

Kin Kin Road, Williams Road to Western Branch Road, Strengthening and Pavement Widening Project.

Application Number: 03295

Commencement Date:
13/01/2026

Status: Locked

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Kin Kin Road, Williams Road to Western Branch Road, Strengthening and Pavement Widening

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Transport - Land

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Road

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/07/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/07/2028

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Proposed action description

The State of Queensland represented by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is proposing to upgrade a section of Kin Kin Road, Williams Road to Western Branch, chainage 37.80-39.60km (Refer to **Attachment 1 Project area and local context map**). The proposed works include earthworks, widening of pavement, pavement rehabilitation, upgrades to drainage networks, installation of road furniture and line marking updates for improved safety.

Purpose of proposed action

Kin Kin Road (locally known as Pomona Kin Kin Road) is the main haul route for Kin Kin Quarry. Since the commencement of quarry operations in 2013, TMR has received ongoing community feedback regarding safety concerns with the increase in heavy vehicles using the link and the consequent degradation of Kin Kin Road. The existing cross section of Kin Kin Road features a narrow formation with limited shoulders. Residents have reported quarry trucks crossing the road centreline into oncoming traffic on curves, as traffic lanes are narrow and there is no existing curve widening. Without shoulders available to drivers, there is limited opportunity to create safe separation from heavy vehicles. The increase in heavy vehicles has also significantly degraded the condition of the pavement. The existing pavement is at the end of its' design life and requires intervention.

The road primarily comprises of a narrow sealed existing cross section (5.5-7m) amongst steep and undulating terrain with tight existing horizontal and vertical curves. At these locations, the roadside environment is densely vegetated close to the existing edge of pavement. In other locations, the terrain flattens and widens accommodating wider verges and table drains often in areas with higher residential density and paddocks.

- Kin Kin Road has adequate pavement and shoulder widths south of Pomona, however sections north of Pomona have a winding undulating alignment with inadequate seal and shoulder widths in numerous sections. The roadside environment contains several hazards within the clear zone including steep batters, power poles, culvert headwalls and large trees presenting a hazard to errant vehicles.
- The pavement condition is poor in numerous locations, with severe rutting and early signs of failure observed on some sections. This is reflected in the high roughness counts recorded on Kin Kin Road. This issue is compounded by lack of stopping sight distance on horizontal curves due to embankments, vegetation and other hazards within the clear zone.
- TMR has received ongoing community concern regarding the condition of the road, in particular relating to safety concerns associated with an increase in heavy vehicles using Kin Kin Road to access Kin Kin Quarry. In response to the community concern, speed limits on the range were reduced from 100 km/h to 60 km/h in 2011.
- In 2013, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council approved an application to make Kin Kin Road the main haul route for Kin Kin Quarry. The quarry's management plan states that annual production may require up to 100 heavy vehicle trips per day, each way. This resulted in further expression of concern to the DTMR regarding the quarry and the existing condition of Kin Kin Road.
- Use of this road by quarry vehicles is expected to accelerate the rate of deterioration and intervention is likely to be required to maintain an acceptable level of service and safety for road users. The expected increase in the number of trucks on this section of road will also result in increased risk of incidents during operations, particularly when large trucks and school buses are passing each other on the tight horizontal curves.
- The State has secured separate funding for each section to allow flexibility in response to changing economic conditions and budgets, risk management, local priorities and minimise disruptions to community.

Proposed action activities

The scope of work for the Project includes:

- Carriageway widening and pavement rehabilitation works, as well as drainage upgrades between chainage 37.80-39.60km (approximately 1800m long). Goal is to achieve a minimum 8m wide cross section whilst minimising land take and earthworks.
- Steep excavation works (up to 2-3m high and 1:1 steep) and embankment works (up to 8m high and 1:2 steep) have been proposed in concentrated areas of the alignment (approximately 200m long each). A provisional soil nail and shotcrete surface treatment for steeper excavations has been allowed for as a slope remediation measure based on a slope risk analysis to be assessed on site during the construction works.
 - Demolition and removal of seven (7) existing culverts (300/375mm dia) and one 1200mmx450mm RCBC diameter culvert Three (3) culverts will be abandoned (remain in place) and grout filled. There may be the requirement to install temporary drainage based on the assessed difficulty/duration to complete these works
- Installation of eleven (11) new culverts. These are generally of larger size than the removed culverts, ranging from 375mm dia to (2x)900mm dia (of which the largest are proposed to be pipe-jacked). In addition, four (4) existing culverts will be enhanced with culvert extensions, and/or inlet/outlet headwall replacements and new scour protection.
- Construction of table drains on both sides of the carriageway across most of the alignment. Where space has restricted the use of grass table drains, shotcrete table drains have been proposed to facilitate high flow volumes within a smaller footprint.
- Installation of guardrail safety barriers at designated points along the alignment as an enhanced safety measure.
- Demolition and reinstatement of existing fencing to suit new boundaries associated with property resumptions.
- Realignment and resurfacing of multiple local accesses.
- Pavement rehabilitation consisting of the reinstatement of both granular and asphalt layers to approx. 300mm depth. Pavement widening consists also of granular and asphalt pavement layers, including subbase, to approx. 525mm depth. Pavement/subsoil drainage will be installed at the interface of new and existing pavements.
- Removal and replacement of 150m of underground telecoms conduit/cable as part Public Utility Plant (PUP) relocations. This is likely to be undertaken as early works to the main construction contract.
- Replacement/relocation of +20 regulatory/warning signs.

To facilitate the above outcomes, the following construction activities will need to take place:

- Clearing of vegetation (only as necessary, within the predefined clearing extents) to facilitate construction of temporary and permanent works, including access tracks for critical construction plant. This will be under the supervision of a qualified fauna spotter/catcher.
- As part of this, removal of pre-identified native and exotic vegetation, including threatened ecological communities. This will be under the supervision of a qualified arborist.
- Offices, stockpiles and laydown areas will be located in previously cleared areas within the existing road reserve.

Following construction activities the following decommission and remediation activities will occur:

- Remediation and landscaping including:
 - Tubestock planting of local native species will occur in the vicinity of the culvert inlets/outlets.
 - All embankment and excavation slopes are proposed to be treated with a Hydro-compost product with a local native species seed mix.
 - All other disturbed ground areas as part of the works to be treated with a Hydro-compost product with a local native species seed mix.
 - Upon completion of works decommissioning of site facilities and work areas will occur and restored to pre-existing conditions where not altered by the Project.
- Waste generated through the Project's construction works will be disposed of at approved waste management facilities.

Upon the completion of works the site will operate under its existing purpose as a state-controlled road with maintenance activities undertaken as required. These activities will include:

- Cleanout out of channel drains and culverts.
- Localised trimming of vegetation in the road corridor to ensure safe operation and
- Pavement and road furniture repairs as required.

Refer to **Section 8, pages 59-64 Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)** for further details on avoidance, management and mitigation measures during planning and design, construction and operation.

The 'Project area' (i.e. proposed action) is the area along Kin Kin Road, Williams Road to Western Branch Road (Chainage 37.80 – 39.60 km) where all works are likely to be undertaken and potential impacts may occur. The Project area boundary reflects the design footprint and encompasses the area expected to be cleared during construction activities.

The 'Survey area' refers to the area surveyed by ecologists. This is generally taken to be a 100m buffer from the edge of works to adequately capture ecological attributes adjacent to the construction limits and includes the associated Project area (Refer to **Attachment 1 Project area and local context map**).

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)?

Yes

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

TMR's current proposed action is to upgrade two sections of Kin Kin Road, approximately 2.2km apart, involving similar scopes of works:

- Williams Road to Western Branch Road (this Project) is located at Chainage 37.8 – 39.6km, with proposed construction in 2027/2028.
- Sallwood Court and Turnbull Road is located at Chainage 41.78 – 42.37km, with proposed construction in 2027.

Based on significant impact assessments undertaken, the following was determined:

- Significant impacts were identified for Williams Road to Western Branch Road (referred action).
- No significant impacts were determined for Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road (related action).

An assessment against the criteria detailed in the *EPBC Act Policy Statement – Stage Development – Split referrals: Section 74A of the EPBC Act* has been completed for the project to demonstrate why both projects are being referred as a split referral and summarised below.

Criteria 1 - Determine if there is a larger action

What is the larger action?

Both projects, Williams Road to Western Branch Road, chainage 37.8km-39.6km (this Project) and Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road, chainage 41.78km-42.37km form part of expected upgrades to Kin Kin Road, involving widening to facilitate increased quarry traffic and safety concerns.

The roadside environment contains several hazards within the clear zone, steep batters, power poles, culvert headwalls and large trees presenting a safety hazard to errant vehicles.

Use of this road by quarry vehicles is expected to accelerate the rate of deterioration and intervention is required to maintain an acceptable level of service and safety for road users. The expected increase in the number of trucks on this section of road will also result in increased risk of incidents during operations, particularly when large trucks and school buses are passing each other on the tight horizontal curves.

Can the referred action stand alone?

Yes.

The two projects are approximately 2.2km apart and to be delivered with separate timeframes, separate government funding sources and separate construction tenders (and thus likely separate contractors).

Pending the EPBC Act referral determination, the related action (Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road) may be tendered for construction first, whilst approvals for the referred action (Williams Road to Western Branch Road) are being finalised.

Overall, the referred action (Williams Road to Western Branch Road) does not require the related action (Sallwood Court and Turnbull Road) to be taken before or after the proposed action to be viable, therefore it is a standalone action.

Are the referred action and related actions co-dependent

No.

The two projects are not co-dependent and will be delivered as distinct packages from TMR.

Each Project will proceed under its own delivery framework, with separate contract tendering processes and timeframes, specifically:

- The referred action, Williams Road to Western Branch Road project – proposed to commence between 2027 – 2028.
- The related action, Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road – scheduled for construction in 2027.

The separation in government funding, timeframes and procurement confirm that the two projects are operationally and financially independent and neither rely upon the completion or progression of the other.

In addition, the Williams Road to Western Branch Road Project can operate independently (indefinitely) without the construction of the Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road Project.

The separate assessment and referral of Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road is not anticipated to influence the potential environmental impacts considered in Williams Road to Western Branch Road Project.

What is the timeframe between the referred action and the related action?

The proposed timeframes are shown below for the referred action and related action:

- Referred action - Williams Road to Western Branch Road
 - Initial Planning: 2014-2015
 - Preliminary Design: 2023
 - Detailed Design: 2024-2025
 - Estimated construction: 2027/2028
- Related action - Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road:
 - Initial Planning: 2014-2015
 - Preliminary Design: 2023
 - Detailed Design: 2024-2025
 - Estimated construction: 2027

What is the geographical relationship between the referred action and the related action?

The two projects are located within two sections of Kin Kin Road, approximately 2.2km apart:

- Referred action: Williams Road to Western Branch Road – located at chainage 37.8-39.6km.
- Related action: Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road – located at chainage 41.78-42.37km.

Is there an overall plan or vision for the larger action and does that plan encompass the referred action?

Both projects, Williams Road to Western Branch Road, chainage 37.8km-39.6km (this Project) and Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road, chainage 41.78km-42.37km form part of expected upgrades to Kin Kin Road, involving widening to facilitate increased quarry traffic and address safety concerns. However there is no overall plan in existence with planning documentation for a number of related actions.

