEES PTY LTD
Organisation address	3000 VIC

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Chris Righetti
Job title	Director
Phone	0439 809 609
Email	chris@greenleafrenewables.com.au
Address	PO Box 8180 Kooyong Victoria 3144 Australia

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

Yes

1.3.2.16 Describe the nature of the trust arrangement in relation to the proposed action. *

Stony Creek Project Trust

Stony Creek Project Nominees Pty Ltd is the trustee for the Stony Creek Project Trust

Executed copy of the Trust Deed is attached.

Stony Creek Project Trust – ABN: 20 914 202 527

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

Stony Creek Project Nominees Pty Ltd is a is a wholly owned subsidiary of Greenleaf Renewables. Stony Creek Project Nominees Pty Ltd and Greenleaf Renewables have a satisfactory record of responsible environment management.

Greenleaf Renewables is an Australian-owned developer working to help shape Australia's renewable energy landscape. Established in 2021, Greenleaf embodies a collective vision to drive sustainable progress in our nation's energy sector.

Greenleaf's inception was a testament to our deep commitment to driving and effecting meaningful change in Australian communities and the environment. With a team that has expertise across all facets of a renewable energy project, from ideation to construction, we are unwavering in our dedication to pioneering renewable energy solutions and forging a path toward a cleaner, more resilient future for generations to come.

For more information, refer to Attachment B, Environmental Policy, pp. 1-2.

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Key Environmental Principles

Stony Creek Project Nominees Pty Ltd is a is a wholly owned subsidiary of Greenleaf Renewables. Below are the key principles and objectives that Greenleaf Renewables, including shareholders, directors, staff, and contractors, believe are integral to upholding their commitment to the environment:

- Targeting an objective of no harm to people, the company's assets , or the local communities in which we operate;
- Complying with all relevant legal environmental obligations of the jurisdictions in which we operate;
- Minimising adverse development impact on the environment by avoiding sensitive ecosystems where possible, minimising our disturbance footprints through detailed design and project refinement, and offsetting any residual impacts in accordance with state and federal legislation;
- Optimizing social impacts to the communities surrounding Greenleaf's development projects;
- Promoting and preserving indigenous heritage in the regions in which our projects are located;
- Ensuring that communication for the need to maintain environmental awareness is clear, and engagement is prompt for any response required to environmental incidents if they occur;
- We will always seek to achieve an accident-free work environment for our employees, and our contractors;
- Striving for a continuous performance improvement approach, with a view to learning and improving on our efforts;
- Educating ourselves on the environmental significance of the regions in which we operate, ensuring that the values of the regions are understood, and preserved as necessary; and
- Promote the efficient use of energy, reduction of waste and recycling of materials in all of our business activities.

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	659823104
Organisation name	STONY CREEK PROJECT NOMINEES PTY LTD
Organisation address	3000 VIC

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Chris Righetti
Job title	Director
Phone	0439 809 609
Email	chris@greenleafrenewables.com.au
Address	PO Box 8180 Kooyong Victoria 3144 Australia

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	12002773248
Organisation name	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Michael Rookwood
Representative's job title	Associate Partner
Phone	+61730078478
Email	michael.rookwood@erm.com
Address	GPO Box 2892 Brisbane QLD 4001

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	659823104
Organisation name	STONY CREEK PROJECT NOMINEES PTY LTD
Organisation address	3000 VIC
Representative's name	Chris Righetti
Representative's job title	Director
Phone	0439 809 609
Email	chris@greenleafrenewables.com.au
Address	PO Box 8180 Kooyong Victoria 3144 Australia

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

No

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

No

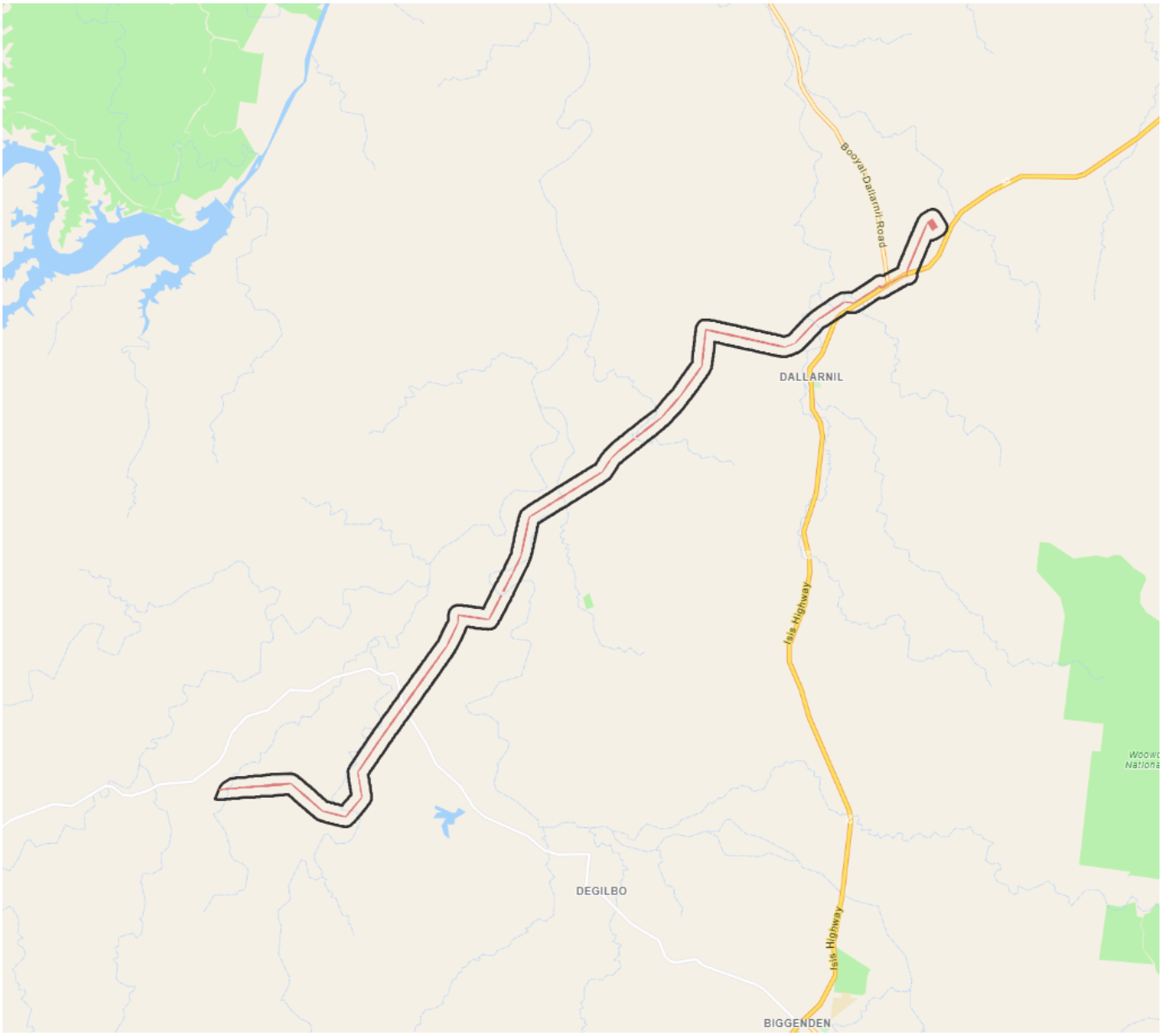
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 1047.13 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 97.50 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Gayndah Monto Branch Railway, Didcot to 8000 Isis Highway, Dallarnil

