

John Gorton Campus Carpark

Application Number: **01519**Commencement Date: **03/11/2022**Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

John Gorton Campus Carpark

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Commonwealth Development

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

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1.1.4 Estimated start date *

1/03/2023

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

30/09/2024

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Commonwealth Department of Finance (Finance) plans to develop a five-storey building incorporating a structured carpark and childcare centre facility at the John Gorton Building campus in the Parliamentary Triangle, in Parkes, Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The John Gorton Campus Carpark (JGCC) ('the Project') would be sited to the east of John Gorton Building, predominantly within Block 1 Section 35 and Section 21 and the Dorothy Tangney Place Road reserve, Kings Avenue Road Reserve, Parkes, on land currently used for carparking, road transport / carpark access, footpaths and open space.

The project area is 4.57 ha and includes:

- A disturbance footprint of 1.06 ha; and
- An avoidance area of 0.09 ha.

The avoidance area includes the tree protection zones around 1920s era tree plantings.

The project scope includes:

- Construction of a five-storey building incorporating:
 - Approximately 1,100 car parking spaces over five levels
 - Childcare centre with capacity for 170 places.
- Services demolition, relocation and provision, including:
 - Demolition of existing trunk main stormwater infrastructure in Dorothy Tangney Place
 - Construction of new stormwater main clear of the new carpark on the western side
 - Relocation of existing water main around the outside of carpark structure
 - Relocation of existing telecommunications conduit and cabling clear of carpark structure.
- Access and road modifications:
 - Kings Avenue – Blackall Street signalised
 - Blackall Street extended to the carpark on the western side of Kings Avenue
 - Lane marking and median kerb and gutter changes.

– Landscaping, including:

- Irrigated lawn, concrete pedestrian paths and replacement tree planting along King Edward Terrace and around the on-grade carpark west of the Project.

The carpark and childcare centre are necessary to service current and future needs of the working population of the John Gorton Building and employees of and visitors to the Parliamentary Triangle and surrounds.

Design materiality includes the following:

- Northern façade of the JGCC comprises concrete panels to reflect the pronounced profiles of surrounding buildings, and vertical lines in surrounding structures including the Commonwealth Heritage Listed Edmund Barton Offices, located on the opposite side of Kings Avenue.
- The eastern and western facades have been designed with COR-TEN steel blades that will result in changing light and shadows over the course of the day to reflect the pattern of the JGB façade. Steel panels have been selected as they require no maintenance and are therefore a sustainable option. COR-TEN will develop a patina over time and is also used in other locations within the Parliamentary Triangle including Bowen Place walk and within the Humanities and Science campus (near the National Library of Australia and the National Science and Technology Centre).

Activities that would impact the environment are:

- Clearing of 50 trees. This would cause a temporary reduction in urban foraging habitat for native species and affect amenity. Replacement of 48 trees and other landscaping is to occur following construction. Clearing of trees could indirectly impact gang gang cockatoo and superb parrot which are matters of national environmental significance.
- Construction of a building would directly impact on matters of heritage significance through clearing of trees within the disturbance footprint and establishment of a built structure within a precinct with heritage values.

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

No

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

The following legislation is relevant to this Project: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (ACT P&LM Act).

The obligations under the EPBC Act and the ACT P&LM Act are outlined below. The Heritage Impact Assessment identifies obligations under site specific requirements as set out in the Parliament House Vista Heritage Management Plan and John Gorton Building Heritage Management Plan.

EPBC Act

Under the EPBC Act, any action that would result in a significant impact to the environment of Commonwealth land, or any action undertaken by, or on behalf of a Commonwealth Agency that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment or a matter of national environmental significance (MNES) must undergo a rigorous assessment and approval process.

As the Proposed Action would be funded by the Commonwealth (Department of Finance), the action is considered a Commonwealth action. Section 28 of the EPBC Act regulates actions by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment and details the requirement for approval of activities of Commonwealth agencies significantly affecting the environment.

An action which will, or is likely to, have a significantly impact on the environment by a Commonwealth agency is required to assessed with respect the potential significance of impacts on matters of national environmental significance and the environment generally in consideration of the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 Matters of National Environmental Significance and Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2 Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies.

In addition to the assessment of significant impact, the EPBC Act provides for the Commonwealth Heritage List. Department of Finance as a Commonwealth Agency must not contravene a plan made under Section 341T of the EPBC Act for managing a Commonwealth Heritage place or authorise another person to do, or omit to do, anything that would be inconsistent with such a plan. Heritage management plans are in place for Parliament House Vista and John Gorton Building Commonwealth Heritage places. The project has been assessed against these in the Heritage Impact Assessment for the project.

ACT P&LM Act / NCP

Planning and development in the ACT is governed by two separate but related planning jurisdictions and statutory controls, being the National Capital Plan (NCP) and the Territory Plan, administered by the ACT P&LM Act.

The project area is classified as "National Land" and is within 'Designated Lands, Designated Area Precinct 1 – The Central National Area' under the NCP. As such, jurisdiction for planning and development on the project area rests with the Commonwealth Government under the Department of Agriculture Water and Environment (DAWE) responsible for administering the EPBC Act, and the NCA responsible for administering the NCP. An application for Works Approval will be lodged with the NCA following the receipt by Department of Finance of the decision regarding this EPBC referral.

The 'John Gorton Building campus' concept, which is documented in the Griffin Legacy, was incorporated into the ACT NCP in 2001 (Amendment 33). The Proposed Action occurs within the John Gorton Building Campus.

Under the ACT P&LM Act, the NCA is required to approve all 'works' within Designated Areas. The NCA has been consulted regarding the preparation of this referral and the development of the design.

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. *

The Department of Finance has closely liaised with the NCA regarding the planning, heritage and site management implications of the project. The NCA are supportive of the proposed action, and have contributed to the design development of the project. The Department of Finance will develop a communication plan to disseminate information regarding the proposed action to identified stakeholders, including:

- Notification letters to tenants, neighbouring heritage places and existing carpark users.
- Meetings with tenants.

These letters and meetings will include all relevant information, including:

- The timing of proposed works
- Anticipated impacts associated with the erection of the new multistorey carpark
- Information regarding mitigation measures
- Contact details for the Department of Finance appointed liaison officer.

The Department of Finance will continue to consult with the NCA.