Williams Road to Western Branch Road is not in scope of the Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road project (and vice versa) and therefore is not within the same planning documentation or design drawings.

Are the actions authorised by a single local government or State/Territory permit, licence or other authorisation?

Both the referred action (Williams Road to Western Branch Road) and the related action (Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road) will be delivered by Queensland State Government (TMR). However, they are not authorised by a single local government or state permit, licence or other authorisation.

Will the action be financed from a single funding source?

No, the two projects will be delivered by separate government funding. TMR has secured separate funding for each project to allow flexibility in response to changing economic conditions and budgets, risk management, local priorities while minimising disruptions to the community.

Williams Road to Western Branch Road has its own individual project number and is funded under the Queensland Transport and Road Investment Program (QTRIP) with a budget of \$25.2 million (Investment ID 2383346) under the State Road Network Upgrades program.

Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road has its own individual project number and is funded under the Queensland Transport and Road Investment Program (QTRIP) with a budget of \$12.5 million (Investment ID 2383345) under the State Road Network Upgrades program.

Criteria 2 –Determine if the Minister’s discretion not to accept the referral should be exercised

Can the impacts of Part 3 matters only be assessed through the consideration of a larger action

Separate referral of the action and the related action would not result in inadequate consideration of the projects’ impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

There are considerable differences in impacts to MNES for each Project:

- The referred action, Williams Road to Western Branch Road – has been assessed as **likely** to have significant impacts on MNES (Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC, threatened flora (*Xanthostemon oppositifolius*) and threatened fauna (*Mixophyes iteratus*)). The Project will be referred under the EPBC Act.
- The related action, Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road – has been assessed as **unlikely** to have significant impact on any MNES. TMR has undertaken a precautionary approach and have referred the Project under the EPBC Act.

Will the referral of a series of single actions result in the larger action being effectively taken without the need for an approval

No, the projects are not co-dependent.

Each project has been designed to be independently viable as separate packages and can proceed in isolation without reliance on the other action for functionality, funding or delivery.

Based on the assessment that significant impacts on MNES are considered ‘likely’, the referred project is expected to be a ‘controlled action’ under the EPBC Act, potentially requiring further assessments and approval by DCCEEW. Whereas the related project is likely to be determined a ‘not a controlled action’ as no significant impacts on MNES were identified.

The referral of these actions as separate projects does not result in a larger action being undertaken without approval, as each action will be assessed in accordance with requirements under the EPBC Act.

Is it preferable to assess and approve the larger action as a whole?

Separate referral or split referral will not prevent sufficient assessment of the impacts of a larger action and that splitting the actions will not reduce the ability to achieve the objects of the EPBC Act.

By progressing with the related action (Sallwood Court to Turnbull Road), the proponent will be in a position to act on the safety concerns sooner with regards to the deteriorating condition of the road, which would not be the case if the larger action was referred. It is expected that the referred action (Williams Road to Western Branch Road) would be subject to further assessment and approval, if determined necessary by DCCEEW.

Policy considerations

As standalone projects, both projects are consistent with the objectives of the EPBC Act as mentioned above.

Another related project:

In addition to the referred and related projects that are discussed above, a previous project was undertaken by TMR on Kin Kin Road. This project, referred under the EPBC Act as Referral 2021/9116, involved the widening of pavement and shoulder along Kin Kin Road, Turnbull Road to Williams Road, between Chainage 39.1km to Chainage 40.35km.

The referral (2021/9116) was assessed by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), which determined on 3 February 2022 that the proposed action was 'not a controlled action'. The construction of this Project was completed in 2023.

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

Commonwealth requirements

A self-assessment of significant impacts has been undertaken for the Project and determined that the Project is **likely** to result in a significant impact to MNES. Given this outcome, the proponent has referred the project to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for formal assessment.

The following Commonwealth legislation is applicable:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- Environmental Offsets Policy 2012 under the EPBC Act

TMR process

The Project has followed TMR's internal assessment process.

Ecological surveys were undertaken for the Project to identify vegetation communities, fauna habitat and threatened species and to support ecological impact assessment. The outcomes and assessment are detailed in the Ecological Assessment Report (EcAR) (Arup 2025) (refer to **Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).

A Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025) (Refer to **Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**) was prepared for the project to document the results from the significant impact assessments (SIAs) undertaken against the Department of Environment's Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (DoE, 2013) for all MNES protected under the EPBC Act that are identified as having 'known' or 'high' likelihood of occurrence from the likelihood of occurrence assessment.

A Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (**Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**) was prepared for the project to identify and assess potential impacts on MNES that are relevant to the project.

State Planning Requirements

The following Queensland legislation is also applicable for the project:

- *Planning Act 2016* and Planning Regulation 2017 - Queensland's principal planning and development legislation. It provides a framework for integrated and coordinated assessment of new developments to ensure its impacts are managed in a way that is ecologically sustainable.
- The *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VM Act) regulates the clearing of regulated vegetation in Queensland, such as the clearing of mapped remnant and/or high-value regrowth vegetation. Where the proposed action is 'government supported transport infrastructure', the clearing of vegetation for the infrastructure is exempt from requiring a development approval under Schedule 21, Part 1, Item 14(b) of the Planning Regulation 2017.
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act)- the EP Act provides for protection of Queensland's environment while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends. TMR is subject to the general environmental duties under the EP Act. Application of TMR's Environmental Processes Manual could be expected to enable TMR to demonstrate that it meets the general environmental duty under the Act.
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (ACH Act) – Under the ACH Act, all persons have a duty of care to take all reasonable and practical measures not to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. A Cultural Heritage Field Agreement (CHFA) (dated 21 December 2023) was obtained for the Project between TMR and the Kabi Kabi First Nation Traditional Owners Native Title Claim Group. TMR to implement its technical specification MRTS 51 Environmental Management for project activities, which set out the process for the discovery of potential cultural heritage finds.
- *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Biosecurity Act) – this Act provides biosecurity measures for the management of restricted and invasive plants or animals. There is a general obligation under the Biosecurity Act

whereby all people are responsible for taking reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks.

- *Nature Conservation Act* (NC Act) – this Act provides for the protection of native wildlife and regulates the clearing of native plants. Protected plant clearing permit and Species Management Programs (low risk and high risk) will be required to protect and manage protected plants and animal breeding places.
- *Fisheries Act 1994* (Fisheries Act) – this Act provides for the regulation, conservation and enhancement of the state's fisheries resources and fish habitats. There are a number of mapped waterways under the Fisheries Act intersect with the Project area that are subject to regulation for waterway barrier works (i.e. in Kin Creek (west branch) mapped as an amber waterway and two tributaries of Kin Kin Creek mapped as green waterways). Culvert works are proposed to be undertaken on the two mapped green waterways, no works proposed on the amber waterway.
- *Queensland Environmental Offsets Act 2014* (EO Act) - The purpose of environmental offsets is to compensate for unavoidable impacts to particular matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES) or local environmental significance. As such, the EO Act outlines the framework for environmental offsets, when they are required and how they are to be delivered.
- *Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993* - A native title assessment will be conducted for the project where an interest is required on land where native title has not been extinguished, the requirements of the *Native Title Act and the Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993* must be met before tenure or other project approvals can be granted.
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* – this Act provides the legislative framework for identifying, protecting and conserving Queensland's cultural heritage and protect the places or objects of state cultural heritage significance, including those valued for their historic, aesthetic, architectural, scientific or social values. No sites listed on the Queensland Heritage Register are located within the Project area.

The Project will require the following environmental approvals under the State legislation:

- Clearing permit (protected plants) for impacting threatened flora species protected under the *Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act). The Clearing permit (protected plants) will be supported by a Flora Survey Report and Impact Management Plan (IMP).
- Species Management Program (SMPs) – High risk of impacts under the NC Act for managing impacts to animal breeding places of threatened fauna species.
- Development approval for operational work for waterway barrier work may be required, if the proposed culvert upgrades at the green waterways (Unnamed tributaries of Kin Kin Creek (West Branch) do not meet the accepted development requirements (ADRs). An assessment against the ADRs will be required to be completed for the culvert upgrade works proposed at the mapped green waterways.

Local Council requirements

Noosa Council is a key stakeholder in the project. However, the Project is not subject to local government planning approval.

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. *

TMR is actively engaging with the community, stakeholders and Traditional Owners through planning and delivery phases of the project.

Community consultation

- TMR has conducted two formal stakeholder consultation periods, inviting residents of Kin Kin Road to meet individually, typically at a pre-arranged venue near to the project site. These periods occurred during the initial design stage, in mid-2023, and towards the end of the detailed design stage in mid-2024. Through the detailed design process, the number of partial resumptions has been reduced from an initial estimate of 23, down to eight.
- Reactions amongst the eight impacted households range from being highly engaged and proactive, through to stakeholders who display little engagement in the process, but are willing to allow the project the access and land it requires. Most residents are keen to understand the detail, with concerns typically focused on impacts from the loss of vegetation and increased capacity for heavy haulage vehicles associated with a nearby quarry. However, there is no significant objection to the project either amongst the stakeholders impacted by partial resumptions or those with other impacts, such as driveway improvements and fence relocations.
- The TMR Property Acquisition Team continues to liaise with the impacted property owners on matters of resumptions.
- Community and key stakeholder engagement continues. A Communication and Engagement Plan has been prepared for the project outlining the consultation objectives to be implemented throughout the development and construction phase. This plan will be regularly updated to support environmental assessments, design and construction, through to practical completion of the project. Consultation and engagement will occur with impacted landowners, adjacent landowners and the wider community, government agencies, First Nations People and other relevant and interested stakeholders and community members.

Consultation and engagement with First Nations People

Consultation with the Kabi Kabi First Nations People commenced in 2023. Detailed cultural heritage surveys, field inspections and agreements with the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation were undertaken during the development phase. Further cultural heritage monitoring by Kabi Kabi First Nations People will occur during the construction phase.

A Cultural Heritage Field Agreement (CHFA) (dated 21 December 2023) was obtained between TMR and the Kabi Kabi First Nation Traditional Owners Native Title Claim Group.

No Registered Aboriginal Cultural heritage sites were identified within the project area.

A Cultural Heritage Field Agreement (CHFA) (dated 21 December 2023) was obtained for the Project between TMR and the Kabi Kabi First Nation Traditional Owners Native Title Claim Group. Key findings from the CHFA are summarised below:

- The Parties agree that TMR may proceed with all activities necessary for or ancillary to the Project in accordance with the Management arrangements described in Table 3 of the CHFA
- TMR will follow its internal procedure for managing discovery of potential Indigenous Cultural heritage finds – the TMR Cultural Heritage Discovery Process of ‘Find-Stop-Notify-Manage’
- Management recommendations from the CHFA require that all construction contractors and personnel and relevant stakeholders will receive appropriate cultural heritage induction in accordance with TMR’s standards.

The successful contractor must contact TMR’s Cultural Heritage Officer for advice regarding TMR cultural heritage induction.

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.