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

Queensland

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

The existing land use within the Project Area and its surrounds is predominantly rural, characterised by cattle grazing. The Project is associated with 31 Property Lots (Freehold and Lands Lease).

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area's environment.

The Project Area occurs within the SEQ bioregion. The SEQ bioregion comprises a wide range of Eucalypt forests and woodlands, as well as rainforests on mountain slopes and in stream valleys, covering an area of 6,248,417 ha between Gladstone and Tweed Heads, extending west to Toowoomba and Gayndah (DESI, 2013).

Land within the Project Area predominantly comprises undulating hills, with several watercourses (Stream Orders 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6), and is predominantly agricultural (grazing) land, which is consistent within the wider Study Area.

Majority of the Project Area is classified as non-remnant vegetation (84.7%), with occasional small patches of regrowth and/or sparse individual trees, and is impacted by clearing and cattle grazing. Remnant vegetation occurs across 15.2% of the Project Area. Most remnant vegetation is located adjacent to watercourses throughout the Project Area.

There are no Protected Areas located within the Project Area. The nearest Protected Areas include:

- Woowonga National Park which is approximately 7 km east-south-east of the Project Area; and
- Good Night Scrub National Park which is approximately 10km directly north west of the Project Area.

The Project Area has been classified into six Broad Habitat Types (BHTs), defined based on vegetation community type and structure. These BHTs include:

- Open regrowth vegetation featuring Eucalyptus spp. (52.1 ha);
- Eucalypt woodland to open forest (59.3 ha);
- Vine forest/thickets and dry rainforest (20.9 ha);
- Woodland to open forest associated with creeks and ephemeral stream channels (44.1 ha);
- Cleared areas with occasional regrowth Eucalyptus spp. (862.3 ha);
- Waterbodies (5.8 ha).

These BHTs have been considered for their potential to support foraging, breeding, roosting, denning, dispersal, and movement functions for listed threatened and/or migratory species known, likely, or potentially occurring within the Project Area. Ground-truthed habitat mapping was informed by these six BHTs and subsequently used to identify areas of habitat for listed threatened species.

The BHTs within the Project Area are generally in moderate to low condition, exhibiting signs of degradation and fragmentation due to cattle grazing, erosion, and the presence of introduced flora species.

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

Existing Uses

The Project will be located within the Rural Zone under the North Burnett Regional Planning Scheme 2014, with the predominant land use within the Project Area and the adjacent localities being cattle grazing, animal husbandry and related rural activities. Majority of the Project Area is classified as non-remnant vegetation (82.6%), with occasional small patches of regrowth and/or sparse individual trees and is impacted by clearing and cattle grazing. Remnant vegetation occurs across 15.2% of the Project Area. Most remnant vegetation is located adjacent to watercourses throughout the Project Area.

Proposed Uses

The proposed use of this location is a 275 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission conductor line comprising of a metal cable which will facilitate the safe transportation of high voltage electricity. The overhead transmission conductor lines will be supported by transmission poles which will be securely fastened to concrete footings. These transmission poles are on average separated by 200 m. The transmission line will be transporting power from the Stony Creek Wind Farm, a renewable energy facility comprising up to 27 turbines (subject to approval), batching plant, substations, collection cabling, BESS, meteorological masts, transmission lines and related transport infrastructure (connected tracks and roads), to the Powerlink transmission network at Ergon Energy site 61 km WNW of Maryborough (460339).

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

There are no natural features and/or any other important or unique values specific to the Project Area.