No public consultation has been undertaken to date.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	61970632495
Organisation name	Department of Finance
Organisation address	2603 ACT

Referring party details	
Name	David Muldoon
Job title	Assistant Secretary
Phone	02 62152090
Email	david.muldoon@finance.gov.au
Address	1 Canberra Avenue, Forrest, ACT 2603

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? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details	
ABN/ACN	61970632495
Organisation name	Department of Finance
Organisation address	2603 ACT
Person proposing to take the action details	
Name	David Muldoon
Job title	Assistant Secretary
Phone	02 62152090
Email	david.muldoon@finance.gov.au
Address	1 Canberra Avenue, Forrest, ACT 2603

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. *

<p>The Department of Finance has a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management.</p> <p>The Department of Finance owns and manages several assets across its portfolio with historical, ecological or Indigenous values, a number of which are subject to Heritage Management Plans or other environmental management requirements.</p>
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The Department of Finance employs a practice of complying with State and Territory environmental policies, initiatives and legislation (where these do not conflict with Commonwealth Legislation). In addition, under section 26 and section 28 of the EPBC Act, The Department of Finance is required to avoid, minimise or manage potentially significant impacts on the environment. This provision takes in the broader suite of issues listed under the EPBC Act and can include State/Territory listed species and heritage values.

The Person proposing to take the action has not advised of proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

In the past 10 years The Department of Finance has referred the following actions:

- 2012/6504 Commonwealth/The Lodge, Deakin/ACT/Refurbishment Works at The Lodge, Deakin
- 2012/6586 Science and Research/Donnybrook Road, Mickleham, approx 31 km north of Melbourne/Victoria/Post-Entry Quarantine Facilities Project
- 2013/7017 Commonwealth/John Gorton Building, Parkes/ACT/John Gorton Building Safety Fence & Overhead Protection, Parks, ACT
- 2015/7587 Commonwealth/Western side of Darwin Harbour/Northern Territory/Cox Peninsular Remediation Project, NT
- 2016/7766 Commonwealth/Constitution Ave, Parkes Way, ANZAC Parade and Wendouree Dr./Australian Capital Territory/ANZAC Park East and ANZAC Park West sale - Parkes, ACT
- 2017/8028 Commonwealth/Blocks 3 and 15, Section 22, Barton, ACT 2600/Australian Capital Territory/Blocks 3 and 15, Section 22, Barton, ACT Divestment
- 2019/8389 Commonwealth Development/4 Treasury Place, East Melbourne, VIC, 3002/Victoria/Access Improvements, 4 Treasury Place, Melbourne, Vic
- 2021/8898 Commonwealth/1 Kelliher Dr, Russell/Australian Capital Territory/Transfer of Building R9 in Russell ACT to Dept of Defence for demolition

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

Department of Finance is a Commonwealth Government Department and is not a corporation.

As a Commonwealth Agency, the Department of Finance operates under all Commonwealth legislation and policy, including the EPBC Act, to ensure it remains compliant and meets its obligations with respect to environmental protection on its properties.

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	61970632495
Organisation name	Department of Finance
Organisation address	2603 ACT

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	David Muldoon
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Job title	Assistant Secretary
Phone	02 62152090
Email	david.muldoon@finance.gov.au
Address	1 Canberra Avenue, Forrest, ACT 2603

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	61970632495
Organisation name	Department of Finance
Organisation address	2603 ACT
Representative's name	David Muldoon
Representative's job title	Assistant Secretary
Phone	02 62152090
Email	david.muldoon@finance.gov.au
Address	1 Canberra Avenue, Forrest, ACT 2603

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.

Same as Referring party information.

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

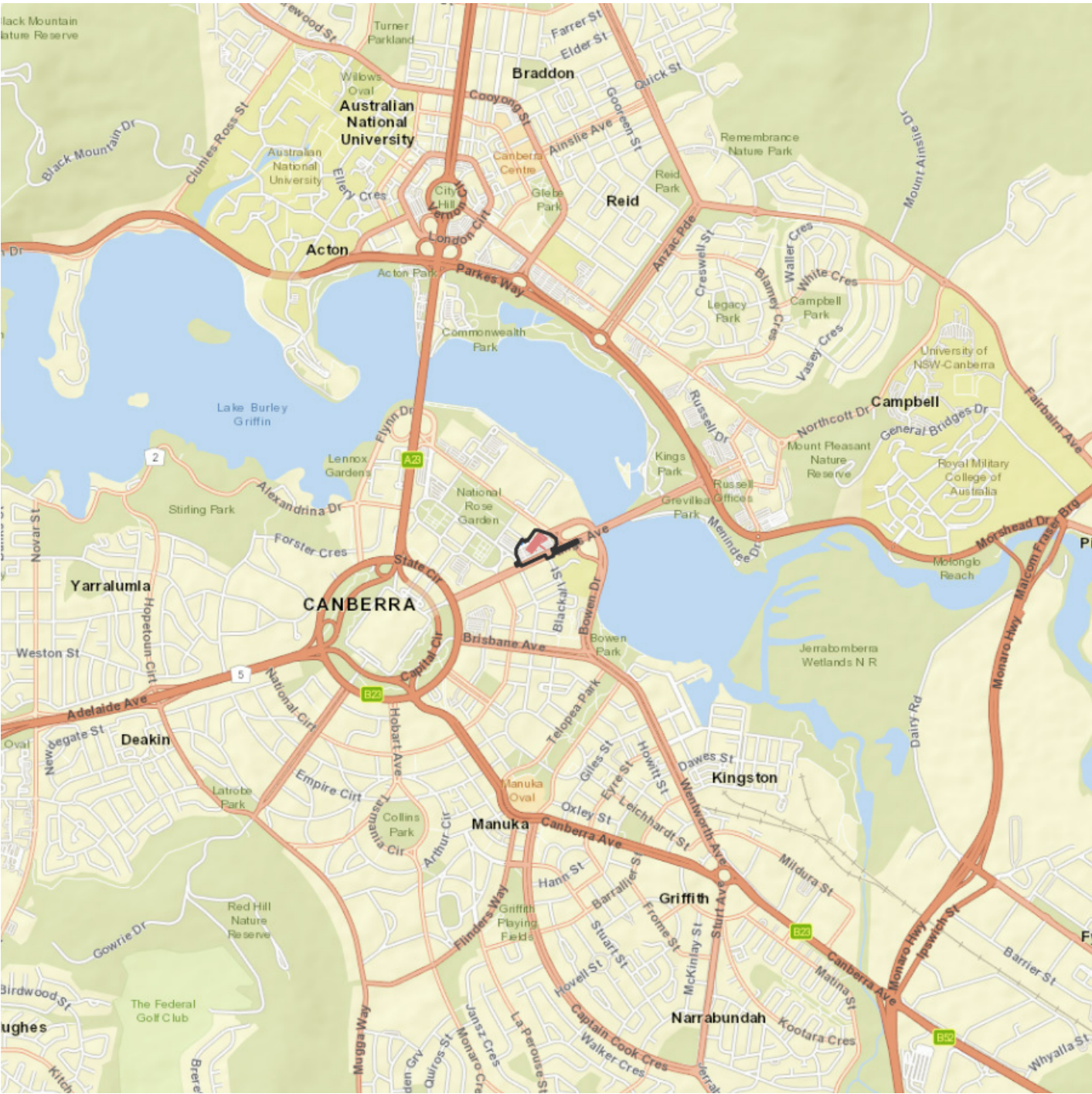
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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



2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Block 1 Section 35 and Section 21 and the Dorothy Tangney Place Road Reserve, Kings Avenue Road Reserve, Parkes

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

Australian Capital Territory

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? *

Commonwealth land / Crown land.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The project area is located within the Parliamentary Triangle adjacent to John Gorton Building. It contains an existing at grade carpark, road (Dorothy Tangney Place), and landscaped areas, largely comprised of lawn and planted trees within the carpark and along King Edward Terrace and Kings Avenue.