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	39407690291
Organisation name	Department of Transport and Main Roads
Organisation address	4000 QLD

Referring party details

Name	Thomas Gibney
Job title	Senior Environmental Officer
Phone	(07) 5459 1790
Email	thomas.l.gibney@tmr.qld.gov.au
Address	Floor 1, 50 Wises Road, Buderim Qld 4558

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 39407690291

Organisation name Department of Transport and Main Roads

Organisation address 4000 QLD

Person proposing to take the action details

Name Graham Chambers

Job title Team Leader - Preconstruction - North Coast Region

Phone (07) 5475 2830

Email graham.j.chambers@tmr.qld.gov.au

Address Floor 1, 50 Wisers Road, Buderim QLD 4556

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? *

No

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. *

TMR operates under the guiding principles of its Environmental Sustainability Policy (TMR 2021) and in accordance with its overarching Environmental Management System, and Environmental Processes Manual (TMR 2023), which applies a risk-based approach to identify, assess and manage environmental risks through all phases of infrastructure delivery. The Environmental Processes Manual is available on the TMR website. TMR has not been subject to proceedings under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. Furthermore TMR has not been subject to any proceedings under State law.

TMR have previously referred a variety of actions across Queensland. Some examples include:

- 2024/09972 Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line
- 2024/09896 Gairloch Safety Realignment (Bruce Highway)
- 2024/09886 Bruce Highway (Gympie – Maryborough), Tiaro Bypass, construct four lane bypass
- 2024/09821 Bruce Highway (Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road) Upgrade
- 2024/09800 Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River) Upgrade
- 2023/09701 Warrego Highway/Mount Crosby Road Interchange Upgrade
- 2022/09439 Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail
- 2022/09348 Loganlea Station Relocation and Park 'n' Ride Expansion
- 2022/09277 Intersection Upgrades (Sunshine Motorway/Sugar Rd and Mooloolaba Rd)
- 2022/09191 Rockhampton – Yeppoon Road Upgrade

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

TMR is not a corporation or company for the purposes of the *Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001*.

TMR operates under the guiding principles of its Environmental Policy and Environmental Management System. The policy outlines how TMR will management impacts on natural, human and cultural environments by:

- meeting the statutory obligations of all relevant environmental and heritage legislation as a minimum standard
- considering the effects on stakeholders and long-term relationships when carrying out statutory obligations, and seeking feedback on performance
- acting as a good government agency and adopting a proactive approach to environmental and heritage management
- improving awareness of environmental and heritage management processes, standards and responsibilities among TMR's employees and contractors
- ensuring the approach to the management of environmental and heritage impacts embrace the hierarchy of "avoid, minimise and mitigate" in a financially feasible manner.

TMR undertakes works in accordance with their internal Environmental Processes Manual. This manual is based on the Plan-Do-Check-Act model in AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016 and is scalable and adaptable for all TMR projects. Further information about the TMR's environmental management is available at: <http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Community-and-environment/Environmental-management>

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 39407690291

Organisation name Department of Transport and Main Roads

Organisation address 4000 QLD

Proposed designated proponent details

Name Graham Chambers

Job title Team Leader - Preconstruction - North Coast Region

Phone (07) 5475 2830

Email graham.j.chambers@tmr.qld.gov.au

Address Floor 1, 50 Wises Road, Buderim QLD 4556

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	39407690291
Organisation name	Department of Transport and Main Roads
Organisation address	4000 QLD
Representative's name	Thomas Gibney
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Officer
Phone	(07) 5459 1790
Email	thomas.l.gibney@tmr.qld.gov.au
Address	Floor 1, 50 Wises Road, Buderim Qld 4558

✔ 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	39407690291
Organisation name	Department of Transport and Main Roads
Organisation address	4000 QLD
Representative's name	Graham Chambers
Representative's job title	Team Leader - Preconstruction - North Coast Region
Phone	(07) 5475 2830
Email	graham.j.chambers@tmr.qld.gov.au
Address	Floor 1, 50 Wises Road, Buderim QLD 4556

✔ 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

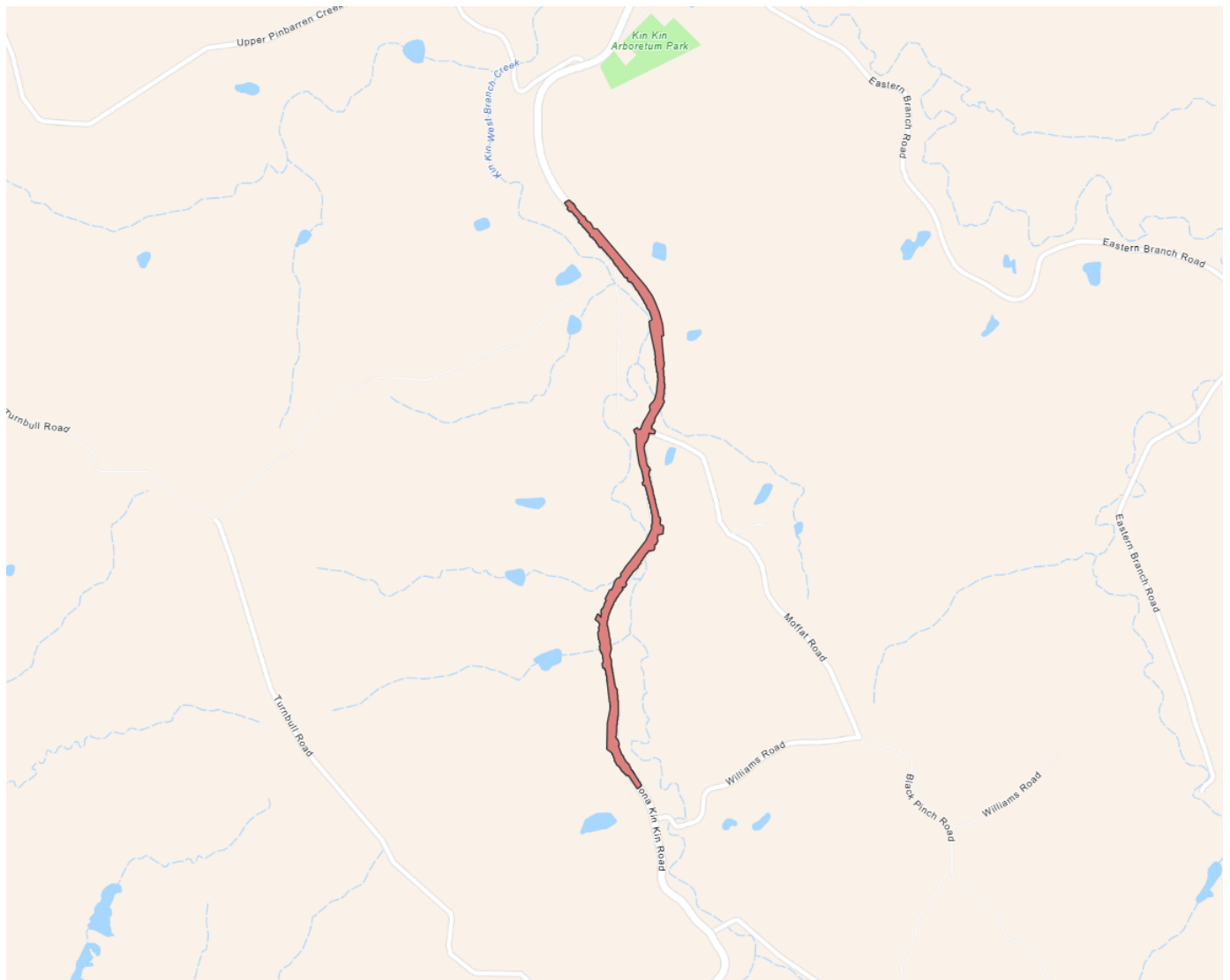
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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: 3.94 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 3.94 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Kin Kin Road, chainage 37.80 - 39.60 km, Pinbarren in the Noosa Shire.

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 Project predominantly occurs on state-controlled road corridor.

The Project is located along the existing Kin Kin Road and intersects with the following land parcels:

- Freehold tenure – Lot 1RP170387
- Freehold tenure – Lot 1RP52378
- Freehold tenure – Lot 21SP313910
- Kin Kin Road – state-controlled road corridor type parcel

The following easements are mapped adjacent to the Project area:

- Lot ARP885213
- Lot ERP903883

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Project is located on Kin Kin Road, in the locality of Pinbarren in the local government area of Noosa Shire Council, which is approximately 13km northwest of Cooroy (**Attachment 1 Project area and local context map**).

The adjacent land on both sides the road corridor is zoned as 'rural' under the Noosa Shire Council Plan 2020. The surrounding environment primarily composed of agricultural and rural land uses. The surrounds of the Project area are characterised by undulating rural landscape.

The vegetation observed during the field survey has been categorised into cabinet timber plantation, mixed eucalyptus open forest and disturbed rainforest and native rainforest vegetation communities. The balance of the vegetation within the Survey area comprises of cleared areas, paddocks or gardens dominated by exotic species.

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

The Project area is primarily situated along Kin Kin Road, which is a state-controlled road. The Project will not alter the current functional use of the road or adjacent rural properties.

The surrounding environment is primarily composed of agricultural and rural residential land parcels. The landscape is already fragmented from the road and adjacent rural properties.

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

There are large areas of vegetation present along the Project area, on both sides of the road corridor, which are interspersed with cleared areas.

The following protected areas are located within 5km of the Project area however is not anticipated to be impacted by the proposed works:

- Woondum Conservation Park – located approximately 3km west from the Project area.

Kin Kin Creek (west branch) is a watercourse as defined by the *Water Act 2000* and is a mapped amber waterway under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

All other features crossed by the existing road are considered drainage features under the *Water Act 2000*. Two unnamed tributaries of Kin Kin Creek (west branch) which intersect with the Project area are mapped green waterways under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

There are few wetlands throughout the Survey area. A small area of sub-dominant wetland (51 to 80%) is mapped adjacent to the road corridor, east of Kin Kin Road and intersects the road corridor at the southern end of 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 terrain is generally steep and undulating with tight existing horizontal and vertical curves. There is no or limited shoulders along the existing road.

The elevation of the Project area is approximately 80m AHD.

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.

Further details on the ecological assessment survey findings are provided in **Section 3.2, pages 8-12, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)** and **Section 3.4, pages 10-11, Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**.

A Likelihood of Occurrence (LoO) assessment was completed for the Project and documented in **Appendix B (B-1), Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**.

Significant Impact Assessments (SIAs) have been undertaken for the MNES identified as known or having a high LoO within the Project area. The SIAs are documented in **Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

A desktop EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) identified 24 threatened flora species, 36 threatened fauna species and four TECs, as having the potential to occur within a 2km buffer from the Project area. The EPBC PMST can be found in 'Appendix A Desktop Searches' of **Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**.

The key results from the ecological surveys are summarised below.

Ecological field survey methodology

Timing

- Flora and vegetation surveys:
 - 28-29 September 2023; 6 October 2023
 - 26-28 March 2024
 - 12-14, 17-19 March 2025
- Biocondition surveys: 22-24 October 2024
- Fauna and fauna habitat surveys: 29 and 30 March 2023; 10 October 2023
- Aquatic ecology survey: 24 November 2023

The latest flora surveys were undertaken in March 2025, including flora surveys in accordance with the Flora Survey Guidelines – Protected Plants (2020). The fauna surveys were previously completed for the Project in October 2023.