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The Project Area includes a combination of undulating hills and valleys. The topography of the Project Area ranges from approximately 160 m above sea level, at hills located in the most south-west and north-east ends of the area, to approximately 60 m above sea level, in low gullies and creek lines.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

Two field surveys have been conducted within the Project Area to confirm the presence and extent of MNES. These were undertaken in April 2023 and July 2024. The surveys focused on describing vegetation communities, identifying flora and fauna habitat, and assessing habitat conditions to inform the description of ecological values within the Project Area and support the impact assessment of the Project. The field investigations and methods are described in Attach C, Part 1, Section 3.4 (ERM, 2025).

A summary of the field survey effort is provided below:

- Two ERM ecologists undertook a four-day post-wet season field assessment of the Project Area from 17 – 20 April 2023, with a total of 80 person hours on the ground. The survey involved vegetation assessments, habitat assessments, and targeted threatened species surveys; and
- Two ERM ecologists undertook a four-day ecological survey from 22 – 25 July 2024, with a total 60 person hours on the ground. The surveys involved vegetation assessments, habitat assessments, spotlighting, and targeted threatened species surveys.

A summary of the results from these field surveys is provided below:

- Six BHTs (outlined in Section 3.1.1 of this referral);
- No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs);
- No listed flora or fauna recorded during surveys;
- Five threatened flora species with potential to occur;
- One listed fauna species that is likely to occur (grey-headed flying-fox);
- Five listed fauna with potential to occur; and
- Two additional migratory species considered potential to occur.

1. For a full description of field survey results, refer to Section 4 of the Stony Creek Wind Farm Transmission Line Ecological Assessment Report (ERM, 2025).

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

Majority of the Project Area is classified as non-remnant vegetation (85%), with occasional small patches of regrowth and/or sparse individual trees and is impacted by clearing and cattle grazing. Remnant vegetation occurs across 15.2% of the Project Area. Most remnant vegetation is located adjacent to watercourses throughout the Project Area. Some areas of remnant vegetation within the Project Area are classed as Category B Regulated Vegetation, totaling 31.6 ha. The Project Area also contains areas of Category C high value regrowth, totaling 42.0 ha, and Category R GBR riverine regrowth, totaling 38.2 ha.

The vegetation within the Project Area is generally in moderate to low condition, exhibiting signs of degradation and fragmentation due to cattle grazing, erosion, and the presence of introduced flora species.

1. The desktop assessment identified 13 state mapped REs within the Project Area. A summary of each of the REs from the State Regulated Vegetation Map, including their description, biodiversity status, area in hectares and the percentage of the Project Area occupied, is presented in Table 4-7 and Figure 4-4 within Att A, Part 1 (ERM, 2025).

Four introduced flora species listed as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) and listed under the Biosecurity Act are known to occur within the Project Area:

- Common lantana *(Lantana camara)*
- Creeping lantana (*Lantana montevidensis)*
- Mother of millions (*Bryophyllum delagoense)*
- Prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp. (Specifically, *Opuntia stricta* along with potential other species*)*)

Other introduced species recorded in the Project Area during field surveys, but not listed as WoNS or under the Biosecurity Act include:

- Balloon cotton bush (*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*);
- Blue billygoat weed (*Ageratum houstonianum*);
- Cobblers' pegs (*Bidens pilosa*); and
- Brazilian nightshade (*Solanum seaforthianum*).

Further detail on flora species can be found in Att A, Part 1 (Sections 4.3.2, Section 4.4.1 and Section 4.4.2) (ERM, 2025).

The land zones identified within the Project Area include:

- Land zone 3 - recent Quaternary alluvial systems (alluvial river and creek flats);
- Land zone 8 - Cainozoic igneous rocks (basalt plains and hills);
- Land zone 11 - metamorphic rocks (hills and lowlands on metamorphic rocks); and
- Land zone 12 - Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks (hills and lowlands on granitic rocks).

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

There are no National or World heritage properties within the Project Area. No historic heritage values were identified through limited desktop research within the Project Area. There is generally a low potential for historic heritage values to exist however, historic heritage in rural landscapes can include government survey scars on trees (early surveyor property demarcation), historic stock routes, evidence of early mining or exploration camps, and some homesteads.

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

The Project Area is within the Wakka Wakka People's Country and there are currently no registered cultural heritage places/sites within. There are also no National Heritage Areas (Indigenous values) recorded the specific Project Area.

It is noted a Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment was undertaken for the associated Wind Farm project.

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

The Project Area is situated within the Burnett drainage basin. The named watercourses that intersect the Project Area are Degilbo Creek, Emu Creek, Cedar Creek, Tawah Creek, Cobbii Creek and Black Gin Creek. Farm dams also occur throughout the Study Area, which are generally of low quality and are heavily impacted by cattle.

The Project Area contains Stream Order 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 watercourses, with the current Development Footprint intersecting these stream orders.

There are no Wetland Protection Areas or high ecological value waters wetlands/waterways mapped within the Study Area. However, the Project Area is intersected by riverine wetlands.

The watercourses and wetlands in the Project Area are detailed and shown in Att A, Part 1, Section 4.4.4 (ERM, 2025).

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	Yes	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

There are no World Heritage Areas within or adjacent to the Project Area.