The project area does not support natural native vegetation. Further information on the existing condition of the project area can be found in Attachment 1 JGCC Environmental Assessment, Section 2.1.2, pp 7-8.

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

The existing uses of the project area are for transport purposes, including car parking, access to car parking and road transport, as well as public amenity. The car park is used by Canberra commuters and office workers during the week and also by visitors to the National Portrait Gallery to the north and other visitors to the Parliamentary Triangle.

The proposed action retains usage for car parking, access to carparking and road transport, and includes the addition of a childcare facility and landscaped areas for public amenity.

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

There are no outstanding natural features of the project area. It comprises an existing at grade carpark, access road, and maintained lawn and planted trees and shrubs, roads and road verges.

The project area is located within the Parliamentary Triangle.

The project area is adjacent to the Commonwealth Heritage Listed John Gorton Building. A discussion on the heritage values of the John Gorton Building is provided in Section 3.3 of this referral. The project area does not fall within the extent of the listed area.

The project area is within the Commonwealth Heritage Listed Parliament House Vista.

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 elevation of the project area ranges from 563 to 566 m above sea level.

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.

Flora and fauna values were identified as a result of a search of ACTmapi (31 May 2022) and a site walkover on 20 September 2022.

There are no EPBC Act listed threatened species or communities mapped to occur within the affected area on ACTmapi, and the site walkover confirmed that it comprises maintained lawn, roads, a carpark and planted landscaping. Additionally, there are no ACT Nature Conservation Act 2014 listed species or communities mapped to occur and none were identified during the site walkover. The following records for EPBC Act listed threatened ecological communities and threatened species were identified within 500 m of the project area:

- Natural temperate grassland of the Southern Highlands (critically endangered)
- Gang gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) (endangered)
- Superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) (vulnerable)
- Golden sun moth (*Synemon plana*) (vulnerable)
- Button wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorrhynchoidea*) (endangered).

Native fauna species such as birds could occasionally forage over the planted trees within the carpark. It would provide marginal urban habitat for fauna species generally, particularly in comparison with surrounding bushland areas in the region.

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

Vegetation

The project area comprises maintained lawn and native (e.g. southern blue gum and inland scribbly gum) and non-native planted trees (e.g. London plane, incense cedar and American elm) and shrubs outside of parking bays within the existing carpark. There are planted trees along King's Avenue including the exotic Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) and English Elm (*Aleppo ulmus*).

Soil

Williamsdale soil landscape accounts for the majority of soil at the project area, and the southern portion of the site is represented by Pialligo soil landscape.

A Geotechnical Assessment (Attachment 3 Preliminary Geotechnical Assessment, Section 6.1, p6) was undertaken for the Project which shows the soil conditions below the existing carpark pavement surface to be comprised of a thin layer of topsoil overlying fill to approximately 2 m. Sandy and silty clay underlies the fill to depths between 6 m and 9 m. Siltstone and limestone underlies the clay levels.

Soil conditions below the existing carpark pavement surface are comprised of a thin layer of topsoil overlying fill to approximately 2 m. Sandy and silty clay underlies the fill to depths between 6 m and 9 m. Siltstone and limestone underlies the clay levels.

The EPA contaminated land register indicates that Block 1 Section 35, Parkes contains underground fuel storage tanks and potential for uncontrolled fill (Attachment 1 JGCC Environmental Assessment, Appendix B). Review of historical aerial photos suggests that the tanks referenced in the contaminated land register would likely relate to the John Gorton Communications Centre. Based upon the distance of the project footprint from the likely location of the tanks immediately adjacent to the communications centre, the project would be unlikely to interact with the underground fuel tanks.

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.

A PMST search was undertaken 22 June 2022. This identified 79 Commonwealth Heritage Places areas within 10 km of the project area. The project area intersects Parliament House Vista (Place ID 105466, citation Parliament House Vista, Anzac Parade, Parkes, ACT, Australia) and the nominated place National Land Roads. These listings are as follows:

- The Parliament House Vista is listed under Criterion A: Processes, Criterion E: Aesthetic characteristics, Criterion F: Technical achievement, Criterion G: Social value and Criterion H: Significant people.
- National Land Roads (including Kings Avenue) was a former, but unsuccessful, listing for a Commonwealth Heritage Place, however, still contains heritage values which are considered in the context of the proposed action. A portion of the project area involves Kings Avenue. The heritage values associated with Kings Avenue are broad, and include historical associations, rarity, research potential and are good examples of wide tree-lined avenues.

The project area is immediately adjacent to the John Gorton Building (Place ID 105472). This listing is as follows:

- The John Gorton Building is listed under Criterion D: Characteristic values and Criterion E: Aesthetic characteristics. The Communications Centre is listed under Criterion A: Processes, Criterion B: Rarity, Criterion F: Technical achievement, and Criterion H: Significant people.

In addition to the above heritage places that the project intersects or is adjacent to, there are several other listed heritage places within 500 m of the project area.

- Natural heritage
 - State Circle Cutting (490 m)
- Historic heritage
 - Communications Centre (50 m)
 - East Block Government Offices (270 m)
 - Edmund Barton Offices (80 m)
 - High Court – National Gallery Precinct (140 m)
 - High Court of Australia (350 m)
 - King George V Memorial (450 m)
 - Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands (300 m)
 - National Gallery of Australia (140 m)
 - National Rose Gardens (200 m)
 - Old Parliament House and Curtilage (300 m)
 - Old Parliament House Gardens (110 m)
 - Sculpture Garden National Gallery of Australia (180 m)
 - York Park North Tree Plantation (350 m)

Two National Heritage Places are within 500 m of the project area including:

- High Court – National Gallery Precinct (130 m)
- Old Parliament House and Curtilage (300 m)

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

There are no ACT Heritage Register registered sites within the project area.