Flora survey

- A flora survey in accordance with the Flora Survey Guidelines
- Assessment of the suitability of the vegetation to provide habitat for threatened flora species listed under the NC Act and/or EPBC Act
- Quaternary surveys within remnant vegetation to confirm the mapped regional ecosystems and high value regrowth and to characterise the floristic composition and structure of vegetation communities.
- Vegetation categorisation surveys to characterise the vegetation into field validated vegetation communities based on dominant flora species and vegetation structure.
- Vegetation community delineation surveys to validate the extent of the on-ground vegetation communities.
- Assessment of the vegetation communities to confirm if they meet the key diagnostic characteristics and condition thresholds of TECs from desktop assessment.
- Recording areas with high density invasive plant species listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Fauna survey

- Targeted surveys for giant barred frog were undertaken over two nights (29-30 March 2023) in suitable habitat along Kin Kin Creek. The surveys comprised of spotlighting and aural call play-back surveys undertaken in accordance with the Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Frogs and the Conservation Advice for *Mixophyes iteratus* (Giant barred frog).
- Recording all incidental observations of all fauna species, including threatened fauna species.

- Habitat assessments to confirm the suitability of the vegetation to provide habitat to threatened fauna identified in the desktop assessment.
- Identifying breeding habitat/places for threatened fauna (including for colonial breeding species).
- Recording restricted invasive animal species listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Aquatic survey

- Aquatic habitats to confirm habitat potential for threatened aquatic species.
- Bed and banks, substrate, observed hydrology and hydraulics of all major waterways – Kin Kin Creek and the associated tributaries.
- AUSRIVAS Bioassessment Scoring.
- Aquatic plants in-stream and along the banks.

Field survey results

Field validated vegetation communities

The vegetation communities observed during the field survey are cabinet timber plantation, disturbed rainforest, native rainforest and mixed eucalypt open forest (see **Section 4.2.2, pages 18-23 of Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).

Nationally threatened flora species

The following threatened flora species were identified within the Survey area and Project area. Refer to **Attachment 5 Field validated vegetation and threatened flora map** for the map of threatened flora species.

These flora species are assessed as having a known LoO:

- *Bosistoa transversa* (three-leaved bosistoa) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act – 3 individuals observed in the Survey area (see **Section 5.3, pages 37-38, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).
- *Davidsonia jerseyana* (Davidson's plum) – endangered under the EPBC Act – 2 individuals observed in the Survey area (see **Section 5.3, pages 37-38, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).
- *Macadamia integrifolia* (macadamia nut) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act – 13 individuals observed in the Survey area, with 3 individuals found in the Project area and are anticipated to be directly impacted by the works (refer to **Section 5.3, pages 37-38, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).
- *Macadamia tetraphylla* (rough shelled bush nut) - vulnerable under the EPBC Act – 7 individuals observed within the Survey area (see **Section 5.3, pages 37-38, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).
- *Rhodamnia rubescens* (scrub turpentine) – critically endangered under the EPBC Act – 39 individuals observed in the Survey area, with 4 individuals found in the Project area and are anticipated to be directly impacted (see **Section 5.3, pages 37-38, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).
- *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* (native guava) – critically endangered under the EPBC Act – 602 individuals observed in the Survey area (see **Section 5.3, pages 37-38, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).
- *Xanthostemon oppositifolius* (southern penda) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act – 2589 individuals observed in the Survey area, with 467 individuals found in the Project area and are anticipated to be directly impacted (see **Section 5.3, pages 37-38, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).

The vegetation communities within the Survey area also provide suitable habitat for the following threatened flora species and therefore this species was assessed as having a high LoO:

- *Macadamia ternifolia* (small-fruited Queensland nut) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act (see **Section 5.3, pages 37-38, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).

Nationally threatened ecological communities

The Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia threatened ecological community (TEC), critically endangered under the EPBC Act is the only TEC identified to be potentially present on site, associated with the native rainforest vegetation community (Refer to **Attachment 6 Threatened ecological community map**). An assessment has been undertaken to confirm if the rainforest vegetation community conforms to the key diagnostic characteristics contained in the Commonwealth Listing Advice on Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia (TSSC 2011). identified the native rainforest vegetation conforms to the key diagnostic characteristics of this TEC (se **Section 4.2.3, pages 23-25, Attachment 2**

Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)).

Nationally threatened fauna species

The following threatened fauna species were directly or indirectly observed during field surveys (see **Section 6.2.1, page 43, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)** and therefore these species are assessed as having a known LoO within the Project area:

- Black-breasted Button-quail (*Turnix melanogaster*), 'vulnerable' under the EPBC Act: one confirmed direct sighting and one possible sighting were observed in separate locations (see **Section 6.2.1.1, page 45, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).
- Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*), vulnerable under the EPBC Act: seven male callings were identified in the location close to the bridge that runs underneath Kin Kin Road, associated with the Kin Kin Creek (west branch) (see **Section 6.2.1.2, page 45, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).

No koalas were observed during the field surveys, however suitable habitat for koala is present within the Project area on the eastern side of the road corridor. Koalas were assessed as having a high LoO (see **Section 6.2.1.3 page 45, Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).

Refer to **Attachment 7 Threatened fauna habitat and sightings map** for the observations and suitable habitat for threatened fauna.

Aquatic flora and fauna

The LoO assessment identified aquatic fauna (i.e. fish and reptile species) have a low LoO due to limited suitable habitat identified in the Survey area and the lack of permanent flowing waters or deep refuge waterholes (see **Section 7.3, page 64 of Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).

Refer to **Section 7.2.3, page 64 of Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)** for the list of aquatic plants recorded from the field survey.

Invasive flora and fauna

Within the field validated vegetation communities dominated by native species in the canopy, weeds were generally present in low densities. However, weeds were present in higher densities along the edges of these vegetation communities where road, tracks, and driveways intersected the vegetation communities. Weeds were common in the disturbed rainforest vegetation community.

Restricted invasive plants listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* recorded within the Survey area include *Asparagus aethiopicus*, *Baccharis halimifolia*, *Celtis sinensis*, *Cinnamomum camphora*, *Lantana camara*, *Ligustrum lucidum*, *Dolichandra unguis-cati*, *Schinus terebinthifolius* and *Sphagnetocola trilobata* (see **Section 8, page 65 of Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).

Cane toad (*Rhinella marina*) and pig (feral) (*Sus scrofa*) - pest fauna species listed under the *Biosecurity Act* were directly or indirectly observed during the field survey (see **Section 8, page 65** of **Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).

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

The vegetation, which includes non-remnant, regional ecosystems (REs), and high value regrowth vegetation observed during the field surveys are categorised into four vegetation communities (refer to **Section 4.2.2 pages 18-25 of Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**):

- cabinet timber plantation
 - observed to be dominated by *Flindersia brayleyana* with co-dominant and associated rainforest species including *Elaeocarpus grandis* (blue quandong), *Araucaria cunninghamii* (hoop pine), *Grevillia robusta* (silky oak), and *Argyrodendron* sp. Kin Kin
 - the average canopy height was 18m and average canopy cover was between 70-90%
 - the majority of individuals were present in planted linear strips spaced evenly apart and as a relatively even aged cohort.
 - there were evidence of natural recruitment in the form of seedlings and juveniles
 - the sparse understory comprised rejuvenating canopy species as well as *Cryptocarya* spp., *Allocasuarina* spp., *Acacia* spp., *Glochidion* spp., *Neolitsea dealbata* and *Acmena smithii*.
 - the sparse ground layer was typically dominated by native species including *Dianella* spp., *Ottochloa* spp., *Adiantum* spp., *Lomandra* spp., *Pteridium esculentum*, *Entolasia stricta*.
 - due to the dominance of species not endemic to Southeast Queensland in the canopy layer, this vegetation community does not conform to any known TECs.
- native rainforest
 - observed to be present associated with the mapped extent of the mixed polygon of RE 12.3.11/12.3.2/12.3.1a/12.3.4, RE 12.11.10/12.11.3/12.11.16/12.11.2
 - observed to be dominated by native rainforest species including *Elaeocarpus grandis* (blue quandong), *Agathis robusta* (kauri pine), *Litsea leefeana* (brown bolly gum), *Argyrodendron* sp. Kin Kin, *Flindersia schottiana* (bumpy ash), and *Xanthostemon oppositifolius* (Southern penda).
 - the average canopy height was 25m with a range of between 22 – 28m, and typically had an average canopy cover of between 70% - 90%
 - the mid-dense to dense sub-canopy/understory typically comprised rejuvenating canopy species as well as *Litsea leefeana* (brown bolly gum), *Neolitsea dealbata* (white bolly gum), *Endiandra discolour* (domatia bush), *Cryptocarya* spp., *Acmena smithii* (lilly pilly), and *Commersonia bartramia* (brown kurrajong)
 - the ground layer was typically dominated by native species including *Dianella* spp., *Ottochloa* spp., *Lomandra* spp., *Pteridium esculentum* (bracken), *Entolasia stricta*, and *Christella* spp.
 - the native rainforest vegetation community conforms to the key diagnostic characteristics of the Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC.
- disturbed rainforest vegetation
 - observed to be present associated with the mapped extent of the mixed polygon of RE 12.3.11/12.3.2/12.3.1a/12.3.4, RE 12.11.10/12.11.3/12.11.16/12.11.2 and non-remnant areas in the Survey area
 - this vegetation typically comprised narrow linear strips of vegetation along the existing roads; however, it also extended along creek lines
 - observed to be dominated and/or co-dominated by the exotic species *Cinnamomum camphora*, and native species including *Commersonia bartramia*, *Elaeocarpus grandis*, *Jagera pseudorhus*, *Litsea leefeana*, *Lophostemon suaveolens*, *Flindersia schottiana*, *Acacia disparrima* and *Glochidion* spp.
 - the average canopy height was 12m with a range between 8m – 18m, and typically had an average canopy cover of between 70% – 90%
 - the understory was variable and typically comprised rejuvenating canopy species with *Alphitonia excelsa* (soap tree), *Allocasuarina* spp., *Ficus coronata* (sandpaper fig), and *Acmena smithii* (lilly pilly).
 - the ground layer was typically dominated by native species including *Dianella* spp., *Ottochloa* spp., *Lomandra* spp., *Pteridium esculentum*, *Entolasia stricta*, and *Parsonsia straminea*;

however, some areas supported a heath understorey.