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

There are no National Heritage places within the Project Area.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

There are no Ramsar Wetlands within the Project Area, or within close proximity to the Project Area.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Acacia grandifolia	
Yes	No	Arthraxon hispidus	Hairy-joint Grass
Yes	No	Bosistoa transversa	Three-leaved Bosistoa, Yellow Satinheart
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Coleus omissus	
No	No	Cossinia australiana	Cossinia
No	No	Cupaniopsis shirleyana	Wedge-leaf Tuckeroo
Yes	No	Cycas megacarpa	
No	No	Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni	Coxen's Fig-Parrot
No	No	Dasyurus hallucatus	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]
No	No	Delma torquata	Adorned Delma, Collared Delma
No	No	Dichanthium setosum	bluegrass
No	No	Egernia rugosa	Yakka Skink
No	No	Elseya albagula	Southern Snapping Turtle, White-throated Snapping Turtle
Yes	No	Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk
No	No	Eucalyptus raveretiana	Black Ironbox
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Fontainea venosa	
No	No	Furina dunmalli	Dunmall's Snake
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	No	Geophaps scripta scripta	Squatter Pigeon (southern)
No	No	Haloragis exalata subsp. velutina	Tall Velvet Sea-berry
No	No	Hemiaspis damelii	Grey Snake
Yes	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
Yes	No	Leuzea australis	Austral Cornflower, Native Thistle
No	No	Macadamia integrifolia	Macadamia Nut, Queensland Nut Tree, Smooth-shelled Macadamia, Bush Nut, Nut Oak
No	No	Macroderma gigas	Ghost Bat
No	No	Petauroides volans	Greater Glider (southern and central)
No	No	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
Yes	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
No	No	Phebalium distans	Mt Berryman Phebalium
No	No	Polianthion minutiflorum	
Yes	No	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
Yes	No	Samadera bidwillii	Quassia
No	No	Sophora fraseri	
Yes	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Turnix melanogaster	Black-breasted Button-quail

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Coastal Swamp Sclerophyll Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia
No	No	Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains
No	No	Subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and South East Queensland bioregions

4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.4.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

A full list of identified potential impacts from the Project is provided in Att A, Part 1, Section 4.4.4, Table 5-1 (ERM, 2025). Impacts to specific MNES species are provided below.

Austral cornflower (*Rhaponticum australe) and Cycas megacarpa*

These two species are considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with the species not recorded during field surveys and no recent historical records of the species present within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer). Potential habitat for the two species has been mapped as the following BHT:

- Eucalypt woodland to open forest.

Following the habitat mapping, 3.7 ha of this potential habitat located within the Development Footprint and expected to be impacted by the Project.

Hairy-joint grass (*Arthraxon hispidus)*

This species is considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with the species not recorded during field surveys and no recent historical records of the species present within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer). Potential habitat has been mapped within the following BHT where wet Eucalypt forest is present:

- Woodland to open forest associated with creeks and ephemeral stream channels.

2.2 ha of this potential habitat located within the Development Footprint and expected to be impacted from the Project.

Quassia (*Samadera bidwillii*)

This species is considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with the species not recorded during field surveys and no recent historical records of the species present within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer). Potential habitat has been mapped within the following BHTs where rainforests and waterways are present:

- Vine forest/thickets and dry rainforest; and
- Woodland to open forest associated with creeks and ephemeral stream channels.

3.0 ha of this potential habitat is located within the Development Footprint and expected to be impacted by the Project.

Three-leaved Bosistoa (*Bosistoa transversa*)

This species is considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with the species not recorded during field surveys and no recent historical records of the species present within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer). Potential habitat within the Project Area has been mapped for three-leaved bosistoa as the following BHT:

- Vine forest/thickets and dry rainforest.

0.8 ha of this potential habitat is located within the Development Footprint and expected to be impacted by the Project.

Grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)

The entire Project Area is located within 50 km of the two nearest active colonies, and as the species generally travels up to 50 km for food resources, the Project Area is considered foraging habitat for the species and contains potential habitat critical to the survival of the species. As it is difficult to predict which vegetation communities will produce foraging resources at certain times of the year, a conservative approach has been taken and the BHTs associated with the species' habitat within the Project Area are:

- Eucalypt woodland to open forest;
- Woodland to open forest associated with stream channels and rivers; and

- Open regrowth Eucalypt woodland vegetation.

9.6 ha of this potential foraging habitat is located within the Development Footprint and habitat expected to be impacted by the Project.

Diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*)

This species is considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with the species not recorded during field surveys and no recent historical records of the species present within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer). Potential habitat has been mapped within the following BHTs where grassy eucalypt woodlands are present:

- Woodland to open forest associated with creeks and ephemeral stream channels

2.2 ha of this potential habitat located within the Development Footprint and expected to be impacted by the Project.

Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

This species is considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with the species not recorded during field surveys and no recent historical records of the species present within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer). Potential habitat has been mapped within the following BHTs where eucalypt dominated woodlands are present:

Potential breeding, foraging, and core dispersal habitat:

- Eucalypt woodland to open forest,
- Woodland to open forest associated with creeks and ephemeral stream channels, and
- Open regrowth eucalypt woodland vegetation.

Potential ancillary dispersal habitat (where meeting habitat requirements) (applying a 200 m buffer to the above BHTs and only include the following areas that intersect):

- Cleared areas with occasional regrowth Eucalyptus spp.

9.6 ha of the available potential breeding, foraging, and core dispersal habitat and 66.8 ha of the available ancillary dispersal habitat is located within the Development Footprint and expected to be impacted by the Project.

Red goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*)

This species is considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with the species not recorded during field surveys and no recent historical records of the species present within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer). Potential breeding habitat has been mapped within the following BHTs:

- Woodland to open forest associated with creeks and ephemeral stream channels.

Potential foraging habitat has been mapped within the following BHTs:

- Eucalypt woodland to open forest.

2.2 ha of potential breeding habitat and 3.7 ha of potential foraging and dispersal habitat is located within the Development Footprint and expected to be impacted by the Project.

Squatter pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*)

This species is considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with the species not recorded during field surveys and no recent historical records of the species present within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer).