Indigenous people have occupied Canberra and the surrounding region for more than 20,000 years. The project area is on the lands of the Ngunnawal People and the landscape of the central Canberra area, and its natural and cultural environment are of cultural heritage significance to them.

Other Indigenous heritage values in the region of the project area are generally related to sites where recognition of Indigenous rights and interests has occurred including the High Court building (200 m from project area) and the Aboriginal tent embassy (350 m from project area).

Further information on Indigenous heritage values can be found in Attachment 2 Heritage Impact Assessment, Section 2.3.3, p22.

3.4 Hydrology

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

The project area is part of the South Canberra hydrogeological landscape. A feature of this landscape is the waterways, which comprise concrete lined drainage channels and lakes constructed to handle large storm-water flows. Grassed drainage reserves in the lower landscape are relatively wide and add to the green space of the area. The existing at grade carpark directs and captures stormwater runoff and connects it to in the underground stormwater system.

Typically, depth to the water table within the South Canberra hydrogeological landscape is intermediate, ranging from 2-8 m, with water flowing laterally through unconsolidated colluvial sediments on lower slopes and in flow lines. The Geotechnical Investigation (Attachment 3 Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation, Section 6.2, p7) found that groundwater levels exist between 10.5 m and 11.8 m, but these levels rarely remain constant and can change seasonally due to variations in rainfall and other factors.

According to the ACT Government GeoHub database, no groundwater abstraction or monitoring bores exist near the project area. The nearest is a group of four abstraction bores approximately 1.3 km to the west, just outside of State Circle.

Drainage patterns and run-off flows around the project area to be altered due to the construction of the multistorey carpark. Stormwater management would be addressed in the design.

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	Yes	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	Yes	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth heritage places overseas	No	Yes

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	Yes	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no World Heritage properties located within or near the project area.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	National heritage
No	Yes	High Court - National Gallery Precinct
No	No	Old Parliament House and Curtilage

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

Yes

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

High Court and National Gallery Precinct (Place ID 105745)

The project will not have any direct impact upon the High Court and National Gallery Precinct. The project area is >100 m to the south of this National Heritage Place, that is, it is not within, or immediately adjacent to the National Heritage Place.

Views to the High Court and National Gallery Precinct heritage place would predominantly be from King Edward Place (i.e. looking away from the project area), or from the lake, from which the project would be unlikely to be viewed, or would not be a feature of the view.

Although the project may change some of the visual characteristics of the immediate area, it would be unlikely to degrade or damage the aesthetic values or other values of the heritage places.

Old Parliament House and Curtilage (Place ID 105774)

The project will not have any direct impact upon the Old Parliament House and Curtilage. The project area is approximately 350 m to the east of this National Heritage Place.

Temporary indirect visual impacts may occur during construction, but these are not anticipated to be of permanent duration.

The primary views to the Old Parliament House and Curtilage would be from the north along the central axis of the Parliamentary Triangle. Notwithstanding this, the modification to siting would reduce potential for any notable alteration to possible viewsheds down King George Terrace from the east (noting that again the view would be away from the project area, as the view along the alignment of King George Terrace would be from the south west of the project area). Therefore, the aesthetic values of the place would not be notably altered, modified, obscured or diminished.

The project may change some of the visual characteristics of the immediate area, however it would not degrade or damage the aesthetic values or other values of the heritage places.

Further information on National Heritage can be found within Attachment 2, Heritage Impact Assessment, Sections 4.3 and 4.4, p 57-67.

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

No

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

The project area is not within, or immediately adjacent to either of the National Heritage Places. The design and siting of the project have been carefully considered to avoid the loss of or impact to National Heritage values, in particular for both heritage places, the project would not result in the loss of their aesthetic characteristics. Additionally, there would be no impact to the other documented heritage values of either of the National Heritage places.

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

No

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

The proposed action is not considered to be a controlled action because it has been assessed that there would not be a residual significant impact to national heritage values.

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

As part of the iterative design process, measures to mitigate potential heritage impacts have been implemented and incorporated into the design. These include a design peer review, development of a landscaping plan which incorporates the retention of the Weston planting plan and species, modification to the siting and height of the John Gorton Campus Carpark, and review of and changes to cladding

materials.

A full assessment of the proposed action on the National heritage values of the Parliamentary Zone has been included in the Attachment 2 Heritage Impact Assessment Appendix C page 84 to 99 for the proposed action.

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

No offsets are proposed or required for the proposed action

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.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
No	No	Banrock Station Wetland Complex
No	No	Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes
No	No	Riverland
No	No	The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland

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

No

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

There are no Ramsar wetlands located within or near the project area.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Anthochaera phrygia
No	No	Aprasia parapulchella
No	No	Botaurus poeciloptilus
No	No	Calidris ferruginea
No	Yes	Callocephalon fimbriatum
No	No	Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami
No	No	Chalinolobus dwyeri
No	No	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population)
No	No	Delma impar
No	No	Dodonea procumbens
No	No	Eucalyptus aggregata
No	No	Falco hypoleucos
No	No	Grantiella picta
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus
No	Yes	Lathamus discolor
No	No	Lepidium aschersonii
No	No	Lepidium ginninderrense
No	No	Lepidium hyssopifolium
No	No	Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor
No	No	Litoria aurea
No	No	Litoria booroolongensis
No	No	Litoria castanea
No	No	Litoria raniformis
No	No	Maccullochella macquariensis
No	No	Maccullochella peelii
No	No	Macquaria australasica
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis
No	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)
No	Yes	Polytelis swainsonii

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Pomaderris pallida
No	No	Prasophyllum petilum
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus
No	No	Rostratula australis
No	No	Rutidosia leptorhynchoidea
No	No	Senecio macrocarpus
No	No	Swainsona recta
No	No	Synemon plana
No	No	Thesium australe

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands
No	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

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. *

Gang gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*)

Gang gang cockatoos have previously been recorded to the north of the project area in planted vegetation surrounding the National Gallery. One tree, an isolated yellow box (*Eucalyptus mellidora*), in the north of the project area towards King Edward Terrace was identified to contain tree hollows that may be suitable nesting habitat for the species.

It is unlikely the project would result in direct impact to the gang gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) because the species is mobile (i.e., can move away from construction activities), and breeding or nesting habitat would not be removed.

Indirect impact to the gang gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) may result from the clearing of 50 planted trees, including 32 planted eucalyptus trees (Attachment 1 JGCC Environmental Assessment, Appendix A, Drawing number 200) in the existing carpark and surrounds, would result in a temporary reduction in potential foraging habitat in the immediate area during construction, after which approximately 50 trees would be planted for amenity and habitat.

Superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*)

The superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) has been recorded a number of times in the region of the project area.

It is unlikely the project would result in direct impact to the superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) because the species is mobile (i.e., can move away from construction activities), and breeding or nesting habitat would not be removed.

Indirect impact to the superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) may result from the clearing of 50 planted trees, including 32 planted eucalyptus trees (Attachment 1 JGCC Environmental Assessment, Appendix A, Drawing number 200) which may provide foraging habitat in the existing carpark and surrounds, would result in a temporary reduction in potential foraging habitat in the immediate area during construction, after which approximately 50 trees would be planted for amenity and habitat.

Swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*)

The swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) has been recorded a number of times in the region of the project area.

It is unlikely the project would result in direct impact to the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) because the species is mobile (i.e., can move away from construction activities), and breeding or nesting habitat would not be removed.

Indirect impact to the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) may result from the clearing of 50 planted trees, including 32 planted eucalyptus trees (Attachment 1 JGCC Environmental Assessment, Appendix A, Drawing number 200) which may provide foraging habitat in the existing carpark and surrounds, would result in a temporary reduction in potential foraging habitat in the immediate area during construction, after which approximately 50 trees would be planted for amenity and habitat.

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

No

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

An assessment of significance as per Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 for the gang gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) and the superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) is provided in Attachment 1 JGCC Environmental Assessment, Section 6.2.5, pp 36-40.

Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population?

While there would be a temporary reduction in potential foraging habitat around the existing carpark that could be utilised on an occasional basis by gang gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) or the superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*), these areas are not expected to be resource on which a local population of either species is dependent.

Reduce the area of occupancy?

The area of occupancy for the gang gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) is estimated to be stable and at 30,000 km². Habitats within the project area, including the planted trees, may be part of the gang gang cockatoo wider home range in which they forage on an occasional basis.

The Recovery Plan for the superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) indicates that it occurs across a large area of south-eastern Australia, including the key biodiversity areas of Barmah-Millewa, Murrumbidgee Red Gums, and South-west slopes of NSW. These areas extend over 30,739 km². Habitats within the project area, including the planted trees, may be part of the superb parrot's wider home range in which they forage on an occasional basis.

The Recovery Plan for the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) indicates that it winters across a large area of south-eastern Australia, although there is no priority habitat area for swift parrot within the Australian Capital Territory. Habitats within the project area, including the planted trees, may be part of the swift parrot's wider home range in which they forage on an occasional basis.

All species would be able to continue to forage over the project area following construction.

Fragment an existing population?

The project area is within a relatively fragmented environment in the Parliamentary Triangle.

Gang gang cockatoos, swift parrots and superb parrots are relatively mobile species and because of this, the project would not be likely to fragment a population of any of the species into two or more populations.

Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species?

According to the Conservation Advice, habitat critical to the survival of the gang gang cockatoo includes:

- All foraging habitat during both the breeding and non-breeding season. This does not include exotic feeding grounds such as ornamental trees, shrubs and hedges within urban and suburban areas.
- Hollow bearing trees with known or potential gang gang cockatoo hollow chambers.

The hollow bearing tree present on site may be habitat critical to the survival of the gang gang cockatoo. This tree is to be retained.

The Project area is within an urban area, and therefore not considered habitat critical to the survival of the gang gang cockatoo on this basis.

According to the National Recovery Plan, habitat critical to the survival of the superb parrot is divided into their breeding habitat, foraging habitat, and habitat for long-term maintenance of the species. This includes:

- Breeding habitat:
 - Areas within key biodiversity areas (see above)
 - Any known breeding colonies with a 10 km buffer zone
 - Any potential nest trees with suitable hollow bearing tree characteristics
- All preferred foraging habitat during both breeding and non-breeding season, not including exotic feeding grounds (non-native feeding grounds e.g. exotic street trees)
- Habitat for the long-term maintenance of the species includes all Key Biodiversity Areas, and any potential suitable foraging and breeding habitat within the projected south-eastward range shift

As the hollow bearing tree is to be retained, the project is unlikely to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the superb parrot.

According to the National Recovery Plan, habitat critical to the survival of the swift parrot includes breeding habitat in Tasmania and winter foraging habitat across south-eastern Australia although there is no priority habitat area for swift parrot within the Australian Capital Territory. Planted eucalypts are sometimes used by this species opportunistically when natural foraging resources are scarce. These areas would be used on an opportunistic basis rather than providing a reliable quantity and quality of resources upon which the species can depend

As the hollow bearing tree is to be retained and approximately 50 trees and shrubs to be replanted following construction, the project is unlikely to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the swift parrot.

Disrupt the breeding cycle of a population?

The gang gang cockatoo nests in the hollows of tree trunks, commonly near water, where larger hollow-bearing trees tend to be more common. This species commonly breeds in large hollow bearing trees in mature forests, and after breeding the species migrates to lower altitudes in the winter months where they are often seen in suburban areas.

Given the project locality (urban area) and limited habitat on site, it is considered unlikely that habitats impacted within the project area would be suitable for breeding for the gang gang cockatoo. The trees and vegetation within the Project area do not provide typical breeding habitat for the species. The proposed action is therefore unlikely to disrupt the breeding cycle of the gang gang cockatoo.

The superb parrot has three main breeding areas, which do not include Canberra. The superb parrot moves away from its breeding habitat in January, however this exact distribution is unclear. The superb parrot nests between September and December, and in suburban environments such as Canberra may nest in remnant woodlands containing large old trees.

Given the project locality (urban area) and limited habitat on site, it is considered unlikely that habitats impacted within the project area would be suitable for breeding for the superb parrot. The trees and vegetation within the Project area do not provide typical breeding habitat for the species. The proposed action is therefore unlikely to disrupt the breeding cycle of the superb parrot.

The swift parrot breeds in Tasmania. The proposed action is therefore unlikely to disrupt the breeding cycle of the swift parrot.

Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline

The extent of potential habitat to be removed within the project area is extremely low in comparison to all species' area of occupancy.

The project would result in the clearing of approximately 50 planted trees, including 32 eucalypts, within a highly modified area. Approximately 50 trees are to be planted following construction, and vegetation in the area, including native vegetation adjacent to the National Gallery would persist. As such, the project will not modify, remove or decrease the availability of quality habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline.

Result in invasive species that are harmful to threatened species becoming established in the threatened species habitat

Species harmful to the three species are those that compete for nesting hollows, including invasive species such as feral honeybees and common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*), but also native species such as the common brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), rainbow lorikeets (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*), eastern rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*) and galahs (*Eolophus roseicapilla*). These species are likely to already be present within the project area, and the project is not within a core breeding area for the gang gang cockatoo.