- due to the dominance and/or co-dominance of the exotic species *Cinnamomum camphora* (camphor laurel), this vegetation community does not conform to any known TECs
- mixed eucalypt open forest
 - observed to be present associated with mapped extent of the mixed polygon of RE 12.11.10/12.11.3/12.11.16/12.11.2
 - observed to be synonymous with RE 12.11.3 and observed to be dominated by *Eucalyptus siderophloia*, *Corymbia intermedia*, *Lophostemon confertus*, and *Eucalyptus microcorys*.
 - the average canopy height was 23m, with a range of between 19-26m and average canopy cover of between 60-70%
 - the mid-dense to dense understory was variable and typically comprised rejuvenating canopy species with *Alphitonia excelsa*, *Allocasuarina spp.*, *Acacia spp.*, and *Glochidion spp.*
 - the mid-dense to sparse ground layer was typically dominated by native species including *Dianella spp.*, *Ottochloa spp.*, *Lomandra spp.*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Entolasia stricta*, and *Parsonsia straminea*.
 - this vegetation has the potential to conform to the Subtropical Eucalypt Floodplain Forest and Woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and South East Queensland Bioregions TEC; however, is not present on alluvial (floodplain) geology thereby excluding this vegetation community from conforming to this TEC.

The balance of the vegetation within the Survey area comprises either cleared areas, paddocks, or gardens dominated by exotic species, which have not been mapped nor discussed further due to their negligible ecological values.

Refer to **Attachment 5 Field validated vegetation and threatened flora map** for the map of field validated vegetation communities.

The Project area is generally underlain by sedimentary rock, with the mapped dominant soil type is dermosols based on the Australian Soil Classification (Refer to **Attachment 8 Australian soil classification map**). Most of the rainforest vegetation communities identified on site were observed to be present on alluvial soils and basaltically enriched soils (refer to **Table 4-5, Section 4.2.3, page 23 of Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**).

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.

Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

There are no Commonwealth Heritage places or other places with heritage values within the Project area or the surrounding 2km buffer zone.

Searches of the Australian Heritage Database, Queensland Heritage Register or TMR heritage datasets has not returned any results within the Project area or surrounding 100m buffer.

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

Queensland *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* provides for the recognition, protection, and conservation of Indigenous cultural heritage in the state. The Aboriginal Party under this Act for the area is the Kabi Kabi First Nation Traditional Owners Native Title Claim Group.

A Cultural Heritage Risk Assessment (CHRA) was completed for the Project by TMR in March 2023.

The CHRA found that the Project has variable risk allocations to cultural heritage, including:

- Low risk category 3 – in areas where significant ground and vegetation disturbance has occurred from the construction of the existing road formation. No Aboriginal or historical cultural heritage was identified within this area.
- High risk category 4 – in areas surrounding the existing road formation where vegetation clearing extents have been identified to have an impact on mapped regulated vegetation. No Aboriginal or historical cultural heritage has been identified within these areas but there is possibility that previously unidentified artefacts could be discovered. Consultation with the Aboriginal Party is required in these areas to inform appropriate mitigation measures.

A Cultural Heritage Field Agreement (CHFA) (dated 21 December 2023) was obtained for the Project between TMR and the Kabi Kabi First Nation Traditional Owners Native Title Claim Group.

Other heritage value

There is a dry stone wall, which is not formally listed as a local or state heritage place that are located on the western side of the road corridor, approximately 300m north of Moffat Road. There are no statutory implications for the dry stone wall in the context of the Project, however, an archival recording has been sought by Noosa Shire Council for TMR to assess the wall in more detail and identify guidance on how to manage and preserve the wall. The aim of the archival recording is to create a permanent record of the dry stone wall prior to any impact as a result of the proposed works. The archival recording forms part of the conservation best practice and informs understanding of the cultural heritage significance and history of the place.

The archival recording has been prepared by Niche Environmental and Heritage (dated 10 March 2025) in accordance with the DETSI's Archival recording of heritage places guideline.

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 lies within the Noosa River catchment that covers approximately 854 km², with a stream network of approximately 1,505km. The Noosa River catchment headwaters arise from the Cooloola Section of the Great Sandy National Park and flows into Laguna Bay before entering the Coral Sea. Most of the catchment is protected by conservation and natural areas, including large protected areas, nature refuges and other recreational and cultural areas such as council reserves, together with the over-arching Noosa Biosphere Reserve. The main tributaries of the Noosa River are Teewah, Kin Kin, Coolloothin and Ringtail creeks. The Noosa River flows through and/or receives water from the lakes of Como, Cooloola, Cootharaba, Coorobah, Doonella and Weyba. The Project lies within the Kin Kin Creek sub-catchment.

The headwaters of Kin Kin Creek receive very high rainfall over the hard geologies of Wahapunga Range, together with small basalt outcrops. There is alluvium along the channels, which provides for some local groundwater recharge and there are surface (areas and lines) and terrestrial groundwater dependent ecosystems. Kin Kin Creek sub-catchment is used for grazing on native pastures and rural residential, together with irrigated perennial horticulture and grazing on irrigated pastures. Therefore, most of this sub-catchment is cleared; however, areas of eucalyptus-dominated communities, and rainforest and scrub remain. Due to vegetation clearing, lower elevations are prone to flooding from fast flows and limited infiltration over hard geologies and steep topography.

Kin Kin Creek (west branch) is a watercourse as defined by the *Water Act 2000*. All other features crossed by the existing road are considered drainage features under the *Water Act 2000*. Kin Kin Creek (west branch) is also mapped as a moderate risk (amber) waterway under the *Fisheries Act 1994* with two unnamed tributaries mapped as low risk (green) waterways under the *Fisheries Act 1994*. (**Attachment 9 Waterway barrier works and GDEs map**).

Groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE) are ecosystems that require access to groundwater on a permanent or intermittent basis in order to maintain their communities of plants, animals, ecological processes and ecological services. GDEs have been mapped along Kin Kin Creek (west branch) and its tributaries within the Project area. The mapped GDES are associated with vegetation communities or threatened species which rely upon permanent or intermittent groundwater connectivity (refer to **Attachment 9 Waterway barrier works and GDEs map**).

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	No	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.

—

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.

*

The closest World heritage areas of Queensland is K'gari (Fraser Island), which is approximately 60km north of the Project area. Due to the considerable distance, the action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact on this MNES.

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.

—

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 or in proximity to the project area, therefore the action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

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.

—

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.

*

The Great Sandy Strait Ramsar wetland is the closest Ramsar wetland and is located approximately 30km north of the Project area. The Project area lies within the Noosa River catchment. The proposed works will not directly impact on any watercourse within the Mary River Catchment associated with the Great Sandy Strait Ramsar wetland. Therefore, the proposed action is unlikely to result in direct and/or indirect impacts given the considerable distance.

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	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Archidendron lovelliae</i>	Bacon Wood, Tulip Siris
No	No	<i>Argynnis hyperbius inconstans</i>	Australian Fritillary
No	No	<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i>	Hairy-joint Grass
No	No	<i>Baloghia marmorata</i>	Marbled Balogia, Jointed Baloghia
No	Yes	<i>Bosistoa transversa</i>	Three-leaved Bosistoa, Yellow Satinheart
No	No	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
No	No	<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat
No	No	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
No	No	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Coeranoscincus reticulatus</i>	Three-toed Snake-tooth Skink
No	No	<i>Coleus nitidus</i>	Nightcap Plectranthus, Silver Plectranthus
No	No	<i>Coleus omissus</i>	
No	No	<i>Cossinia australiana</i>	Cossinia
No	No	<i>Cryptostylis hunteriana</i>	Leafless Tongue-orchid
No	No	<i>Cupaniopsis shirleyana</i>	Wedge-leaf Tuckeroo
No	No	<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni</i>	Coxen's Fig-Parrot
No	No	<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
No	Yes	<i>Davidsonia jerseyana</i>	Davidson's Plum
No	No	<i>Delma torquata</i>	Adorned Delma, Collared Delma
No	No	<i>Elseya albagula</i>	Southern Snapping Turtle, White-throated Snapping Turtle
No	No	<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	Red Goshawk
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Floydia praealta</i>	Ball Nut, Possum Nut, Big Nut, Beefwood
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>	Squatter Pigeon (southern)
No	No	<i>Hemiaspis damelii</i>	Grey Snake
No	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot
No	No	<i>Litoria olongburensis</i>	Wallum Sedge Frog
Yes	Yes	<i>Macadamia integrifolia</i>	Macadamia Nut, Queensland Nut Tree, Smooth-shelled Macadamia, Bush Nut, Nut Oak
No	Yes	<i>Macadamia ternifolia</i>	Small-fruited Queensland Nut, Gympie Nut
No	Yes	<i>Macadamia tetraphylla</i>	Rough-shelled Bush Nut, Macadamia Nut, Rough-shelled Macadamia, Rough-leaved Queensland Nut
No	No	<i>Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi</i>	Pineapple Zamia
No	No	<i>Mixophyes fleayi</i>	Fleay's Frog
Yes	Yes	<i>Mixophyes iteratus</i>	Giant Barred Frog, Southern Barred Frog
No	No	<i>Nannoperca oxleyana</i>	Oxleyan Pygmy Perch
No	No	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider (southern and central)
No	No	<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
No	No	<i>Phaius australis</i>	Lesser Swamp-orchid
Yes	Yes	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
No	No	<i>Phyllodes imperialis smithersi</i>	Pink Underwing Moth
No	No	<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	Long-nosed Potoroo (northern)
No	No	<i>Pseudomugil mellis</i>	Honey Blue Eye, Honey Blue-eye
No	No	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox
Yes	Yes	<i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i>	Scrub Turpentine, Brown Malletwood
No	Yes	<i>Rhodomyrtus psidioides</i>	Native Guava
No	No	<i>Romnalda strobilacea</i>	
No	No	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	<i>Samadera bidwillii</i>	Quassia
No	No	<i>Sophora fraseri</i>	
No	No	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail
No	No	<i>Syzygium hodgkinsoniae</i>	Smooth-bark Rose Apple, Red Lilly Pilly
No	No	<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral Toadflax, Toadflax
No	No	<i>Triunia robusta</i>	Glossy Spice Bush
Yes	Yes	<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	Black-breasted Button-quail
Yes	Yes	<i>Xanthostemon oppositifolius</i>	Penda, Southern Penda, Luya's Hardwood

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Coastal Swamp Sclerophyll Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland
Yes	Yes	Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
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. *

SIAs have been undertaken for the MNES identified as either known or having a high likelihood of occurrence within the Project area. The outcomes from the SIAs are documented in **Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

Further details on the field findings and impacts on MNES are provided in **Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**.

Threatened ecological community

The 'critically endangered' Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC was the only TEC identified during the field survey and is anticipated to be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the Project. When considering impacts to TECs, the conservation advice for each TEC identifies that impacts to 'buffer zones' are required to be taken into consideration; however, they are not part of the TEC and are not an MNES (which would require an offset).

The buffer zone nominated in the conservation advice for the Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC is 50m.

The direct impacts (in hectares (ha)) to the TEC and its associated buffer zone (50m) are as below:

- Impacts to TEC within the Project area: 0.15 ha
- Impact to TEC buffer: 2.91 ha

Potential indirect impacts to TEC and its buffer vegetation could include the following if works are not appropriately controlled:

- Alteration to local hydrology which may result in a change of species composition
- Sedimentation of ground layer flora species which may result in a change of species composition
- Alterations to nutrient loads discharged into waterways/drainage lines which lead into the TEC, which may result in a change of species composition
- Impacts associated with chemical runoff (e.g. from weed control agent, hydrocarbons and other contaminants)
- Increased weed establishment and/or proliferation; which have the potential to result in the lowering of the condition thresholds of the vegetation community and the removal of Federal protection of the vegetation community
- Degradation of intact vegetation communities which has the potential of reducing patch size and has the potential of lowering of the patch size condition thresholds of the vegetation community and the removal of Federal protection of the vegetation community.