Breeding habitat has been refined to the following BHTs within 1 km of a permanent water source:

- Eucalypt woodland to open forest;

- Open regrowth vegetation featuring *Eucalyptus* spp.; and
- Woodland to open forest associated with creeks and ephemeral stream channels.

Potential foraging and dispersal habitat has been mapped as the following BHTs within 3 km of a permanent water source (outside of the identified potential breeding habitat):

- Eucalypt woodland to open forest;
- Open regrowth vegetation featuring *Eucalyptus spp*.; and
- Woodland to open forest associated with creeks and ephemeral stream channels.

9.6 ha of the available potential breeding habitat and 0.01 ha of the available potential foraging and dispersal habitat is located within the Development Footprint and expected to be impacted by the Project.

White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

This species is considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with the species not recorded during field surveys and no recent historical records of the species present within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer). Given that the white-throated needletail is an almost-exclusively aerial species, and may occur over entire Project Area, no potential habitat has been mapped.

4.1.4.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

No

4.1.4.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

A full impact assessment has been undertaken for each MNES considered likely or potential to occur within the Development Footprint. These impact assessments are included in Att A, Part 4, Appendix E (ERM, 2025). A summary is provided below:

Austral cornflower (*Rhaponticum australe*)

Potential habitat within the Development Footprint is not considered habitat critical to the survival of the species. The Project is estimated to impact, at a maximum, 3.7 ha of potential austral cornflower habitat, however the actual area of impact is likely to be smaller due to some areas of the Development Footprint only requiring vegetation trimming rather than full clearing. This area of impact is considered minimal in the context of the potential habitat available within the broader locality. Additionally, preclearance surveys will ensure complete avoidance of individual plants of the species if they are to occur. Therefore, the Project is unlikely to result in a significant impact to the species.

Cycas megacarpa

Cycas megacarpa has been assessed as having the potential to occur within the Development Footprint. The Project is estimated to impact, at a maximum, 3.7 ha of potential *Cycas megacarpa* habitat, however the actual area of impact is likely to be smaller due to some areas of the Development Footprint only requiring vegetation trimming rather than full clearing. This area of impact is considered minimal in the context of the potential habitat available within the broader locality. Additionally, preclearance surveys will ensure complete avoidance of individual plants of the species if they are to occur. Therefore, the Project is unlikely to result in a significant impact to the species.

Hairy-joint grass (*Arthraxon hispidus*)

Potential habitat within the Development Footprint is not considered habitat critical to the survival of the species. The Project is estimated to impact, at a maximum, 2.2 ha of potential hairy-joint grass habitat, however the actual area of impact is likely to be smaller due to some areas of the Development Footprint only requiring vegetation trimming rather than full clearing. This area of impact is considered minimal in the context of the potential habitat available within the broader locality. Additionally, preclearance surveys will ensure complete avoidance of individual plants of the species if they are to occur. Therefore, the Project is unlikely to result in a significant impact to the species.

Quassia (*Samadera bidwillii*)

Potential habitat within the Development Footprint is not considered habitat critical to the survival of the species. The Project is estimated to impact, at a maximum, 3.0 ha of potential quassia habitat, however the actual area of impact is likely to be smaller due to some areas of the Development Footprint only requiring vegetation trimming rather than full clearing. This area of impact is considered minimal in the context of the potential habitat available within the broader locality. Additionally, preclearance surveys will ensure complete avoidance of individual plants of the species if they are to occur. Therefore, the Project is unlikely to result in a significant impact to the species.

Three-leaved Bosistoa (*Bosistoa transversa*)

Potential habitat within the Development Footprint is not considered habitat critical to the survival of the species. The Project is estimated to impact, at a maximum, 0.8 ha of potential three-leaved bosistoa habitat, however the actual area of impact is likely to be smaller due to some areas of the Development Footprint only requiring vegetation trimming rather than full clearing. This area of impact is considered minimal in the context of the potential habitat available within the broader locality. Additionally, preclearance surveys will ensure complete avoidance of individual plants of the species if they are to occur. Therefore, the Project is unlikely to result in a significant impact to the species.

Grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)

As the Development Footprint contains myrtaceous and rainforest species with fleshy fruits and is within 50 km of the nearest colony, the 9.6 ha of potential habitat identified within the Development Footprint is considered habitat critical to the survival of the species. However, the clearing involved with the Project will not result in the complete removal of myrtaceous or rainforest species that produce fleshy fruits, which are key dietary resources for the species. Additionally, this impact is considered minimal in the context of the habitat critical to the survival of the species that is available within the broader locality. Therefore, the Project is considered unlikely to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species or modify or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline. Additionally, the Project will not interfere with the recovery of the species. Therefore, the Project is considered unlikely to cause a significant impact to the species.

Diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*)

The Project design has avoided majority of the species habitat that was identified during field surveys, with only 2.2 ha (or 5.8%) of the 37.3 ha of habitat available impacted. Additionally, the actual area of this impact is likely to be smaller due to some areas of the Development Footprint only requiring vegetation trimming rather than full clearing. Due to the majority of the identified habitat being avoided through the Project design, the Project is considered unlikely to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species or modify or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that the Project will result in a significant impact to the species.

Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

The Development Footprint contains 9.6 ha of breeding, foraging and core dispersal habitat and 66.8 ha of ancillary dispersal habitat. The 50 m clearing width of the Project will not create a barrier to the species movement during the construction or the operational phase, as koalas are known to disperse across fragmented landscapes. Therefore, disturbance to 66.8 ha of ancillary dispersal habitat is not expected to compromise the function of this habitat.