Within Canberra, only 0.5 percent of available hollows are suitable net sites for superb parrots, leading to an increased competition of tree hollows from introduced species such as the crimson rosella (*Platycercus elegans*), common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), sulphur-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*), eastern rosella, common myna, galah and long-billed corella (*Cacatua tenuirostris*). These species are likely to already be present within the project area, and the project is not within a core breeding area for the superb parrot.

With implementation of vehicle hygiene measures by the Contractor it would be unlikely that the Project would result in an invasive species becoming established in the project area that could provide habitat for the species.

Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline

Psittacine beak and feather disease is a disease of parrot species that could affect both the gang gang cockatoo and the superb parrot. Plant and equipment would be subject to hygiene measures prior to construction and would be limited chance of interaction between plant and equipment or personnel with bird populations. There are no aspects of the Project that would relate to potential increase in the risk of introduction and spread of psittacine beak and feather disease or other diseases. It is unlikely the project would result in the introduction or exacerbate the severity of disease that may cause the species to decline.

Interfere with the recovery of the species

The Conservation Advice for gang gang cockatoo and the Recovery plans for the swift parrot and the superb parrot list the threats to the species. The project would be unlikely to introduce or increase the intensity of existing threatening processes. In particular, with respect to the species habitat, the hollow bearing tree would be retained in the project area, and therefore potential breeding habitat for both the gang gang cockatoo and superb parrot would be retained.

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

No

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

The proposed action has been assessed to not be a controlled action in relation to threatened species, as the assessment of significance, in consideration of:

- Significant impact guideline 1.1.
- National Recovery Plan for the Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*).
- Conservation Advice for *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (gang gang cockatoo).
- National Recovery Plan for the Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*.

Although the proposed action would result in the clearing of 50 planted trees, including 32 planted eucalyptus trees (Attachment 1 JGCC Environmental Assessment, Appendix A, Drawing number 200), approximately 50 trees would be planted for amenity and habitat. It is unlikely that the proposed action would result in a significant residual impact to threatened species.

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. *

Nesting resources, such as the hollow bearing tree in the north of the project area are to be retained within the avoidance area (Attachment 1 JGCC Environmental Assessment, Figure 1.1, pp. 2).

Fauna management measures (e.g. fauna spotter catcher) are to be implemented during construction with the aim to avoid or reduce the potential risk of direct impact as a result of injury or mortality (Attachment 1 JGCC Environmental Assessment, Section 5, pp. 28-30), including:

- Contractor is to prepare and implement a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- Fauna management plan, including clearing protocols in consideration of threatened species and requirements for a fauna spotter-catcher and incident responses.
- Fauna observer training and briefing of potential habitat areas for listed, threatened and native fauna and flora.
- Vehicle hygiene requirements.
- Retain hollow bearing tree.
- Maintain landscape plantings and replacement of plantings which do not thrive.
- For open trenches or excavations, allow for fauna egress points or trench covering/fencing to reduce potential for fauna entrapment within trenches.
- Landscape plantings to replace trees removed. Approximately 50 trees are to be planted following construction (Attachment 1 JGCC Environmental Assessment, Appendix A, Drawing number 201).

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

No offset is proposed.

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
No	No	Actitis hypoleucos
No	No	Apus pacificus
No	No	Calidris acuminata
No	No	Calidris ferruginea
No	No	Calidris melanotos
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus
No	No	Monarcha melanopsis
No	No	Motacilla flava
No	No	Myiagra cyanoleuca
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis
No	No	Pandion haliaetus
No	No	Rhipidura rufifrons

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. *

The PMST report identified 14 EPBC Act listed migratory species that may occur within or be relevant to the search area.

These 14 species are comprised of:

- 1 marine bird
- 5 terrestrial species
- 8 wetlands species

The project area comprises maintained lawn, roads, carpark and carpark landscaping. The project area is not likely to comprise important habitat for migratory species, as it contains paved areas and limited resources. It would be unlikely to support an ecologically significant proportion of a population of a species, be of critical importance to a species at particular lifecycle stages, or be actively used by a species that is at the limit of a species range.

It is unlikely that the proposed action would significantly impact a migratory species.

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

The project does not involve a nuclear action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

A Commonwealth Marine Area is not located within 10 km of the project 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 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is not located within 10 km of the project area.

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 does not include coal seam gas development or large coal mining development.

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? *

Yes

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

The project area is Commonwealth Land. Under Section 26(3)(f) of the EPBC Act, requirements for approval of activities involving Commonwealth land do not apply when the person taking the action is the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency. Notwithstanding this, the whole of environment impact matters relevant to this action include:

Flora and fauna

The project area, comprising a carpark, carpark access and open space, presents limited habitat for plants and animals, including ACT listed threatened flora and fauna species.

Pollutants, chemicals and toxic substances

Block 1 Section 35, on which John Gorton Building is located, is on the ACT Government Environmental Protection Authority contaminated land register. It was identified to include abandoned in-situ underground fuel storage facilities. Review of historical drawings identified this is most likely related to an underground fuel storage facility to the south of John Gorton Building outside of the project footprint.

Heritage

The City of Canberra is considered to have outstanding heritage values to the nation because of the special association with Australians as the nation's capital and seat of the federal democracy. Attachment 2 Heritage Impact Assessment, Appendix C pp 84-99, identified that the project area is adjacent or located within close proximity of 14 Commonwealth Heritage Listed places. The heritage places of particular relevance to the project were identified to be:

- John Gorton Building.
- Parliament House vista.
- National Land Roads, Commonwealth Ave, Parkes (former nominated place).

Despite modifications to design and siting through the course of the design development, the project would be likely to have a significant impact on the environment because of its potential to impact upon heritage values of the Parliamentary Zone, including its relationship to Commonwealth Heritage Places:

- John Gorton Building.
- Parliament House Vista.

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

Yes

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

Impacts to historic heritage are considered likely to be significant due to alterations to the fabric and landscape of the Parliamentary Zone and the heritage values associated with Kings Avenue. In addition to the potential impacts to the National Heritage listed places of High Court and National Heritage Precinct and the Old Parliament House and Curtilage, historic heritage values associated with the following Commonwealth heritage place listings:

John Gorton Building

The John Gorton Building is a Commonwealth Heritage place (Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) ID 105472). It is significant for its inter-war stripped classical style, its function within the cultural landscape of the Parliamentary triangle and contribution to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle. The JGB is subject to a Heritage Management Plan, currently open for public consultation.