Further details regarding findings, impacts and mitigation measures for TEC are provided in **Section 5, pages 16-23 of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**.

A map of distribution of Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC is shown in **Attachment 6 Threatened ecological community map**.

Threatened flora

The Project is anticipated to directly/ indirectly impact the following threatened flora species through the removal of individuals or suitable habitat (in ha) that the species could inhabit.

- Direct impacts to three threatened flora species, including:
 - *Macadamia integrifolia* (macadamia nut) – 3 individuals directly impacted, 1.62 ha of suitable habitat will be impacted
 - *Rhodamnia rubescens* (scrub turpentine) – 4 individuals directly impacted, 1.65 ha of suitable habitat will be impacted
 - *Xanthostemon oppositifolius* (southern penda) – 467 individuals directly impacted, 1.65 ha of suitable habitat will be impacted
- Indirect impacts (impact to the species' suitable habitat) to five threatened flora species, including:

- *Bosistoa transversa* (three-leaved bosistoa) – 1.62 ha of suitable habitat will be impacted
- *Davidsonia jerseyana* (Davidson's plum) – no suitable habitat identified within Survey area despite two individuals found in Survey area
- *Macadamia ternifolia* (small fruited Queensland nut) – 1.62 ha of suitable habitat will be impacted
- *Macadamia tetraphylla* (rough shelled bush nut) – no suitable habitat identified despite seven individuals found in Survey area
- *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* (native guava) – 1.62 ha of suitable habitat identified will be impacted

If works are not appropriately controlled, other indirect impacts to threatened flora may include:

- Dust deposition from machinery and earthworks
- Edge effect from vegetation clearing and increased vulnerability
- Weed invasion
- Potential to increase the spread of myrtle rust or stress to the flora species prone to myrtle rust, especially *Rhodamnia rubescens* and *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* species.

Further details regarding field findings, impacts and mitigation measures for threatened flora are provided in **Section 6, pages 24-46 of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**.

A map of field validated vegetation communities and threatened flora distribution is shown in **Attachment 5 Field validated vegetation and threatened flora map**.

Other flora species

Significant impacts are considered unlikely for all other EPBC Act listed threatened flora species due to moderate or low likelihood of occurrence.

Further details regarding other threatened flora listed under the EPBC Act are detailed in the Likelihood of Occurrence results detailed in **Appendix B Likelihood of Occurrence Assessment (B-1) of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**.

Threatened fauna

Without management and mitigation measures, the Project has the potential to result in the following impacts to threatened fauna and their suitable habitat:

- The direct loss of field verified suitable habitat for the following threatened fauna:
 - giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*): 0.12ha
 - black-breasted button-quail (*Turnix melanogaster*): 0.15ha
 - koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*): 0.004ha

Other potential impacts to threatened fauna may include:

- Construction related impacts, including
 - Direct injury or mortality
 - Displacement from areas of suitable habitat
 - Increased noise, light and vibration
 - Alterations of water quality including increased sedimentation of waterways (for threatened frogs)
- Habitat degradation, which may arise from:
 - Weed intrusion, including edge effects
 - Reduced dispersal opportunities and reduced patch size
 - Increased competition from invasive fauna
 - Altered hydrology and water quality affecting threatened frog habitat
 - Reduced foraging, breeding and dispersal opportunities, particularly for threatened birds

- Permanent increases in light, noise and vibration levels during future operation after the proposed works are completed.

Further details regarding field findings, impacts and mitigation measures for fauna are provided in **Section 7, pages 46-56 of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**.

A map of threatened fauna habitat and sightings is shown in **Attachment 7 Threatened fauna habitat and sightings map**.

Other fauna species

Significant impacts are considered unlikely for all other EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species due to moderate or low likelihood of occurrence.

Further details regarding other threatened fauna listed under the EPBC Act are detailed in the Likelihood of Occurrence results in **Appendix B Likelihood of Occurrence Assessment (B-1) of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**.

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

*

Yes

4.1.4.5 Describe why you consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

SIAs have been undertaken for all MNES identified as having a known or high LoO. Refer to **Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

SIA – TEC

Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC – critically endangered under the EPBC Act – known LoO

To determine if the Project is likely to have a significant impact on the Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC, a SIA was completed. The Project is likely to result in the following impacts to the TEC:

- Reduce the extent of an ecological community
- Fragment or increase fragmentation of an ecological community
- Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of an ecological community

The extent of impacts (0.15 ha) is **likely** to result in a significant impact to the Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC. Refer to **Section 5, pages 36-39, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

SIA – Threatened flora

***Bosistoa transversa* (Three-leaved bosistoa) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act – known LoO**

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 has been undertaken for *Bosistoa transversa*. Three (3) *Bosistoa transversa* were identified within the survey area, approximately 90m downslope of the Project area. The Project is anticipated to avoid all direct impacts to individuals, however it is anticipated to impact 1.62ha of suitable habitat for the species. Given the lack of direct impacts and limited impacts to suitable habitat (1.62ha), the Project is considered **unlikely** to have a significant impact on the 'vulnerable' *Bosistoa transversa*.

See **Section 4.1.1, pages 5-8, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

***Davidsonia jerseyana* (Davidson's plum) – endangered under the EPBC Act – known LoO**

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 has been undertaken for *Davidsonia jerseyana*. The two planted individuals identified in the Survey area occur outside of their known distribution for the species and were likely the result of human planting. Given the lack of direct and indirect impacts to the species as no suitable habitat was identified, the Project is considered **unlikely** to have a significant impact on the 'endangered' *Davidsonia jerseyana*.

Refer to **Section 4.1.2, pages 8-12, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

***Macadamia integrifolia* (Macadamia nut) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act – known LoO**

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 (DoE, 2013) has been undertaken for *Macadamia integrifolia*. Given that there are direct impacts to only 3 individuals within the Project area, with the 11 individuals remaining within the Survey area and limited indirect impacts to suitable habitat for the species (1.62ha), the Project is considered **unlikely** to have a significant impact on the 'vulnerable' *Macadamia integrifolia*.

Refer to **Section 4.1.3, pages 12-15, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

***Macadamia ternifolia* (Small-fruited Queensland nut) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act – high LoO**

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 has been undertaken for *Macadamia ternifolia*. No individuals were identified within the Survey area. Given that no direct impact to the species, and limited impacts to suitable habitat (1.62ha), the Project is considered **unlikely** to have a significant

impact on the vulnerable *Macadamia ternifolia*.

Refer to **Section 4.2.1, pages 32-35 of Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

***Macadamia tetraphylla* (Rough shelled bush nut) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act – known LoO**

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 has been undertaken for *Macadamia tetraphylla*. The 7 individuals identified in the Survey area occur outside of their known distribution for the species. No individuals were identified within the Project area. Given the lack of direct and indirect impacts to the species as no suitable habitat was identified, the Project is considered **unlikely** to have a significant impact on the 'vulnerable' *Macadamia tetraphylla*.

Refer to **Section 4.1.4, pages 15-19, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

***Rhodamnia rubescens* (scrub turpentine) – critically endangered under the EPBC Act – known LoO**

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 has been undertaken for *Rhodamnia rubescens*. 39 individuals were observed within the Survey area, and 4 individuals were found within the Project area on the western side of the road corridor.

Given the limited extent of direct impacts (four individuals to be removed), limited impacts to suitable habitat (1.65ha), and the main threat to the species being myrtle rust (which the Project is unlikely to exacerbate), the Project is considered **unlikely** to have a significant impact on *Rhodamnia rubescens*.

Refer to **Section 4.1.5, pages 20-24, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

***Rhodomyrtus psidioides* (native guava) – critically endangered under the EPBC Act – known LoO**

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 (DoE, 2013) has been completed for *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*. 602 *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* seedlings were observed within the Survey area. The Project is anticipated to avoid direct impacts to all individuals, although 279 individuals are located in close proximity to the edge of proposed clearing (ie within approximately 5m from western side of the road corridor). The project will impact a total of 1.62ha of suitable habitat for the species. Given no direct impacts (no individuals will be directly impacted), limited impacts to suitable habitat (1.62ha), and the main threat to the species being myrtle rust (which the Project is unlikely to exacerbate), the Project is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the 'critically endangered' *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*.

Refer to **Section 4.1.6, pages 24-27, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

***Xanthostemon oppositifolius* (southern penda) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act – known LoO**

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 (DoE, 2013) has been completed for *Xanthostemon oppositifolius*. 2,589 individuals were observed within the Survey area utilising a standard counting approach for multi-stemmed trees, and 467 individuals were found within the Project area.

The SIA identified the Project is likely to result in the following impacts:

- Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population of a species
- Reduce the area of occupancy of an important population
- Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species
- Modify, destroy, remove, isolate, or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline.

The direct impacts to 467 individuals and the removal of approximately 1.65ha of suitable habitat is considered **likely** to have a significant impact on the 'vulnerable' *Xanthostemon oppositifolius*.

Refer to **Section 4.1.7, pages 28-32, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

SIA – Threatened fauna

Black-breasted Button-quail (*Turnix melanogaster*) – vulnerable under the EPBC Act – known LoO

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 has been completed for *Turnix melanogaster*.

Given the limited extents of suitable habitat to be removed (0.15ha of marginal habitat), the Project is considered **unlikely** to have a significant impact on the 'vulnerable' black-breasted button-quail.

Refer to **Section 6.1.1, pages 40-45, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*) - vulnerable under the EPBC Act – known LoO

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 (DoE 2013) has been completed for *Mixophyes iteratus*. Seven males calling were identified during the field surveys within the Survey area. Suitable habitat for giant barred frog was identified, with a total of 0.12ha of suitable habitat associated with waterways and riparian areas anticipated to be impacted by the Project.

The SIA identified the Project is likely to result in the following impacts:

- Reduce the area of occupancy of an important population
- Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the species.

The Project impacts to suitable habitat in an area known to support giant barred frog (0.12ha) is **likely** to have a significant impact on the vulnerable giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*).

Refer to **Section 6.1.1, pages 45-50, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) – endangered under the EPBC Act – high LoO

A SIA against the Commonwealth's Significant Impact Guideline 1.1 (DoE 2013) has been completed for *Phascolarctos cinereus*. Suitable habitat for koala is present within the Project area on the eastern side of the road corridor. Given limited extents of suitable habitat to be removed (0.004ha), the Project is considered **unlikely** to have a significant impact on the 'endangered' koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*).

Refer to **Section 6.2.1, pages 51-55, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

Other threatened fauna

A SIA was undertaken in the SIA Technical Memo (**Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**) for Grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) (vulnerable under the EPBC Act), which are assessed as having a moderate LoO in the Project area:

Given there were no observations of grey-headed flying-fox on site and no impacts to suitable habitat for the species, the Project is considered **unlikely** to have a significant impact on the 'vulnerable' grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*).

Refer to **Section 6.3.1, pages 56-58, Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)**.

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

Yes

4.1.4.8 Please elaborate why you think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

Summary of Significant impact assessment (SIA)

The SIAs undertaken for all MNES (TEC, threatened flora and threatened fauna) identified that the Project is likely to have a significant impact on the following MNES:

Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC – critically endangered

The direct and indirect impacts from the Project are likely to have a significant impact on the Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC, and as such the proposed action **is considered to be a controlled action** for this MNES. The Project is anticipated to directly impact 0.15 ha of this TEC, and 2.91 ha of the buffer area.

These impacts are detailed in **Section 5.4 and 5.5, pages 20-22 of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025).**

Xanthostemon oppositifolius (southern penda) – vulnerable

The direct and indirect impacts from the Project are likely to have a significant impact on *Xanthostemon oppositifolius*, as such the proposed action **is considered to be a controlled action** for this MNES. The Project will result in the direct impacts to 467 individuals and the removal of approximately 1.65ha of suitable habitat of *Xanthostemon oppositifolius*, which is likely to lead to a long term decrease in the size of an important population of a species, reduce the area of occupancy of an important population, adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species and modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline.

These impacts are detailed in **Section 6.4 and 6.5, pages 42-45 of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025).**

Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*) – vulnerable

The direct and indirect impacts from the Project are likely to have a significant impact on giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*), as such the proposed action **is considered to be a controlled action** for this MNES. The Project is anticipated to directly impact 0.12 ha of suitable habitat in an area known to support this species. The Project is likely to result in the reduction of the area of occupancy of an important population, adversely affecting habitat critical to the survival of the species.

These impacts are detailed in **Section 7.4 and 7.5, pages 52-54 of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025).**

A range of measures have been incorporated into the design to avoid or minimise impacts to the environment including MNES (refer to **Section 8, pages 55-62 of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**). In addition, the Project will require strict controls over mitigation measures for state-listed species through the approval requirements under the NC Act (Species Management Programs) for fauna, and Impact Management Plans for flora).

Refer to **Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)** for more detailed assessment of the MNES, impacts and mitigation measures.

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. *

The Project has been designed to avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, minimise impacts on the natural environment and MNES. This section describes the key avoidance and mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the design and/or are to be implemented during planning or construction phases (see **Section 8, pages 55-62, Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)**).

Planning and Design

- Confirm impacts to threatened flora
 - Survey the location of all threatened flora species within 10m of the Project area and include on design drawings
 - Several iterations of the proposed design to minimise impacts to the greatest extent possible to threatened flora and TEC, including:
 - Local geology was examined and slope failure risk assessments undertaken to allow for earthwork cut batters to be steepened in several areas to avoid impacts
 - Rationalisation of drainage performance requirements to prevent the need for new large table drains and instead take advantage of existing channels to avoid earthworks impacts
 - Utilisation of custom-designed headwall structures and scour protection to replace damaged headwalls on existing culverts (over standard TMR culverts with greater footprint) to avoid direct impacts on *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* (native guava) and minimise land take and impacts on other threatened plants and TEC
- Exclusion zones are to be established on design drawings for all mapped threatened flora species and TEC to avoid impacts to retained areas/threatened flora.
- Minimise vegetation clearing and fauna habitat loss within environmentally sensitive areas.
- Where possible, plan to conduct works in and adjacent to defined threatened fauna breeding habitat outside of the species' peak breeding season.
- Habitat connectivity and fauna movement
 - Where possible, design culverts in accordance with the Accepted development requirements for operational work that is constructing or raising waterway barrier works (Department of Primary Industries 2025)
 - Undertake hydrologic modelling to minimise impacts to local hydrology (including surface water and groundwater) and downstream impacts
- Minimise impacts to habitat quality
 - Where reasonable and practicable, incorporate water sensitive urban design measures to minimise runoff that enters waterways:
 - Take into consideration the water quality objectives, level of risk, maintenance requirements and physical space within the corridor to accommodate treatment devices.
 - Due to space constraints along the alignment and the objective of minimising the design footprint to avoid impacts on MNES, drainage basins have not been included and grassed swales could not be incorporated in some locations. Instead, the design has incorporated other measures to minimise runoff into the waterways, including scour protection and planting around culvert inlets/outlets to help minimise erosion and maintain stable water flows.
- Develop relevant management plans in accordance with TMR's Technical Specification MRTS51
- An overarching Environmental Management Plan (EMP) should be developed to guide future development of a Construction EMP and identify measures to avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts
- Comply with EPBC Act referral requirements and any additional measures required from the referral
- The Project will require strict controls over mitigation measures for state-listed species through the state approval requirements under the NC Act (Species Management Programs for fauna and Impact Management Plans for flora).

Construction

- Minimise vegetation clearing and impacts to fauna habitat through having designated no-go zones, supervised clearing by a suitably qualified fauna spotter catcher, using high visibility flagging/fencing to mark clearing extents.
- Minimise removal of large hollow bearing trees and establish buffer zones during construction.
- Implement staged clearing protocols and site stabilisation or restoration.
- Prior to vegetation clearing, a suitably qualified fauna spotter catcher is to quantify the number of hollows anticipated to be impacted by the works. The fauna spotter catcher is to inspect all hollows prior to works, and where fauna are present, safely capture and relocate fauna to appropriate habitat.
- A vegetation clearing process should be implemented during construction to minimise impacts on flora and vegetation communities, including no-go zones, low impact clearing measures, supervising clearing works with qualified ecologists and fauna spotters, managing invasive species, conducting timely rehabilitation and weed control using native species.
- Minimise direct impacts to fauna
 - A suitably qualified fauna spotter catcher is to be engaged at each clearing front to supervise clearing activities and manage fauna.
 - The suitably qualified fauna spotter catcher must specifically survey for potential black-breasted button-quail nests to minimise impacts to this threatened species during construction.
 - If/when threatened fauna are found, the fauna spotter catcher is to mark a 'no go' buffer area around the tree, breeding place or habitat to reduce disturbance to the fauna and allow them to self-relocate.
 - If self-relocation is not possible, the fauna spotter catcher is to safely capture and relocate fauna to their appropriate habitat.
 - Implement staged and directional clearing protocols which direct fauna into retained adjacent vegetation
 - If hollow bearing trees are felled and the hollows are unable to be cleared of fauna species, the hollow bearing tree is to be placed on the edge of the clearing near retained vegetation to allow fauna self-location
 - Where possible, undertake clearing outside of combined threatened fauna peak breeding season.
 - If bird nests are identified in trees to be felled, ensure they are not currently in use/show signs of parental care. If so, determine species and if fledglings present, see if tree can be retained until they have fledged.
 - Minimise potential for the spread of chytrid fungus by implementing suitable hygiene protocols as described in the Threat abatement plan for infection of amphibians with chytrid fungus resulting in chytridiomycosis.
 - Herbicide is not to be used within 10m of a waterway or drainage line. Herbicides applied within 50m of a waterway or drainage line shall be registered for use in aquatic environments by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
- Minimise indirect impacts to habitat quality
 - Avoid high risk construction activities, such as bulk earthworks, during wet weather
 - Provide dust suppression during all vegetation removal and earthworks to minimise the impacts of dust on retained vegetation and suitable breeding habitats
 - Store fuels and chemicals within bunded areas at least 50m from waterways and drainage lines, and implement emergency control plans for spillages
 - Refuel construction vehicles and machinery in approved construction or bunded areas and at least 50m from waterways and drainage lines and ensure contingency plan management measures are available in the immediate area
 - If works areas will be left for more than 14 days, stabilise exposed areas as soon as possible to minimise run-off impacting on aquatic habitat and water quality
 - If significant rainfall is predicted, stabilise the works area appropriately to minimise run-off.

- Habitat connectivity and fauna movement
 - Where possible in liaison with adjoining landholders, barbed wire should not be used for fencing to avoid injuries to fauna. Where it is not feasible to remove all barbed wire, the uppermost line of wire should not be barbed to minimise injury impacts to fauna.
 - The use of fauna friendly fencing should be encouraged
- Comply with relevant management plans, approvals and legislative requirements
 - Implement all Management Plans developed during design phase.
 - Adhere to all approvals and associated conditions of approvals gained for the Project.
 - Monitor the effectiveness of controls and establish triggers for corrective action where potential impacts are observed.
 - Implementation of relevant sub-plans developed for the project, i.e. Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, Biodiversity Management Plan, Landscape Management Plan, Vegetation Management Plan, Biosecurity Management Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, etc.
 - Offsets required for direct impacts to threatened flora under the NC Act. As the Project will impact on threatened plants under the NC Act, seed and/or propagation material will be collected from healthy individuals, and propagated at a ratio of 1:4, in accordance with the offset multiplier required by the QLD Environmental Offset Policy for impacts to NC Act listed threatened plants
 - All propagated plants will be propagated by a native nursery with experience in native and threatened plant propagation.
 - Once a suitable offset site(s) has been secured for the intended MNES, a range of management actions are likely to be required to improve habitat quality and/or make the offset site suitable for the MNES. All management measures shall be detailed in an Offset Site Management Plan (or similar) to be developed at a later stage and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and will detail the proposed management actions, reporting requirements, performance objectives, completion criteria and monitoring program.

Operation

- Minimise vegetation clearing and impacts to fauna habitat by inspecting TMR assets, monitoring erosion risks, assessing fauna management effectiveness, evaluating landscape areas against project standards and monitor the health and conditions of threatened flora species adjacent to the Project area.
- Post-construction ecological monitoring (for a period of 6 months) of threatened flora to ensure the continued survival and health of the species following the completion of construction activities.

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

It is likely that DCCEEW will determine that the Project is a controlled action and the Project will require offsets under the EPBC Act for the following three MNES where there is likely to be a significant impact discussed in section 4.1.4.5 above.

- *Xanthostemon oppositifolius* (southern penda): direct impacts to 467 individuals and the removal of approximately 1.65 ha of suitable habitat
- Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia TEC: direct impacts to 0.15ha of field verified TEC
- Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*): 0.12ha of suitable habitat associated with waterways and riparian areas anticipated to be directly impacted by the Project.

Offsets will also be required for direct impacts to threatened flora protected under the NC Act. As the Project will impact threatened plants protected under the NC Act, seed and/or propagation material will be collected from healthy individuals, and propagated at a ratio of 1:4, in accordance with the offset multiplier required by the Queensland Environmental Offset Policy for impacts to threatened plants listed under the NC Act. All propagated plants will be propagated by a native nursery with experience in native and threatened plant propagation. All plants will be held in the nursery for a minimum of one year, during which time a suitable receiving site will be identified.

TMR is working with Noosa Shire Council and other major landholders to identify suitable offset sites and has established possible sites. Once a suitable site has been selected, biocondition surveys will be conducted at the proposed offset site to assess the ecological conditions of the site to demonstrate that the site meets the conservation outcomes required under the EPBC Act.

A Preliminary Offset Strategy for MNES will be developed for the Project to provide high level assessment of the Project's offset requirements and intended approach for offset delivery under the EPBC Act. The Preliminary Offset Strategy will provide the background information regarding applicable legislation, MNES present, impacts on the MNES, offset obligations and relevant strategies for the Project to meet Commonwealth offset obligations. The Strategy will be preliminary and intended to be further developed as the Project progresses.