Additionally, impacts to 9.6 ha of breeding, foraging and core dispersal habitat are considered minor in comparison the species available habitat within the broader locality. The location of the transmission line was purposefully selected to result in sporadically isolated impact areas to nullify any significant impact the Project may have on potential koala breeding, foraging, and core dispersal habitat. It is also important to note that the impact to 9.6 ha of breeding, foraging and core dispersal habitat is likely an over estimated value due to the Project design having locations within the Development Footprint that only require vegetation trimming and not full clearing.

The Project will additionally incorporate appropriate mitigation and management measures, including pre-clearance surveys and vehicle speed limits, throughout all phases to minimise potential impacts on threatened species. With the inclusion of appropriate mitigation and management measures, the Project is unlikely to result in a significant impact on koala.

Red goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*)

The Project has been designed to avoid majority of the species habitat, with only 2.2 ha of potential breeding habitat and 3.7 ha of potential foraging and dispersal habitat overlapping with the Development Footprint. Additionally, in certain areas of the Development Footprint, only canopy trimming will be required. The red goshawk are a highly mobile species and will still be able to disperse and utilise the habitat within the locality following construction of the Project.

The Project will incorporate appropriate mitigation and management measures, including pre-clearance surveys and vehicle speed limits, throughout all phases to minimise potential impacts on threatened species. With the inclusion of appropriate mitigation and management measures, the Project is considered unlikely to result in a significant impact on red goshawk.

Squatter pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*)

Potential habitat within the Development Footprint is highly fragmented due to agricultural land use, and invasive plant or animal species are either known to or expected to occur in high densities. Therefore, the Project is not anticipated to adversely impact habitat critical to the survival of the squatter pigeon (southern) beyond its current condition. Additionally, the Project has been designed to avoid majority of the species habitat, with an estimated maximum disturbance to 9.601 ha of potential squatter pigeon (southern) habitat. Such impacts are unlikely to modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of the squatter pigeon (southern) habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline. Therefore, the Project is considered unlikely to cause a significant impact to the species.

White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

White-throated needletail was not recorded during the field surveys and there are no recent desktop records of the species within the Project Area. As per the important population assessment conducted, the Project Area does not contain an important population of the white-throated needletail. The white-throated needletail is an almost exclusively aerial species and the species may occur as a flyover visitor over the entire Project Area. As the species does not rely on ground-based habitat in the area, the Project is not expected to substantially modify, destroy, or isolate important habitat for this migratory species. Further, the Project Area does not support an ecologically significant proportion of the population, and thus, a significant impact is unlikely to occur.

4.1.4.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.4.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

Impact assessments were undertaken against the relevant MNES impact assessment guidelines under the EPBC Act which concluded:

That the removal of potential habitat for relevant MNES is unlikely to result in a significant impact to these species given no evidence of utilisation of the Project Area from field surveys and desktop records. The Project focuses on the maintenance of dispersal opportunities across the landscape and connectivity to surrounding areas of habitat, and avoidance of all areas of key breeding and foraging habitat where possible. It should be noted that the habitat disturbance values identified represent the maximum potential extent of impact, and actual disturbance is expected to be lower following detailed design and implementation. The Project will implement mitigation and management measures to further reduce impacts on MNES resulting in no residual significant impact.

4.1.4.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

Avoidance and mitigation measures for the Project are detailed within Att A, Part 1, Section 6 (ERM, 2025). The avoidance and mitigation measures for the following identified impacts include:

Clearing and/or trimming of remnant and regrowth vegetation and the resultant loss of habitat for native fauna

- The Project has been designed to avoid impacts to good quality native vegetation that has been identified during field surveys by prioritising the placement of poles, switchyard area and the alignment of the corridor within non-remnant and regrowth vegetation as much as possible (including selecting to run in close proximity to an existing Ergon Energy easement route).
- All vegetation clearing will undergo a pre-clearance assessment to minimise risk of unforeseen impact to threatened species, involving a qualified fauna spotter-catcher conducting searches immediately prior to clearing to check for the presence of fauna species and relocating if necessary.
- The Transmission Line has been designed to only require vegetation trimming rather than clearing, along the micro-siting corridor in certain areas where there is sufficient vertical separation between the vegetation and electrical conductors
- Vehicles and associated equipment/machinery will be confined to approved and zoned work areas, site inductions and toolbox talks will inform all workers and contractors of potential environmental risks and impacts, and a Vegetation Management Plan will be prepared and implemented to ensure that clearing is undertaken in accordance with legislative standards and requirements

Fragmentation of connectivity areas and indirect impacts on species dispersal by creating potential barriers to fauna movement

- Vegetation within the Project Area is already largely fragmented, with the proposed clearing affecting 11 riparian areas that represent the vegetation with the highest current connectivity. The transmission line design has resulted in no clearance required within four of these riparian areas and, if necessary, only vegetation trimming will occur.
- If clearing is necessary in certain areas, the width will be such that it will not fragment to prevent the ability for movement of species within the riparian areas.
- Due to the separation of utility poles, no impermeable barriers to fauna movement or species dispersal are expected as the Project does not include the construction of fences or other blockades.
- Following construction, areas within the Project Area that are no longer required for ongoing operations will be rehabilitated to their pre-disturbance condition

Direct mortality or injury to native fauna during construction or operational activities

- A qualified fauna spotter-catcher will conduct searches immediately prior to vegetation clearing, with the fauna spotter-catcher implementing the most appropriate measure to mitigate impact if nesting sites or associated habitat features are identified.
- Site inductions and toolbox talks will inform all workers and contractors of potential environmental risks and impacts, including appropriate actions if fauna are encountered, roles and responsibilities, reporting requirements, and required mitigation measures.
- Injured, sick or dead fauna will be recorded and reported for the duration of the construction and operation phases. Injured or sick fauna will be taken to the nearest wildlife carer or veterinarian, if practical.
- Vehicles and associated equipment/machinery will be confined to approved and authorized zoned work areas.
- A Fauna Management Plan, as part of a wider Environmental Management Plan, will be prepared and implemented that details further measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate impacts on fauna.

Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas because of noise, dust, runoff, and erosion, including impacts to downstream environments

- Dust will be controlled via engineering controls on machinery, dust suppression tools and site-specific speed limits.
- Sediment and erosion controls will be implemented across the Project Area in accordance with the Queensland Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, and the Contractor's erosion and sediment control procedures.
- Site inductions and toolbox talks will inform all workers and contractors of the potential impacts of dust emissions and provide mitigation measures.

Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas due to the introduction or spread of weed and pest species

- A Biosecurity Management Plan, developed as part of an overarching Environmental Management Plan, will be prepared and implemented for the Project.
- Access to individual landholder properties will only occur where authorised under a valid land use agreement.
- All materials transported to the Project Area will be inspected for biosecurity risks and must be accompanied by a valid weed and seed declaration prior to entry and use.
- WoNS species and Category 3 Restricted Invasive Biosecurity Matters identified within the Project Area will be actively monitored and managed to prevent their spread into unaffected areas.
- All personnel, including workers and contractors, will be informed of biosecurity risks associated with the Project and made aware of their specific biosecurity obligations.

4.1.4.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

The Project does not result in a significant residual impact to MNES, and as such offsets are not required.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
No	Yes	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
Yes	No	Cuculus optatus	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.5.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus) and* White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

These species are considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with no records of the species within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer). Potential foraging habitat for the species occurs over the entire Project Area, where they would fly aerially. The Project has the potential to impact these species through the construction of transmission lines within this arial space.

Oriental cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus)*

The oriental cuckoo is considered potential to occur within the Project Area, with no records of the species within the Project Area or Locality (10 km buffer).Potential habitat for the within the Project Area has been mapped to include:

- Eucalypt woodland to open forest;
- Open regrowth vegetation featuring *Eucalyptus* spp.; and
- Vine forest thickets/dry rainforest.

Potentially suitable habitat within the Project Area totals 128.7 ha, with 8.2 ha of this habitat expected to be impacted as a result of the Project.

4.1.5.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

No

4.1.5.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus) and* White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

This Species almost exclusively aerial and may occur as a flyover visitor over the entire Project Area. However, as the species does not rely on ground-based habitat in the area, the Project is not expected to substantially modify, destroy, or isolate important habitat for this migratory species. Further, the Project Area does not support an ecologically significant proportion of the population, and thus, a significant impact is unlikely to occur.

Oriental cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus)*

A total of 8.2 ha of potential oriental cuckoo habitat is located within the Development Footprint and may be impacted by the Project. The impacts of the Project will not interfere with the species ability to forage and utilise the Project Area post-construction, as some areas within the species habitat require vegetation trimming only. The habitat within the Development Footprint does not support an ecologically significant proportion of the population, and given the species highly mobile nature, the Project is not expected to seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion of the population. Therefore, the Project is considered unlikely to cause a significant impact to the species.

4.1.5.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.5.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

As the Project will not have a significant impact on the two migratory species that have the potential to occur, the Project is not considered a controlled action in relation to migratory species.

4.1.5.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

Avoidance and mitigation measures for the Project are detailed within Att A, Part 1, Section 6 (ERM, 2025). The avoidance and mitigation measures for the following identified impacts include:

Clearing and/or trimming of remnant and regrowth vegetation and the resultant loss of habitat for native fauna

- The Project has been designed to avoid impacts to good quality native vegetation that has been identified during field surveys by prioritising the placement of poles, switchyard area and the alignment of the corridor within non-remnant and regrowth vegetation as much as possible (including selecting to run in close proximity to an existing Ergon Energy easement route).
- All vegetation clearing will undergo a pre-clearance assessment to minimise risk of unforeseen impact to threatened species, involving a qualified fauna spotter-catcher conducting searches immediately prior to clearing to check for the presence of fauna species and relocating if necessary.
- The Transmission Line has been designed to only require vegetation trimming rather than clearing, along the micro-siting corridor in certain areas.
- Vehicles and associated equipment/machinery will be confined to approved and zoned work areas, site inductions and toolbox talks will inform all workers and contractors of potential environmental risks and impacts, and a Vegetation Management Plan will be prepared and implemented to ensure that clearing is undertaken in accordance with legislative standards and requirements

Fragmentation of connectivity areas and indirect impacts on species dispersal by creating potential barriers to fauna movement

- Vegetation within the Project Area is already largely fragmented, with the proposed clearing affecting 11 riparian areas that represent the vegetation with the highest current connectivity. The transmission line design has resulted in no clearance required within four of these riparian areas and, if necessary, only vegetation trimming will occur.
- If clearing is necessary in certain areas, the width will be such that it will not fragment to prevent the ability for movement of species within the riparian areas.
- Due to the 200 m on average separation of utility poles, no impermeable barriers to fauna movement or species dispersal are expected as the Project does not include the construction of fences or other blockades.
- Following construction, areas within the Project Area that are no longer required for ongoing operations will be rehabilitated to their pre-disturbance condition

Direct mortality or injury to native fauna during construction or operational activities

- A qualified fauna spotter-catcher will conduct searches immediately prior to vegetation clearing, with the fauna spotter-catcher implementing the most appropriate measure to mitigate impact if nesting sites or associated habitat features are identified.
- Site inductions and toolbox talks will inform all workers and contractors of potential environmental risks and impacts, including appropriate actions if fauna are encountered, roles and responsibilities, reporting requirements, and required mitigation measures.
- Injured, sick or dead fauna will be recorded and reported for the duration of the construction and operation phases. Injured or sick fauna will be taken to the nearest wildlife carer or veterinarian, if practical.
- Vehicles and associated equipment/machinery will be confined to approved and authorized zoned work areas.
- A Fauna Management Plan, as part of a wider Environmental Management Plan, will be prepared and implemented that details further measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate impacts on fauna.

Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas because of noise, dust, runoff, and erosion, including impacts to downstream environments

- Dust will be controlled via engineering controls on machinery, dust suppression tools and site-specific speed limits.
- Sediment and erosion controls will be implemented across the Project Area in accordance with the Queensland Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, and the Contractor's erosion and sediment control procedures.
- Site inductions and toolbox talks will inform all workers and contractors of the potential impacts of dust emissions and provide mitigation measures.

Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas due to the introduction or spread of weed and pest species

- A Biosecurity Management Plan, developed as part of an overarching Environmental Management Plan, will be prepared and implemented for the Project.
- Access to individual landholder properties will only occur where authorised under a valid land use agreement.
- All materials transported to the Project Area will be inspected for biosecurity risks and must be accompanied by a valid weed and seed declaration prior to entry and use.
- WoNS species and Category 3 Restricted Invasive Biosecurity Matters identified within the Project Area will be actively monitored and managed to prevent their spread into unaffected areas.
- All personnel, including workers and contractors, will be informed of biosecurity risks associated with the Project and made aware of their specific biosecurity obligations.

4.1.5.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

As the Project will not have a significant impact on MNES, offsets are not required.

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Project is not a nuclear action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Project is not within, nor does it impact on, a Commonwealth Marine Area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Project will not result in any direct or indirect impacts to the Great Barrier Reef.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Project will not impact on a water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Project is not located on Commonwealth land nor will it result in any direct or indirect impact to Commonwealth land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Project will not impact any Commonwealth heritage places overseas.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? *

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

No

4.3.8 Describe why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible. *

Alternatives to this Project have not been provided. The Project has gone through iterative phases of design to configure the most appropriate route with respect to avoiding and protecting potential impacts to MNES and ecological communities. Refinement will continue throughout the approvals process.

A combination of Landholder preference, Impact to ecological matters, and Interaction with State protected vegetation has meant the final transmission route has been selected and alternative routes will not form part of this referral.

The Project does not have an alternate timeline as it is directly linked to the Stony Creek Wind Farm (EPBC 2022/09333). This wind farm has already been approved through the EPBC Act referral process and is scheduled to commence construction in 2027 As such, the timing of the transmission line is aligned with the operational requirements of the wind farm to ensure timely and efficient energy transmission, making any alternative timeframe impractical.

Additionally, the Project does not have an alternative location as outlined below:

- **Alternative Project location** - The site identification process involves a combination landholder engagement and environmental assessments in order to identify a potentially viable project that minimsed impacts on MNES and existing land uses. Following these assessments, no viable alternative location was identified in proximity to this Project.
- **Alternative Project layout options** - Through the design process there have been various iterations of the project layout. The final layout has been designed to ensure minimal impact to potential habitat while presenting a viable transmission line project.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.3.2.16 (Person proposing to take the action) Nature of the trust arrangement in relation to the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - SC Project Trust - trust deed.PDF	08/06/2022	Yes	

1.3.2.17 (Person proposing to take the action) Proposer's history of responsible environmental management

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B - Greenleaf Renewables_Environmental Policy.pdf Environmental Policy		No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att C - SCTL Impact Assessment Report Part 1.pdf Ecological Assessment Report	10/09/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att C - SCTL Impact Assessment Report_App A-C Part 2.pdf Ecological Assessment Report	15/09/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att C - SCTL Impact Assessment Report_App D Part 3.pdf Ecological Assessment Report	15/09/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att C - SCTL Impact Assessment Report Part 1.pdf Ecological Assessment Report	09/09/2025		High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att C - SCTL Impact Assessment Report Part 1.pdf Ecological Assessment Report	09/09/2025		High

4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att C - SCTL Impact Assessment Report Part 1.pdf Ecological Assessment Report	09/09/2025		High

4.1.4.6 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att C - SCTL Impact Assessment Report_Appendices E-G Part 4.pdf Ecological Assessment Report	15/09/2025	No	High

4.1.4.10 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att C - SCTL Impact Assessment Report Part 1.pdf Ecological Assessment Report	09/09/2025		High

4.1.5.10 (Migratory Species) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att C - SCTL Impact Assessment Report Part 1.pdf Ecological Assessment Report	09/09/2025		High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	12002773248
Organisation name	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Michael Rookwood
Representative's job title	Associate Partner
Phone	+61730078478
Email	michael.rookwood@erm.com
Address	GPO Box 2892 Brisbane QLD 4001

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

☑ By checking this box, I, **Michael Rookwood of ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	659823104
Organisation name	STONY CREEK PROJECT NOMINEES PTY LTD
Organisation address	3000 VIC
Representative's name	Chris Righetti

Representative's job title	Director
Phone	0439 809 609
Email	chris@greenleafrenewables.com.au
Address	PO Box 8180 Kooyong Victoria 3144 Australia

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

☑ I, **Chris Righetti of STONY CREEK PROJECT NOMINEES PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

☑ I, **Chris Righetti of STONY CREEK PROJECT NOMINEES PTY LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.