Parliament House Vista

The project is also located within the Parliament House Vista (CHL ID 105466) and is the central designed landscape in Canberra, that expresses the core of the Walter Burley Griffin Design for Canberra. It is important for successful urban design planning and its design

pattern with large landscape and waterscape spaces framed by treed avenues, bridges and the lake.

National Land Roads (former nomination for listing)

Kings Avenue, which was part of the National Lands Roads nominated Commonwealth heritage place, is one of the three major avenues designed to bound the National Triangle, which is the heart of the national capital. Whilst the area was not placed on the National Heritage list, the important heritage values identified by the Australian Heritage Council are protected under the EPBC Act as this area is Commonwealth Land.

An assessment has been completed for impacts to historic heritage in accordance with Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2.

Permanently destroy, remove or substantially alter the fabric (physical material including structural elements and other components, fixtures, contents, and objects) of a heritage place.

In relation to the nominated heritage listing, the project would result in the removal of Dorothy Tangney Place and alterations to Kings Avenue including the upgrade of the Kings Avenue and Blackall Street intersection, and minor modifications to the median strip. The removal of Dorothy Tangney Place, will alter the symmetry of road geometry between the Treasury Campus and the John Gorton Campus. Four Weston tree plantings would also be removed as part of the proposed action, removing some of the historical remnants of the planting pattern.

Involve extension, renovation, or substantial alteration of a heritage place in a manner which is inconsistent with the heritage values of the place.

Due to the projects scale and siting, the project would alter the setting of the John Gorton Building and Kings Avenue as part of the Parliamentary Zone. Further, creating a break in Kings Avenue with the upgrades to the Kings Avenue and Blackall Street intersection and creation of carpark entry will require the removal of four trees along Kings Avenue. Overall, approximately 50 trees will be removed. This will alter the immediate character and heritage values of Kings Avenue and temporarily reduce the number of trees planted within the Parliamentary Zone until the establishment of planned landscaping.

Involve the erection of buildings or other structures adjacent to, or within important sight lines of, a heritage place which are inconsistent with the heritage values of the place.

The project involves the construction of a five storey carpark adjacent to the Commonwealth heritage listed John Gorton Building, and within the sightlines of other heritage listed places, including the Parliamentary Vista and Kings Avenue.

Through iterative design the JGCC has been developed to sit below the height of the John Gorton Building, however, would intrude on the Parliament House Vista landscape. The project would also modify views along Kings Avenue with its large scale presence, however this is unlikely to be inconsistent with the heritage values of Kings Avenue.

Substantially lessen the heritage value of a heritage place for a community or group for which it is significant.

The project would not substantially reduce the heritage value of the Parliamentary Zone.

Substantially alter the setting of a heritage place in a manner which is inconsistent with the heritage values of the place.

The project would alter the visual setting of the John Gorton Building through its size, scale, and materiality. However, the impact to the visual setting has been reduced due to the siting of the carpark behind the John Gorton Building and below the height of the John Gorton Building's lower shoulder.

The project would also alter the setting of Kings Avenue, but not to the extent of being inconsistent with the heritage values. It is unlikely the project would result in substantial changes to the setting of a heritage place.

Substantially restrict or inhibit the existing use of a heritage place as a cultural or ceremonial site.

The project area is not a cultural or ceremonial site.

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

Yes

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

The proposed action is considered to be a controlled action because it has been assessed that there would be a residual significant impact to heritage values even with the implementation of measures to avoid or reduce impact. No other significant impacts were assessed for matters of national environmental significance or whole of the environment matters.

As part of the iterative design process, measures to mitigate potential heritage impacts have been implemented and incorporated into the design. These include a design peer review, development of a landscaping plan which incorporates the retention of the Weston planting plan and species, modification to the siting and height of the JGCC, and review of and changes to cladding materials.

Despite the above measures, there would remain unavoidable impacts to heritage values related to potential to impact upon heritage values of the Parliamentary Zone. This includes the relationship of the project to Commonwealth Heritage Places, and changes to the symmetry of the Parliamentary Zone road layout, because of the removal of Dorothy Tangney Place and the upgrade of the existing intersection at Kings Avenue and Blackall Street to a signalised intersection. This means that the road layout near the John Gorton Building would not match the road layout near the Treasury Building. This impact on symmetry would only be evident from above.

A full assessment of the proposed action on the heritage values of the Parliamentary Zone has been included in Attachment 2 Heritage Impact Assessment, Section 4.4, pp. 64-67.

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

Through the iterative design process, the proposed action has incorporated measures to mitigate the impact of the development on heritage values. They include:

- The height and materiality of the proposed action has been chosen to not impose upon the adjacent John Gorton Building and surrounding Parliamentary Zone. The height of the proposed action has been reduced since the initial design proposals, and will sit lower than the adjacent John Gorton Building.
- Historical tree plantings within the project footprint have also been retained following the Heritage Impact Assessment recommendations in Attachment 2, Heritage Impact Assessment, Section 4.5.1 pp 68-70. Demolition, excavation, construction, landscaping, utility services and civil works will avoid the selected historically significant trees, and works will be conducted in line with the AS4970-2006 for protecting trees on development sites, particularly in regard to Tree Protection Zones (TPZ).

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

No offsets are proposed or required for the proposed action

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.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Commonwealth heritage places overseas
No	No	Communications Centre
No	No	East Block Government Offices
No	No	Edmund Barton Offices
No	No	High Court - National Gallery Precinct
No	No	John Gorton Building
No	No	National Gallery of Australia
No	No	National Rose Gardens
No	No	Old Parliament House and Curtilage
No	No	Old Parliament House Gardens

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Commonwealth heritage places overseas
No	No	Parliament House Vista
No	No	Patent Office (former)
No	No	Sculpture Garden National Gallery of Australia
No	No	York Park North Tree Plantation

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

No

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

The project is not located within an overseas Commonwealth Heritage Place.

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? *

Yes

4.1.12.2 Briefly describe the nature and extent of the likely impact on the whole of the environment. *

As described for Commonwealth Land:

As an action undertaken by the Department of Finance, the project is to be undertaken by the Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency. Whole of environment matters are to be considered for projects undertaken by the Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency, and as such a whole of environment impact assessment has been completed for this project.

The whole of environment impact matters relevant to this action include:

Flora and fauna

The project area, comprising a carpark, carpark access and open space, presents limited habitat for plants and animals, including ACT listed threatened flora and fauna species.

Pollutants, chemicals and toxic substances

Block 1 Section 35, on which John Gorton Building is located, is on the ACT Government Environmental Protection Authority contaminated land register, and identified to include abandoned in-situ underground fuel storage facilities. Review of historical drawings identified this is most likely related to an underground fuel storage facility to the south of John Gorton Building outside of the project footprint.