Once a suitable offset site(s) has been secured for the intended MNES, a range of management actions are likely to be required to improve habitat quality and/or make the offset site suitable for the MNES. All management measures shall be detailed in an Offset Site Management Plan (or similar) to be developed at a later stage and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and will detail the proposed management actions, reporting requirements, performance objectives, completion criteria and monitoring program.

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	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
No	No	<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey

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

No

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

*

Refer to **Appendix B Likelihood of Occurrence Assessment (B-1)**, **Attachment 2 Ecological Assessment Report (Arup 2025)**, and **Attachment 3 Significant Impact Assessment Technical Memo (Arup 2025)** for more information regarding migratory species.

No nesting or suitable habitat (roosting and foraging habitat) for threatened migratory species listed under the EPBC Act was identified within the Survey area.

These assessments identified low likelihood of occurrence for the migratory species, due to no nesting or suitable habitat identified in the Survey area. The Project will not result in any direct or indirect impacts to migratory species.

According to the *List of Migratory Species Amendment (1) Instrument 2024* (dated 11 September 2024), issued by the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, five bird species that were listed as migratory under the EPBC Act have since had their migratory status removed, and are now also only listed Least Concern under NC Act. This Instrument is relevant to five species within the family *Muscicapidae* (sensu lato), including the sub-family *Sylviinae*, formerly listed as the *Sylviidae*.

For the purposes of Section 209 of the EPBC Act, and of relevance to the Project, *Rhipidura rufifrons* (Rufous fantail) species are no longer listed as migratory species under the EPBC Act. A total of two direct sightings of *Rhipidura rufifrons* were observed during the field surveys within the Survey area. As *Rhipidura rufifrons* is no longer listed as migratory under the EPBC Act, there is no longer the need to prepare an SIA to assess its potential impact.

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 proposed activities involve widening of a road and do not involve any nuclear actions or impacts to nuclear actions.

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.

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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. *

No Commonwealth Marine Area is located within 10km of the Project area. The Project area is located at least 200km away from the closest listed Commonwealth Marine Area. Given the considerable distance, the Project is unlikely to have any direct or indirect impact on 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 area is located at least 250km away from the Great Barrier Reef and therefore is unlikely to have direct or indirect impacts to the GBR due to the considerable distance.

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 is not located within proximity (10km) of any water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas and therefore is unlikely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this MNES.

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.

*

There is no Commonwealth land located within 10km of the Project area and therefore the Project is unlikely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this MNES. The closest listed Commonwealth land to the Project area is Brisbane Airport, which is approximately 150km south of the Project area.

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.

—

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.
*

There is no Commonwealth heritage place located within 10km of the Project area and therefore the Project is unlikely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this MNES. The closest Commonwealth Heritage listed place is Cooroy Post Office, located more than 15km south from the Project area.

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:

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

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)
- 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. *

The alternative of having a different alignment is not possible because:

- Alternative road alignments would require extensive vegetation clearing and result in increased fragmentation of intact habitat and thereby increased impacts on the existing ecological conditions of the area.
- In contrast, the proposed design alignment follows the existing road corridor, thereby minimising land acquisition, vegetation removal and disturbance to the surrounding environment to the greatest practicable extents.

The alternative of not undertaking the action was not possible because:

- It does not address the critical need for the Project (safety concern and local access requirements), which is dictated by the following factors:
 - the existing inadequate road geometry and deteriorating pavement conditions along Kin Kin Road.
 - ongoing feedback and concern from the local communities regarding increased safety risks and pavement deterioration caused by heavy vehicle movement, as a result of the road being approved as the main haulage route for Kin Kin Quarry in 2013.
 - the anticipated increase in traffic volumes along the road.
 - demonstrated support for the Project from local MP and community members.

Refer to **Section 8, pages 55-62 of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)** for more details of the avoidance, management and mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the design and/or are to be implemented during planning, construction and operation phases.

Significant efforts have been made during the design development with the objective of avoiding and minimising impacts to MNES. This has been done by integrating threatened flora locations, mapped TEC and known threatened fauna habitats into design drawings and documentation.

In particular, the following design modifications have been undertaken to date to minimise direct impacts and mitigate indirect impacts to threatened flora and TEC:

- Local geology was examined and slope failure risk assessments undertaken to allow for earthwork cut batters to be steepened in several areas to avoid impacts
- Rationalisation of drainage performance requirements to prevent the need for new large table drains and instead take advantage of existing channels to avoid earthworks impacts
- Utilisation of custom-designed headwall structures and scour protection to replace damaged headwalls on existing culverts (over standard TMR culverts with greater footprint) to avoid direct impacts on *Rhodomirtus psidioides* (native guava) and minimise land take and impacts on other threatened plants and TEC.

Refer to **Section 8.1, pages 55-58 of Attachment 4 Matters of National Environmental Significance Report (Arup 2025)** for more information of the above design modifications.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - Project area and local context.pdf Project location and area map	13/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants	08/01/2026	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final_Redacted.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants	09/01/2026	No	High

1.2.6 Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents that are relevant to the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 2-EcAR_Williams-WesternBranch.pdf Ecological Assessment Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	09/01/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 2-EcAR_Williams-WesternBranch_Redacted.pdf Ecological Assessment Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and locations of threatened plants.	09/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Attachment 3-SIA Memo_Kin Kin_Williams Rd to Western Branch Rd.pdf Significant impact assessment. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	09/12/2025	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Attachment 3-SIA Memo_Kin Kin_Williams Rd to Western Branch Rd_Redacted.pdf Significant impact assessment. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants.	09/12/2025	No	High

#5.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants	09/01/2026	Yes	High
#6.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final_Redacted.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants	08/01/2026	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - Project area and local context.pdf Project location and area map	12/11/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 2-EcAR_Williams-WesternBranch.pdf Ecological Assessment Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	08/01/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 2-EcAR_Williams-WesternBranch_Redacted.pdf Ecological Assessment Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and locations of threatened plants.	08/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Attachment 3-SIA Memo_Kin Kin_Williams Rd to Western Branch Rd.pdf Significant impact assessment. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	08/12/2025	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Attachment 3-SIA Memo_Kin Kin_Williams Rd to Western Branch Rd_Redacted.pdf Significant impact assessment. This document is sensitive as it reveals and	08/12/2025	No	High

		contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants.			
#5.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	08/01/2026	Yes	High
#6.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final_Redacted.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants	08/01/2026	No	High
#7.	Document	Attachment 5 - Field validated vegetation communities and threatened flora.pdf Field validated vegetation communities and threatened plants including locations of threatened plants	18/11/2025	Yes	High
#8.	Document	Attachment 5 - Field validated vegetation communities and threatened flora_Redacted.pdf Field validated vegetation communities and threatened plants including locations of threatened plants.	18/11/2025	No	High
#9.	Document	Attachment 6 - TEC map.pdf Threatened ecological communities map	18/11/2025	No	High
#10.	Document	Attachment 7 - Threatened fauna suitable habitat and sighting.pdf Threatened fauna suitable habitat map	18/11/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 2-EcAR_Williams-WesternBranch.pdf Ecological Assessment Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	08/01/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 2-EcAR_Williams-WesternBranch_Redacted.pdf Ecological Assessment Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and	08/01/2026	No	High

		contains personal information and locations of threatened plants.			
#3.	Document	Attachment 5 - Field validated vegetation communities and threatened flora.pdf Field validated vegetation communities and threatened plants including locations of threatened plants	17/11/2025	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Attachment 5 - Field validated vegetation communities and threatened flora_Redacted.pdf Field validated vegetation communities and threatened plants including locations of threatened plants.	17/11/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Attachment 8 - Australian soil classification map.pdf Australian soil classification map	18/11/2025	No	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 9 - WWBW and GDE map.pdf WWBW and GDE Map	18/11/2025	No	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	Attachment 3-SIA Memo_Kin Kin_Williams Rd to Western Branch Rd.pdf Significant impact assessment. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	08/12/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 3-SIA Memo_Kin Kin_Williams Rd to Western Branch Rd_Redacted.pdf Significant impact assessment. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants.	08/12/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	08/01/2026	Yes	High

#4.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final_Redacted.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants	08/01/2026	No	High
#5.	Document	Attachment 5 - Field validated vegetation communities and threatened flora.pdf Field validated vegetation communities and threatened plants including locations of threatened plants	17/11/2025	Yes	High
#6.	Document	Attachment 5 - Field validated vegetation communities and threatened flora_Redacted.pdf Field validated vegetation communities and threatened plants including locations of threatened plants.	17/11/2025	No	High
#7.	Document	Attachment 6 - TEC map.pdf Threatened ecological communities map	17/11/2025	No	High
#8.	Document	Attachment 7 - Threatened fauna suitable habitat and sighting.pdf Threatened fauna suitable habitat map	17/11/2025	No	High

4.1.4.5 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 3-SIA Memo_Kin Kin_Williams Rd to Western Branch Rd.pdf Significant impact assessment. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	08/12/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 3-SIA Memo_Kin Kin_Williams Rd to Western Branch Rd_Redacted.pdf Significant impact assessment. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants.	08/12/2025	No	High

4.1.4.8 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document				

		Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	08/01/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final_Redacted.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants	08/01/2026	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	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	08/01/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final_Redacted.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants	08/01/2026	No	High

4.1.5.3 (Migratory Species) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 2-EcAR_Williams-WesternBranch.pdf Ecological Assessment Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and locations of protected plants.	08/01/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 2-EcAR_Williams-WesternBranch_Redacted.pdf Ecological Assessment Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and locations of threatened plants.	08/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Attachment 3-SIA Memo_Kin Kin_Williams Rd to Western Branch	08/12/2025	Yes	High

		Rd.pdf Significant impact assessment. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.			
#4.	Document	Attachment 3-SIA Memo_Kin Kin_Williams Rd to Western Branch Rd_Redacted.pdf Significant impact assessment. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants.	08/12/2025	No	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information.	08/01/2026	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 4-MNES Report_Kin Kin Williams to Western Branch Road_Final_Redacted.pdf MNES Report. This document is sensitive as it reveals and contains personal information and the locations of threatened plants	08/01/2026	No	High

5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	39407690291
Organisation name	Department of Transport and Main Roads
Organisation address	4000 QLD
Representative's name	Thomas Gibney
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Officer
Phone	(07) 5459 1790
Email	thomas.l.gibney@tmr.qld.gov.au
Address	Floor 1, 50 Wises Road, Buderim Qld 4558

☒ 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, **Thomas Gibney of Department of Transport and Main Roads**, 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	39407690291
Organisation name	Department of Transport and Main Roads
Organisation address	4000 QLD
Representative's name	Graham Chambers

Representative's job title	Team Leader - Preconstruction - North Coast Region
Phone	(07) 5475 2830
Email	graham.j.chambers@tmr.qld.gov.au
Address	Floor 1, 50 Wises Road, Buderim QLD 4556

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

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

☒ I, **Graham Chambers of Department of Transport and Main Roads**, 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, **Graham Chambers of Department of Transport and Main Roads**, 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.