Heritage

The City of Canberra is considered to have outstanding heritage values to the nation because of the special association with Australians as the nation's capital and seat of the federal democracy. Attachment 2 Heritage Impact Assessment, Appendix C identified that the project area is adjacent or located within close proximity of 14 Commonwealth Heritage Listed places. The heritage places of particular relevance to the project were identified to be:

- John Gorton Building.
- Parliament House vista.
- National Land Roads, Commonwealth Ave, Parkes (former nominated place).

Despite modifications to design and siting through the course of the design development, the project would be likely to have a significant impact on the environment because of its potential to impact upon heritage values of the Parliamentary Zone, including its relationship to Commonwealth Heritage Places:

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:

- Commonwealth Land (S26)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

No action

As a result of projected future development in the Parliamentary Triangle and adjacent areas, it is likely that existing at-grade carparking would not meet demand. Taking no action would not be a viable alternative as it would result in a net loss of available carparking within the local area in the long term.

Alternate locations outside of Parliamentary Zone

Alternate locations to the site adjacent to the John Gorton Building were explored. Alternatives outside of the Parliamentary Zone were found to be limited and would not satisfy acceptable walking distance proximity requirements.

A number of locations within the vicinity of the John Gorton Campus were explored that considered urban design outcomes and the functional requirements of car parking. In determining the siting for the project, the following criteria were considered:

1. The opportunity to fulfil the campus strategy outlined originally in “The Griffin Legacy” and subsequently in the National Capital Plan (NCP).
2. Availability of Commonwealth managed land within the Parliamentary Zone.
3. Efficient traffic pathways.

Five options were considered in detail. These options adopted the preferred Griffin Legacy geometry parallel to King Edward and King George Terraces, making a strong alignment to Kings Avenue.

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One explored option was locating the multistorey carpark on the existing on ground carpark in front of the John Gorton Building (to the south). This location was assessed to be unsuitable due to the impact it would have on the view of the heritage façade of the John Gorton Building and the impact on sightlines from Old Parliament House. There was also potential that this location would impact on the sub-surface communications room within the John Gorton Building.

The proposed location for the project was assessed to be the best fit with the above criteria.

Alternative designs

Design options with the project partially and fully underground to reduce the overall height of the structure were explored as part of the iterative design process. These were not considered to be feasible due to existing environmental conditions (including existing water table conditions), larger disturbance footprints, capital costs, operational costs, and reduction in area of land available to be revegetated following construction due to below ground infrastructure requirements.

A greater engagement with the spirit of the Griffin Plan was explored with a formerly considered lozenge shaped design, comprising a building shape referenced from the original Parliamentary Zone geometry comprising Queen Victoria Terrace, King George Terrace and King Edward Terrace.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

#1.	Attachment 1 - JGCC Environmental Assessment	Document	Environmental Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

#1.	ACTmapi	Link (Webpage)	https://app2.actmapi.act.gov.au/actmapi/index.html?viewer=ssvcrt
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3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

#1.	Attachment 3 - Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation	Document	Geotechnical investigation for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

#1.	Attachment 2 - Heritage Impact Assessment	Document	Heritage Impact Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

#1.	Attachment 3 - Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation	Document	Preliminary geotechnical assessment of the project area
#2.	ACT Geohub database	Link (Webpage)	https://actmapi-actgov.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ACTGOV::act-government-groundwater-monitoring-bo

4.1.2.2 (National Heritage) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

#1.	Attachment 2 - Heritage Impact Assessment	Document	Heritage Impact Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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4.1.2.10 (National Heritage) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

#1.	Attachment 2 - Heritage Impact Assessment	Document	Heritage Impact Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

#1.	Attachment 1 - JGCC Environmental Assessment	Document	Environmental Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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4.1.4.6 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

#1.	Attachment 1 - JGCC Environmental Assessment	Document	Environmental Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
#2.	Conservation Advice for Callocephalon fimbriatum (gang gang cockatoo)	Link (Webpage)	http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pu-conservation-advice-02032022 .
#3.	National Recovery Plan for the Superb Parrot (Polytelis swainsonii)	Link (Webpage)	https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/national-recovery-plan-superb-parrot.pdf
#4.	National Recovery Plan for the Swift Parrot Lathamus discolor	Link (Webpage)	https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/lathamus-discolor-swift-parrot.pdf

4.1.4.9 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

#1.	Attachment 1 - JGCC Environmental Assessment	Document	Environmental Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
#2.	Conservation Advice for Callocephalon fimbriatum (gang gang cockatoo)	Link (Webpage)	http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pu-conservation-advice-02032022 .
#3.	Matters of National Environmental Significance Significant impact guidelines 1.1	Link (Webpage)	https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/national-guidelines_1.pdf
#4.	National Recovery Plan for the Superb Parrot (Polytelis swainsonii)	Link (Webpage)	https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/national-recovery-plan-superb-parrot.pdf
#5.	National Recovery Plan for the Swift Parrot Lathamus discolor	Link (Webpage)	https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/lathamus-discolor-swift-parrot.pdf

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

#1.	Attachment 1 - JGCC Environmental Assessment	Document	Environmental Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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4.1.10.2 (Commonwealth Land) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

#1.	Attachment 2 - Heritage Impact Assessment	Document	Heritage Impact Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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4.1.10.5 (Commonwealth Land) Why you consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

#1.	Heritage Management Plans developed by Department of Finance - Invitation for public comment	Link (Webpage)	https://www.finance.gov.au/government/property-and-construction/heritage-management-plans
#2.	Significant impact guidelines 1.2 - Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by	Link (Webpage)	https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications/significant-impact-guidelines-12-actions-or-

4.1.10.8 (Commonwealth Land) Why you think your proposed action is a controlled action

#1.	Attachment 2 - Heritage Impact Assessment	Document	Heritage Impact Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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4.1.10.10 (Commonwealth Land) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

#1.	Attachment 2 - Heritage Impact Assessment	Document	Heritage Impact Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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4.1.12.2 (Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency) Nature and extent of the likely impact on the whole of the environment

#1.	Attachment 2 - Heritage Impact Assessment	Document	Heritage Impact Assessment for John Gorton Campus Carpark
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5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	61970632495
Organisation name	Department of Finance
Organisation address	2603 ACT
Representative's name	David Muldoon
Representative's job title	Assistant Secretary
Phone	02 62152090
Email	david.muldoon@finance.gov.au
Address	1 Canberra Avenue, Forrest, ACT 2603

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

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ By checking this box, I, **David Muldoon of Department of Finance**, 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. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ 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.

Same as Referring party information.

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

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ I, **David Muldoon of Department of Finance**, 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. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ 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. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ I, **David Muldoon of Department of Finance**, 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. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *