

Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk Project - Multi Day Walk

Application Number: **02993**

Commencement Date:

Status: **Locked**

14/07/2025

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk Project - Multi Day Walk

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Tourism and Recreation

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

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1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/11/2025

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

11/11/2028

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is proposing to construct a new multi-day walk called the Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk (or DEGW). The walk traverses through Dorrigo and Bindarri National Parks on the mid north coast of NSW.

The DEGW proposal is to establish infrastructure support a single-direction 4-day, 3-night walk starting at the current and future Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and finishing at the Bindarray picnic area in Bindarri NP. This infrastructure includes:

- 44.1 km of 600 to 900 mm wide grade 4 walking track (constructed per the Australian Standard 2156: Walking tracks classification and signage, where possible)
- about 5.8 km of upgraded management trails (5.2 km) and dormant park roads (600 m)
- 3 new overnight camps, each incorporating hut-style accommodation, a camping area for tents and a communal building
- 1 upgraded existing remote camp area, to include new camping sites and amenities
- upgrades to the existing Baliiga picnic area, to improve parking, roads and amenities
- 43 new waterway crossings, including 5 single-span pedestrian bridges greater than 20 m long and one vehicle bridge
- 14 scenic viewpoints
- wayfinding and interpretation signage
- temporary access routes and construction sites.

The total area affected by the activity (including construction impact area) has been calculated to be:

- 16.7ha (maximum impact area)
- 9.61ha of direct impact

A detailed activity description and construction scope are set out in the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) **Attachment 4, Section 6.3.2 - Table 15**. All relevant technical reports, including a draft construction environmental management plan (CEMP) (**Attachment 14**) are attached.

NPWS has twice met with departmental representatives from the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (AG-DCCEEW) to discuss the project and the requirements under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This was an initial meeting in November 2023 and then a pre-referral meeting in November 2024. It has been agreed that a referral to the Australian Government will ensure a collaborative approach to the management of MNES and provide community confidence in the outcomes of the environmental impact assessments.

Community consultation has been undertaken through several NSW planning processes to date including the preparation of a plan of management, a project masterplan, a review of environmental factors, a statement of heritage impact and a report on the potential impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

A new Plan of Management (POM) was prepared to enable consideration of the DEGW. The POM was publicly exhibited from November 2023 to 15 January 2024[TW3] and approved on 16 June 2024 by the NSW Minister for the Environment, who administers the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). Refer to **Attachment 1**.

Consultation on the POM was undertaken with the Commonwealth DCCEEW during the public exhibition phase. Following the adoption of the POM, NPWS commenced [RB4] [TW5] an extensive environmental assessment process under Division 5.1 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), consistent with the published Guidelines for Division 5.1 Assessments (DPE, 2022), with the preparation a Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

A draft project masterplan (**Attachment 2**) was prepared and publicly exhibited from 13 October 2023 to 15 January 2024 resulting in 167 submissions. The submissions report summarises the main matters raised including strong community support for the walk and route and concerns about the potential environmental effect (**Attachment 3**).

The REF (**Attachment 4**) was publicly exhibited from 24 January to 24 February 2025. A submissions report (**Attachment 10**) was prepared as part of the technical reports supporting the final REF determination package. The DEGW REF was determined on the 20 June 2025, following preparation of a NPWS Determination Report and Decision Statement occurring in accordance with Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act. Refer to **attachments 12 & 13**.

A Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) report was completed for MNES listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) including the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (World Heritage property and National Heritage Place), Commonwealth-listed threatened species, endangered ecological communities, and migratory species. Refer to **attachment 6 and attachment 4 section 3.4.1**.

The environmental impact assessment, as set out in the REF (**attachment 4 section 11 Table 30**) concluded that the DEGW project would not have a significant impact on MNES listed under the EPBC Act and therefore a referral to the Australian Government was not required. NPWS has decided to refer the project to ensure a high level of confidence in the MNES assessment processes. This is consistent with the updates provided by NPWS to the Australian Government during the two previous pre-referral meetings on the DEGW project conducted over the past 2 years.

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).

The DEGW project, as a multi-day walk, is linked to another project by NPWS called the Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre (or DARC) redevelopment project that includes replacement of the existing Dorrigo Rainforest Visitor Centre and elevated walkway in Dorrigo NP. The DEGW project is linked to the DARC as the multi-day walk commences at the centre.

The environmental impact assessments for the DARC project found there was not likely to be a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance, including World and National Heritage values, and the DARC project is not being referred to the Australian Government.

The DEGW REF has considered the cumulative impacts of the DARC developments in its overall assessment.

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 Legislation - *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

An assessment of potential impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) refer to **attachment 6**, was completed consistent with the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance (Cth DEWHA 2013). The MNES report outlined potential impacts on Commonwealth listed threatened species and endangered ecological communities, migratory species, and the Gondwana Rainforest of Australia (National Heritage Listed Place ID No. 105704, and World Heritage Listed property (WHL #368).

The assessment included consideration of potential impacts on 7 threatened ecological communities (TECs), 33 threatened flora species, 46 threatened fauna species and 16 migratory bird species listed under the EPBC Act were predicted to be present. The assessment of potential impacts on the World and National Heritage values of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia followed *Guidance and toolkit for impact assessments in a World Heritage context* (UNESCO 2022), and considered values outlined in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SoOUV), the World Heritage and Associative Values of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Hunter 2004), and the Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia Strategic Overview for Management (DEH 2000).

The MNES report, concluded that the activity was not likely to have a significant impact on MNES and no referral to the Federal Minister was required. However, in the interests of collaborative management of the MNES, and to provide the highest level of public confidence in the environmental assessment, a referral was recommended. Refer to **attachments 4, 5 and 6**.

Commonwealth Legislation – *Native Title Act 2003*

The REF has addressed Native Title and Future Act implications to validate the proposed ‘public works’. A native title notification letter has been sent to NTSCorp (as the NSW native title representative body or service provider, on behalf of any future native title holders or claimants). No response was received. Refer to **attachment 4 Section 5.1**.

The project team consulted with NPWS Aboriginal Partnerships and Heritage Unit to identify the locations where native title has been extinguished and where it still exists. NPWS also consulted with the local Aboriginal community regarding Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment requirements in preparing the ACHAR.

NSW legislation - *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act)*

The DEGW is lawfully permissible and authorised under the NPW Act. It aligns with the objects (section 2A), management principles set for national parks (section 30E) under the NPW Act and the adopted statutory *Dorrigo National Park, Bindarri National Park and Bindarri State Conservation Area Plan of Management* (NSW DCCEEW-NPWS, 2024). In the preparation of the DEGW REF, NPWS has applied the agency’s published *Guidelines for Preparing a Review of Environmental Factors* (DPE, 2022) and the *Dorrigo National park and Bindarri National Park and State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy* (NPWS, 2005) in assessing environmental impacts associated with the DEGW proposal. NPWS has also considered and applied the agency’s published Park Policies, including;

- Visitor Accommodation Policy
- Walking Tracks Policy
- Landslides and Rockfalls Policy
- Visitor Safety Policy
- Tree Risk Management Policy

NSW legislation – *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*

The DEGW project can apply Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act as the proposal accords with Division 12 (Parks and other public reserves) under the NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 (TISEPP). The DEGW project is defined as an activity under the EP&A Act, is located

on land reserved under the NPW Act and will be delivered by NPWS as a public authority. For the off-park component of the project associated with ancillary road and trail upgrades on Crownland and local council roads, NPWS applied Division 8-Forestry and Division 17 – Roads under TISEPP. The DEGW is classified as '*permissible without consent*' under the respective clauses under the TISEPP. Refer to **attachments 12 and 13**. Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act is the correct NSW planning pathway.

The DEGW REF also assessed consistency of the project under the Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) as Bellingen LEP 2010 and Coffs Harbour LEP 2013. The project remains consistent with the zoning objectives for C1 (National Parks and Nature Reserves), RU2 (Rural landscape), and RUS (Forestry) zoned lands.

NPWS is also the determining authority under Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act. As the determining authority, NPWS is subject to section 5.5 of the EP&A Act in that the agency must '*examine and take into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment*'. This recognition of values and assessment of impacts is documented in the DEGW REF. The assessment outcome concluded that the DEGW project is not likely to significantly impact on the environment (as the existing natural, cultural, social and economic values), and as such, an Environmental Impact Statement under the EP&A Act would not be required.

NPWS has prepared the DEGW REF under Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act in accordance with the statutory Guidelines for Division 5.1 Assessments (DPE, 2022) published by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure under section 170 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. Refer to **attachment 4 section 3.2**.

NSW legislation – all other legislation

Under the EP&A Act, an activity must justify that it remains compliant with other NSW legislation, key legislation considered under the DEGW REF included:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) - Preparing a Ecological Assessment report (refer to **attachment 5**) and completing a section 7.3 BC Act Test of Significance in accordance with NSW Threatened species Test of Significance Guidelines (OEH, 2018). It was concluded that the DEGW project is unlikely to have a significant impact on listed threatened entities under that Act, so a Species Impact Statement is not required. Refer to **attachment 4, Section 11**.
- *Rural Fires Act 1997* – NPWS, as a bushfire fighting authority and retains a statutory obligation to comply with the RF Act in the management of land administered under the NPW Act compliant with both Dorrigo National park and Bindarri National Park and State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategies (NPWS, 2005). The construction and environmental management plan (CEMP) (refer to **attachment 14**) details the emergency response and fire mitigation actions required during construction activities and NPWS will prepare an emergency management plan as part of the DEGW Operational environmental management plan (OEMP) for the ongoing management of the walk.
- *Heritage Act 1977* - Preparing a Statement of Heritage Impact and seeking a section 60 Heritage Act permit from NSW Heritage for all the works affecting the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia as listed on the State Heritage Register (listing ID 01002). Refer to **attachment 8**.
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994* - Waterway crossings are designed to avoid impacts in accordance with Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat, Conservation and Management (DPI, 2013). Department of Primary Industry - Fisheries was consulted, with conditions issued and included in the REF Decision Statement. Refer to **attachment 15**.
- *Biosecurity Act 2015* - Hygiene protocols are mandated to prevent the spread and risk of Phytophthora, myrtle rust, and chytrid fungus, as well as pest and weed control management, in accordance with the published *Hygiene guidelines for invasive plants and pathogens* - (DPIE,2020). Refer to **attachment 14 section 5**.
- *Roads Act 1993* - Temporary road closures and upgrades require coordination and authorisation under the Act from the local councils as the road authorities. All consultations are complete, and

NPWS has written support from the councils to move forward. All works will accord with council required road construction standards.

Water Management Act 2000 - NPWS is exempt from Controlled Activity Approvals in NSW as a public authority. NPWS applies best practice erosion and sediment controls consistent with the published standards *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and construction* (Vol 1, Vol 2A and Vol 2C (landcom, 2004). Refer to **attachment 14 section 5**.

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. *

Community consultation has been undertaken through several NSW planning processes to date including the preparation of a plan of management, a project masterplan, a review of environmental factors, a statement of heritage impact and a report on the potential impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

There has been extensive targeted engagement with indigenous stakeholders in project planning and the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). Refer to **attachment 7 - Not for public exhibition**

Public exhibition of the DEGW Master Plan, POM and as a draft REF has been undertaken, with submission reports prepared.

167 submissions were received on the project master plans. These submissions indicate strong community support for the multi-day walk (74% of respondents supported the proposal). Refer to **attachments 3 and 10**.

NPWS received a total of 40 submissions on the exhibited draft REF. These came from a range of stakeholders, organisations, neighbours and local community members, primarily from the local area. Refer to **attachment 10**. There were similar numbers of submissions supporting and opposing the proposal. Many submissions indicated support for the intent of the proposal, whilst having some concerns about elements of the proposal or the assessment. The top 3 most frequently raised topics in the community submissions were:

- Environmental management – concerns about weeds, pathogens, and biodiversity impacts.
- Social and economic impacts – effects on neighbours, infrastructure, and community benefits.
- Description of the activity – infrastructure concerns (huts, walkways), booking systems, and track alignment.
- Planning and assessment process – insufficient detail on assessment process and off park components

A summary of the main concerns and NPWS response is provided below and in **attachment 10**

1. Environmental management

- Concerns: Potential harm to threatened species, World Heritage values, and sensitive ecosystems; cumulative effects of minor impacts; spread of pathogens (Phytophthora, Myrtle rust, Chytrid fungus).
- NPWS Response:
 - Following receipt of submissions, the sections of the REF on pathogens was reviewed and updated to include additional data and references. This additional material identified that there is unlikely to be a significant impact noting:
 - The project footprint is limited to a small area
 - Pathogens are known to be present in the parks however the planned biosecurity controls will ensure DEGW does not contribute to the spread of pathogens or weeds
 - The ecological assessments identified there was unlikely to be a significant impact.
 - Hygiene protocols, monitoring, and seasonal closures will be implemented to ensure any residual risks are mitigated.

2. Social and Economic Impacts

- Concerns: Noise, litter, bushfire risk near private properties; equitable access for independent walkers vs. commercial operators.
- NPWS Response:
 - Track ranger model and education programs to manage visitor behaviour.
 - No exclusive commercial use; bookings will be equitable.
 - Project expected to boost local jobs and tourism.

3. Description of the activity

- **Infrastructure and Design**
- Concerns: Overdevelopment (huts, elevated walkways), affordability, and visual intrusion; preference for minimal-impact camping platforms.
- NPWS Response:
 - Huts are low-key, compact, and designed for inclusivity.
 - Camp 3 location changed to reduce environmental impact.
 - Infrastructure designed to blend with the landscape and meet safety standards.
- **Traffic, Parking, and Access**
- Concerns: Increased traffic on Dome Road and Waterfall Way; insufficient parking; impact on existing recreational use.
- NPWS Response:
 - Collaboration with councils on road safety and infrastructure.
 - Shuttle services encouraged; car park upgrades planned.
 - Shared trails clarified for dual use (e.g., mountain biking).
- **Toileting and Human Waste**
- Concerns: Impacts from toileting outside designated facilities.
- NPWS Response:
 - Education and signage to promote minimal impact practices.
 - Toileting impacts assessed and mitigation included in REF.

4. Planning and Assessment Process

- Concerns: Inadequate detail in REF; insufficient assessment of off-park activities and cultural assets.
- NPWS Response:
 - REF updated with more legislative detail and off-park approvals.
 - Koala conservation threats and fire risk mitigation added.
 - Mapping and design limitations acknowledged and addressed.
 - Additional pathogen data and references added to the REF.

In response, NPWS modified the REF based on the submissions:

Draft REF submissions offered constructive input with suggested improvements to the DEGW design and impact assessment, resulting in several changes to the final REF.

The changes to the proposal included:

- Camp 3 relocation - Moved 300m south of Urumbilum picnic area to reduce environmental impact and improve the walk experience. An addendum report to the REF was prepared. Refer to **attachment 11**

Changes to the REF included:

- Legislative clarity - Added detail on permissibility under the NPW Act and other NSW legislation.
- Licences and approvals - Clarified off-park components and land manager agreements.
- Commercial use - Clarified Eco-pass licensing and access trail restrictions.
- Toileting impacts - Included assessment of off-track toileting and mitigation strategies.
- Pathogen risks - Added expert advice and references on Phytophthora, Myrtle rust, and Chytrid fungus.
- Bushfire risk - Expanded assessment and mitigation strategies.
- Koala Assets of Intergeneration Significance (Part 12A of the NPW Act) - Included threats and conservation actions relevant to Bindarri NP.

Further information is provided in **attachment 10**, including NPWS responses.

Community consultation

Below is a summary of the broad consultation undertaken for the project's design and environmental assessment phases. Regular DEGW project updates are also provided to >1300 registered users through the NPWS DEGW project updates page.

Other consultation methods applied included:

- Initial workshops - Held in 2019 to explore community concepts.
- Wider consultation - Commenced in June 2022 after funding was announced.
- Engagement methods:
 - Over 100 face-to-face meetings, group briefings, and field trips.
 - Online engagement: Project webpages received over 24,000 views.
 - Printed materials: Flyers, posters, newsletters, and drop-ins.
 - Social media: Facebook posts, videos and online forms reached tens of thousands.
 - Public exhibition: Draft REF exhibited from 24 January to 24 February 2025, with six local information sessions held.

Direct stakeholder consultation with:

- Adjacent landowners (e.g., Dairyville, Dome Road)
- Interest groups (e.g., bushwalking, conservation, tourism)
- Local councils and government agencies

Aboriginal engagement and consultation:

Registered Aboriginal stakeholders were consulted throughout the planning and assessment phases. The ACHA consultation was conducted, along with field surveys involving the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and RAPs. The ACHA for the Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk (DEGW) was prepared as part of the broader Statement of Heritage Impact. Refer to **attachment 7 - Not for public exhibition**

NPWS is committed to ongoing engagement and consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders throughout the construction and operation of DEGW. Opportunities for Aboriginal employment, interpretation, and track ranger roles are part of the project's long-term plan.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN 27578976844

Organisation name DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER - National Parks & Wildlife Service

Organisation address c/ NPWS Parramatta NSW 2124

Referring party details

Name Tom Denman

Job title Senior Project Officer

Phone 0400 863755

Email npws.dagwp@environment.nsw.gov.au

Address c/ NPWS Dorrigo Depot - 2 Casuarina St

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 27578976844

Organisation name DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT
AND WATER - NPWS

Organisation address c/ NPWS Parramatta NSW 2124

Person proposing to take the action details

Name Glenn Storrie

Job title Manager Coffs Coast Area

Phone 02 66520900

Email Glenn.storrie@environment.nsw.gov.au

Address 32 Marina Drive Coffs Harbour

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. *

The NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service Director, North Coast Branch, and Manager, Coffs Coast Area, have exemplary histories of responsible environmental management with no proceedings recorded under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law.

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

The DEGW REF was prepared and determined in accordance with Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act (refer to **attachments 4,10,11,12,13**) with the supporting technical reports (refer to **attachments 5,6,7,8,9**) and the draft construction environmental management plan (refer to **attachment 14**). The DEGW will also comply with the NPWS Park Facilities Manual, and approved engineering and technical designs and construction plans approved as part of the REF and the Decision Statement (refer **attachment 13**)

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 27578976844

Organisation name DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT
AND WATER - NPWS

Organisation address c/ NPWS Parramatta NSW 2124

Proposed designated proponent details

Name Glenn Storrie

Job title Manager Coffs Coast Area

Phone 02 66520900

Email Glenn.storrie@environment.nsw.gov.au

Address 32 Marina Drive Coffs Harbour

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	27578976844
Organisation name	DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER - National Parks & Wildlife Service
Organisation address	c/ NPWS Parramatta NSW 2124
Representative's name	Tom Denman
Representative's job title	Senior Project Officer
Phone	0400 863755
Email	npws.dagwp@environment.nsw.gov.au
Address	c/ NPWS Dorrigo Depot - 2 Casuarina St

✔ 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	27578976844
Organisation name	DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER - NPWS
Organisation address	c/ NPWS Parramatta NSW 2124
Representative's name	Glenn Storrie
Representative's job title	Manager Coffs Coast Area
Phone	02 66520900
Email	Glenn.storrie@environment.nsw.gov.au
Address	32 Marina Drive Coffs Harbour

✔ 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

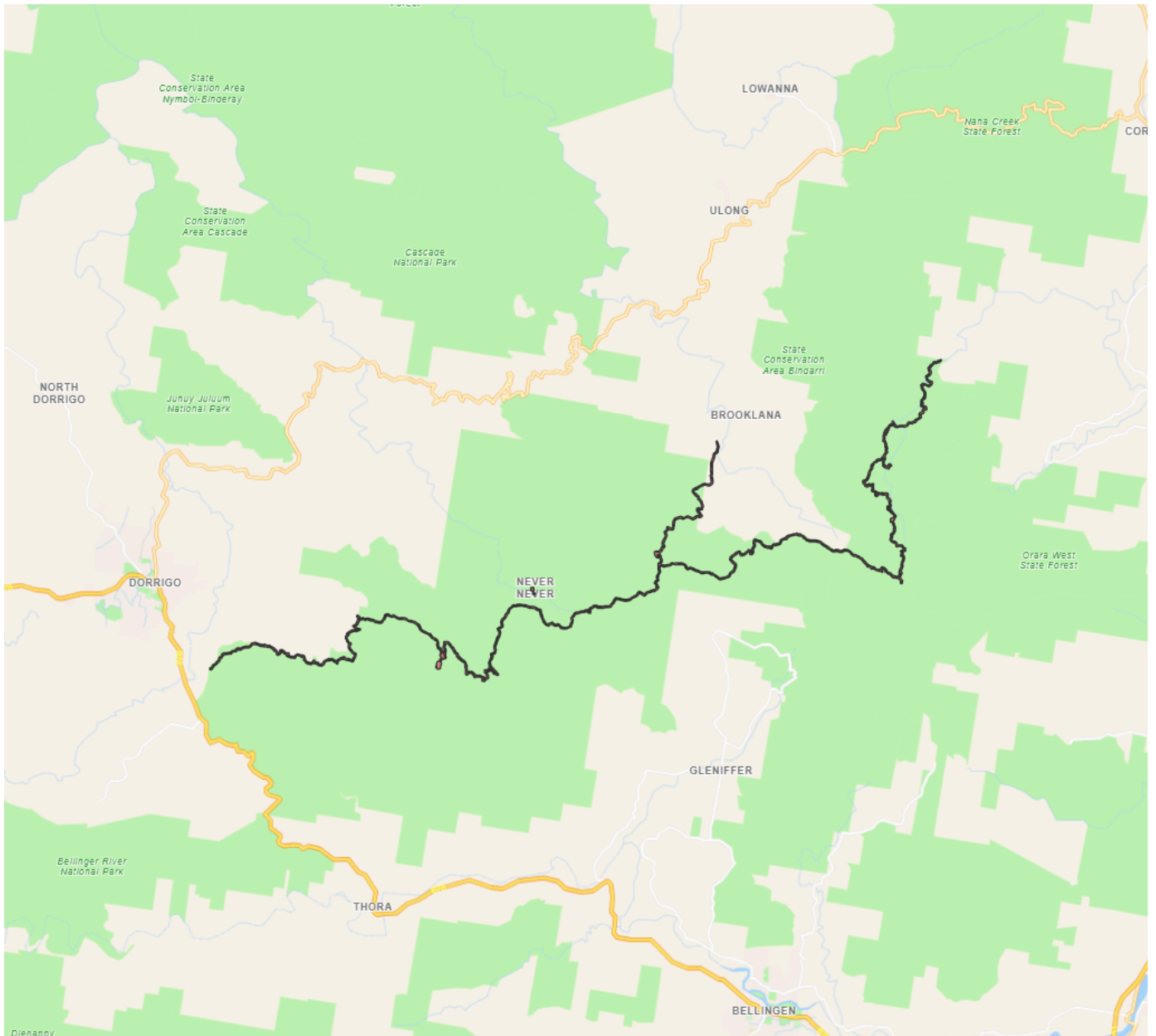
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Referring party

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 66.54 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 14.85 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Dorrigo National Park and Bindarri National Park - Mid North Coast NSW.

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

New South Wales

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 DEGW project is primarily located within Dorrigo and Bindarri National Parks, as land reserved and administered under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The national parks are managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) as the park authority. Other tenures that will be used for temporary ancillary construction and/or ongoing access for both construction and management activities attached to the DEGW. The activity impact area includes:

- **State Forest NSW:** where the DEGW project involves the use of Tuckers Knob Road for temporary access, this road is managed by the Forestry Corporation of NSW. NPWS to acquire authorisation under the Forestry Act for any works.
- **Private Property:** where the DEGW project includes upgrades and/or use of parts of Whitneys Trail, which traverses private properties (Lots 55, 61, 62, 64, and 65 DP 752842) and the use of Barree Fire Trail within private property. NPWS to acquire temporary and/or permanent easements to lawfully access over private lands are part of the DEGW project.
- **Crown Lands NSW:** The project involves the use of parts of Jersey Bull Road, Dome Road, Whitneys Road, and Slingsbys Road, which are managed by Crown Lands NSW. NPWS to acquire authorisation under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* for any works.
- **Local Government:** The project includes parts of Jersey Bull Road and Whitneys Road managed by Coffs Harbour City Council, and parts of Dome Road managed by Bellingen Shire Council. NPWS to acquire authorisation under the *Roads Act 1993* for any works.

The DEGW REF ensures that all relevant tenures are considered and assessed, ensuring compliance with environmental and planning regulations, including relevant consents and approvals.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The DEGW project area spans 46km, with the township of Dorrigo a short 10–20-minute drive from days 1 and 2. The towns of Bellingen and Coffs Harbour are the other centres located to the east of the project. Access to Days 3 and 4 is via Coffs Harbour and the localities of Dairyville, Ulong and Brooklana in the upper Orara valley west of Coffs Harbour.

The DEGW project area is located primarily in Dorrigo and Bindarri National Parks. Dorrigo NP is part of the New England Group of the World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia property. This area is protected in perpetuity and characterised by diverse and significant landscape features, geology, native vegetation, connectivity, and hydrology. It is rich in biodiversity, geological features, and hydrological systems, making it a significant and diverse environment. The DEGW project area was not impacted by the 2019/20 fire season. Numerous flood events over the last 5 years have impacted existing visitor infrastructure, including roads and bridges.

To access the DEGW project area for construction and ongoing operation and management, existing public roads and park management trails will be used. These include Dome Road, Slingsbys Trail, Whitneys' Trail, Barree Fire Trail, Urumbilum Road, Bangalore Fire Trail, Jersey Bull Fire Trail and Tuckers Knob Fire Trail. The proposed road works affect the following trails, which will enable ongoing access to all 3 hiker camps:

- Unnamed dormant trail from Dome Rd to Camp 1
- Whitneys Trail to enable access to camp 2
- Unnamed dormant trail to camp 3

All other public roads and management trails do not require works. These will be managed and maintained as per the NPWS Road Manual.

Access to the DEGW project sites will involve remote work, including walking in construction access via existing tracks and trails. Temporary walk-in access through existing private property tracks for construction purposes is permitted in only 3 locations. Helicopters will be used periodically to deliver materials to sites.

1. The existing environment (refer to attachment 4 section 8)

Significant Landscape Features and Topography

The study area occurs primarily along the Dorrigo escarpment between the towns of Dorrigo and Bellingen and the Upper Orara Valley within the Coffs Harbour hinterland, NSW. The altitude ranges from about 150 meters near Bindarray Picnic Area to 990 meters at Dome Mountain. The area includes mountains, steep escarpments, rivers, creeks, gorges, and waterfalls. Notable features include Dome Mountain, Rosewood River, Dibbs Head, Wild Cattle Creek, Never Never River, Gleniffer Falls, Mt Wondurriyah, Triple Peak, Tuckers Knob, Urumbilum River gorge, and Urumbilum Falls

Geology

The study area is primarily on the eastern edge of the Dorrigo Plateau, a remnant of the Ebor Volcano, with basalt outcrops in the southwestern part of Dorrigo NP. The plateau region is made up of carboniferous metamorphic rocks, mainly argillite and slates of the Moombil beds. Igneous rocks of Permian age outcrop in the southern part of Dorrigo NP. Through Bindarri NP within the Orara Escarpment and Orara Valleys, the geology is predominantly metasedimentary rocks

Native Vegetation

The study area is characterised by high floristic diversity with numerous wet plant community types. Warm temperate and subtropical rainforest communities, and tall wet sclerophyll forest communities dominate the area, with some patches containing elements of old-growth forest. Less prevalent vegetation types include small pockets of cool temperate rainforest and northern montane heath. The vegetation represents "Gondwanan" refugia, areas with many primitive and ancient species.

Connectivity

The study area features large tracts of contiguous intact native forests derived from various vegetation communities. These areas are surrounded by rich agricultural lands historically cleared for logging and agriculture. Dorrigo NP protects the entire upper catchment of the Rosewood and Never Never Rivers, and Wild Cattle Creek, serving as the scenic backdrop for the headwaters of the Bellinger Valley. Bindarri NP links the Dorrigo Plateau with the mid-north coast hinterland and coastal valley floors, protecting the headwaters of the Orara and Urumbilum Rivers. Both parks provide excellent connectivity for a diverse range of mobile native fauna and genetic dispersal for a high diversity of native plants.

Hydrology and Waterways

The first two and a half days of the walk are in Dorrigo NP, which contains three larger waterways and several smaller tributaries that are often ephemeral. The Rosewood River and Never Never River are clear streams flowing eastward into the Bellinger River, with riparian zones of subtropical rainforest. Wild Cattle Creek flows north and west into the Nymboida River. Despite being headwater catchments without extensive drainage areas, these rivers are significant due to the region's considerable rainfall. Dorrigo NP is home to several prominent waterfalls, including Gennifer, Cedar, Coachwood, and Casuarina Falls. The main waterways in Bindarri NP are the Urumbilum River and Bangalore Creek, which flow into the Orara River and then the Clarence River. The catchment and riparian zones of these waterways are relatively intact and vegetated with subtropical rainforest.

Pathogens and weeds

Chytrid fungus and Myrtle Rust are considered endemic to the area, with evidence that both exist in the study area. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (Pc) has also been recorded in visitor precincts and at several locations through both parks. There is evidence of some small, isolated dieback patches through the park, some of which are decades old. Some have been tested and confirmed as positive for Pc. Hygiene controls will be implemented to avoid the DEGW contributing to the spread of Phytophthora and or new pathogens or strains of Pc. Community concern about the risks posed by pathogens and potential impacts has been a key area in the REF submissions. NPWS has recognised these risks through the implementation of hygiene measures during construction and for ongoing management. NPWS considers that, with the inclusion of the planned hygiene measures, the risks of DEGW contributing to the spread is pathogens is mitigated.

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

Both Dorrigo and Bindarri National Parks provide large intact areas for nature conservation along the escarpment including the protection of the headwaters of several river systems. The nature of landscape and vegetation combined with limited trails and access points means the parks are well protected and in good condition overall and play a key role as a refugia.

There are a range of low-key nature-based recreational opportunities in Dorrigo NP with the Dorrigo Rainforest visitor centre playing a key focal point for visitors to the area. The Rainforest Centre, skywalk and the Wonga Walk provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia and is a key tourism and educational facility that has been in operation for over 30 years. It is considered one of the most accessible Gondwana Rainforests experiences in Australia.

Several low-key picnic areas, such as the Glade and Baliiga (formerly Never Never Picnic area), provide access to short day walks to waterfalls and lookouts. The park features a network of more remote walking tracks in the Never Never area and the syndicate track area in the central section of the park. Remote camping is available at Wild Cattle Creek (Waygarrgala), and off-track remote walking is available. Canyoning is a popular activity in the national park's remote gorges.

Bindarri National Park also offers a variety of low-key activities, including 4WD trails that access several day-use areas, including Urumbilum Falls, Bangalore Falls and Bindarray, which provide relatively undeveloped settings for visitors to enjoy the natural environment. There are several short walks in these areas. Canyoning, rock climbing, and abseiling are allowed in specific gorges within the park, such as Bangalore Creek and Urumbilum River gorges. The strategic direction for the management of the parks is detailed in the POM. Refer to **Attachment 1**.

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

Dorrigo National Park and Bindarri National Park are recognised for a range of outstanding natural features and unique values. Dorrigo National Park is part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property, recognised for:

- Outstanding geological features (e.g. remnants of the Ebor Volcano and the Great Escarpment).
- Ancient evolutionary history and ongoing ecological processes.
- Exceptional biodiversity, including many threatened and endemic species.

The park spans high-altitude misty plateaus to deep river valleys with gorge systems and spectacular waterfalls. These landscapes offer refugia for a wide range of ecosystems, including:

- Cool, warm temperate, subtropical, and dry rainforests.
- Wet and dry eucalypt forests.
- Grassy plains like the Killungoondie Plain, which are culturally and ecologically significant

The parks are home to:

- Over 275 vertebrate species, including 50 threatened animals (e.g. southern greater glider, spotted-tailed quoll, koala).
- Over 585 plant species, with 15 listed as threatened (e.g. Dorrigo daisy bush and milky silkpod).
- Bindarri NP and SCA are declared Assets of Intergenerational Significance (AIS) for koala conservation – See the Koala conservation action plan.

The national parks showcase the tectonic evolution of eastern Australia. They protect the headwaters of several rivers (e.g. Orara, Rosewood, Never Never, Urumbilum), which are vital for biodiversity, water supply, and cultural values.

The parks are located on Gumbaynggirr Country, with:

- Deep spiritual connections.
- Sites like McGraths Hump (Old Man Dreaming), linked to Dreamtime stories.
- Evidence of traditional land management practices, such as fire use to maintain grasslands.

Further details are contained in the various REF reports. Refer to **attachment 5** as the Ecological assessment, **attachment 8** as the Statement of Heritage Impact and **attachment 6** as the MNES report.

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 within the project area ranges from 990m at Dome Mt near Dome Road at the western end of the project area to 150m at Bindarray picnic area at the finish of the walk in the east.

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.

The DEGW project impact area is diverse and ecologically significant, encompassing a range of plant community types and threatened entities. An Ecological Assessment Report was completed by ELA in 2024. Refer to **Attachment 5**.

The report identified and considered the following ecological matters:

- **Plant Community Types (PCT)** - 19 PCTs were found in the study area,
- **Endangered Ecological Community** - 1 EEC is in the activity impact area (construction footprint) as the Lowland Rainforest in NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin bioregion endangered ecological community (EEC) listed under the NSW BC Act, and the *Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia* as listed on the Cth EPBC Act as critically endangered ecological community (CEEC).
- **Flora** - 247 flora species were identified during the field survey undertaken in April 2023. Of these, 235 were native, 12 were exotic species, and 7 were threatened under the BC Act/EPBC Act.
- **Fauna** - 27 native fauna species were opportunistically sighted during the field survey undertaken in April 2023, five (5) species were threatened under the BC Act/EPBC Act.

Threatened Flora

7 threatened flora species were recorded within the study area - Status - BC/EPBC Acts

- Slender marsdenia *Marsdenia longiloba* - Endangered / Vulnerable
- Ravine orchid *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* - Vulnerable / Vulnerable
- Milky silkpod *Parsonsia dorrigoensis* - Vulnerable / Endangered
- Scrub turpentine *Rhodamnia rubescens* - Critically Endangered
- Rusty plum *Niemeyera whitei* - Vulnerable / Not listed
- Cryptic forest twiner *Tylophora woollsii* - - Endangered / Endangered
- Narrow-leaf finger fern *Grammitis stenophylla* - Endangered / Not listed

Antarctic Beech (*Nothofagus moorei*) is also present in mapped Plant Community Types (PCTs) 3031 and 4107 and is a significant species.

Threatened Fauna

27 native fauna species were opportunistically sighted, with the habitat assessment identifying the following features and signs of usage occurring in the Study area. Refer to **attachment 5, Section 5.2.4**

- Foraging resources.
- Aquatic habitats
- HBTs and stags.
- Dens and burrows.
- Hollow logs and LWD.
- Leaf litter.
- Flaking bark.
- Sphagnum moss.
- Rocky habitat.
- Nests.

Threatened fauna – five (5) species were recorded within the study area

- Stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*) – Vulnerable
- Sphagnum frog (*Phyllorhina sphagnicolus*) – Vulnerable
- Glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) – Vulnerable
- Parma wallaby (*Notamacropus parma*) – Vulnerable
- Grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) – Vulnerable

An additional 44 threatened fauna species are likely to inhabit the study area and may be directly or indirectly impacted by the DEGW project. Refer to **Attachment 5**.

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

Plant community types

The DEGW project study area contains contiguous forest vegetation assemblages which form part of the World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia and are considered ecologically and scientifically significant. The study area is characterised by high floristic diversity with numerous wet vegetation types.

- Warm temperate and subtropical rainforest communities, and tall wet sclerophyll forest communities dominate the Study area with some patches containing elements of old growth forest.
- Less prevalent vegetation types including small pockets of cool temperate rainforest and northern montane heath.
- The vegetation of the Study area represents “*Gondwanan*” refugia – ‘*areas in which a large number of primitive and ancient species occur*’ (NPWS 1998).
- remnant old-growth forest areas are present in patches, particularly where the topography limits access.

Landscape and soils

The nature of the landscape has formed shallow and discontinuous soils. They are primarily characterised by their depth, drainage, and susceptibility to erosion. The soils can be deep (greater than 150 cm), well-drained minimal krasnozems, which become shallow significantly on steeper slopes. These soils are strongly to very strongly acidic with low available subsoil water capacity and low subsoil fertility. The steeper slopes are susceptible to high water erosion hazard and can create mass movement hazard (localized). Much of the study area has rock outcropping, and the combination of rocky outcropping and steep slopes creates a rockfall hazard (localized). Refer to **attachment 4, Section 8.2.3**.

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.

The commencement of the DEGW project is within Dorrigo National Park, a large portion of which is part of the serial listing that comprises the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (WHL #368) in recognition of the park's outstanding universal value. This area is also on Australia's National Heritage List (NHL #105704), and the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR #01002)

The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia represents outstanding examples of major stages of earth's evolutionary history, ongoing geological and biological processes, and exceptional biological diversity. It includes extensive areas of critical habitat and provides a refuge for a wide range of plant and animal lineages and communities, including many threatened species. Many of these communities and species have ancient origins in Gondwana, and many are restricted to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.

Dorrigo National Park contributes to 3 criteria that led to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia receiving World Heritage status and being placed on the Australian National Heritage list in recognition of its outstanding universal value:

- Criterion (viii) to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.
- Criterion (ix) to be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.
- Criterion (x) to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Bindarri National Park and State Conservation Area and the remaining areas of Dorrigo National Park are included in Australia's Tentative List proposal for the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia – extensions to an existing property

NPWS considered all the criteria which are set out in **sections 3.4, 8.5, 8.7, 9.6, 9.7 of attachment 4, section 5 of attachment 6, sections 2 and 4 of attachment 8, Section 6.3 of attachment 5**

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

The DEGW project study area lies within the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr people, whose country spans from the Clarence to the Nambucca Rivers and west to the Dorrigo Plateau. The Gumbaynggirr people historically traversed coastal flats, valleys, riverbanks, and rainforests, guided by seasonal changes and resource availability.

The Dorrigo escarpment provided a rich environment with Subtropical rainforest, red cedar, blueberry ash, brush-box and flooded gum. Abundant fauna, including kangaroos, wallabies, small mammals, birds, and aquatic species, provided further resources. These resources supported traditional food gathering, hunting, and cultural practices. The DEGW project lies within a landscape that is spiritually significant, with native plants used for medicinal, ceremonial, and cultural purposes. The name Bindarri is derived from the Gumbaynggirr language, meaning “creek system”, reflecting the deep connection to water and landforms.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) was prepared by ELA 2024. Refer to **attachment 7- Not for public display**

The ACHA was prepared following extensive field surveys conducted over a period of 4 months, from October 2023 to February 2024. Surveys covered 40 km of the proposed walking track, about 70 to 80% of the entire 4-day walk. The surveys were conducted by Eco Logical Australia (ELA), representatives of the Gumbaynggirr community through Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) and NPWS. This covered 9 days of survey involving 15 Aboriginal site officers from 5 of the RAP groups.

The DEGW ACHA revealed several significant findings along the proposed DEGW route. These included sightlines across the Bellinger Valley and to the ocean, historically used for communication and observation. The importance of natural food and medicine resources found in less disturbed areas and regenerating rainforests was identified. With potential stone resources near the Never Never Creek line, Gleniffer Falls, and Urumbilum Falls. These areas were historically significant for their use in tool-making. Significant sites were identified, and the DEGW alignment was modified to avoid impacts during the planning phase.

No Aboriginal objects, artefact scatters, or isolated finds were identified during the archaeological surveys. However, the potential for unexpected finds remains, and protocols have been established to address this.

The ACHA emphasised the importance of ongoing consultation with registered Aboriginal stakeholders throughout the DEGW project life. It also recommended engaging, where possible, Aboriginal contractors during construction and implementing cultural heritage inductions for all construction and operation teams.

The DEGW project aligns with NPWS policies to:

- Support access to Country for cultural practices
- Promote Aboriginal cultural values and language
- Encourage cultural tourism and interpretation
- Protect Aboriginal cultural heritage sites during construction and operation

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 DEGW project study area's hydrology is characterised by its complex network of waterways. The area is part of two larger catchments of the Bellinger River, which flows eastward towards the coast, and the Clarence catchment, which flows north through the Nymboida and Orara river systems. The hydrological features of the study area are influenced by the region's topography, climate, and vegetation. The area has a very high rainfall, which averages around 2-3m per year. This high rainfall contributes to the area's lush vegetation.

The steep topography around the escarpment is known to result in orographic effects which amplify rainfall in the area. Rivers rise rapidly and dramatically and also fall quickly, despite the relatively small catchments. A total of 43 drainage line/river crossing points are identified on the walking track. Many of these are ephemeral and only hold flowing water during heavy rain periods.

The study area includes significant watercourses, such as the Never Never Creek, Rosewood Creek, and Urumbilum Creek. These creeks are perennial and are fed by numerous smaller tributaries and springs. The water quality in these creeks is generally high, with low levels of pollutants and high levels of dissolved oxygen, supporting a diverse range of aquatic flora and fauna.

Overall, the hydrology of the study area is a vital component of the local ecosystem, and the DEGW project has been designed to protect and preserve these important water resources. A flooding and Hydrology assessment was conducted for the study area with the primary aim of informing bridge designs to ensure they meet flood impact requirements. Refer to **attachment 4, Sections 8.2.2 and 8.3.5**.

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	World heritage
Yes	Yes	Gondwana Rainforests of Australia

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

Yes

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

A large proportion of Dorrigo NP is within the New England Group of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (WHL #368).

Bindarri National Park is part of proposed extensions to the Gondwana Rainforests property on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List. The DEGW project includes less than half of the walking track distance and hiker camp (Camp3). The SoHI provided as **attachment 8**, the ACHAR as **attachment 7** and the MNES report as **attachment 6** have been prepared to assess the heritage impacts and provide environmental safeguards and mitigation recommendations.

The DEGW project aims to create a multi-day walking track through Dorrigo and Bindarri National Parks with hiker camps and associated infrastructure.

The direct and indirect impacts of the DEGW project on the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area are summarised below:

Direct Impacts:

1. **Removal of vegetation:** construction of a 44.1 km walking track with a maximum clearance width of 2m, which will require the clearance of understorey vegetation. This includes the removal of up to 4.57 hectares of rainforest vegetation within the Dorrigo National Park. The vegetation clearance will primarily affect groundcover, vines, woody mid-storey, and canopy species that are less than 15 cm in diameter at breast height (DBH). Larger trees and significant habitat features will be avoided where possible. Hiker camps will have a direct impact of 0.89ha at camp 1 and 2 through vegetation clearing and disturbance.
2. **Habitat Disturbance:** The construction of the walking track and associated infrastructure, such as campsites and bridges, will disturb the habitat of various plant and animal species. This includes the removal of habitat for threatened species such as the Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia, which is listed as a critically endangered ecological community. The impacts on this community are associated with understorey impacts for grade 4 track construction activities.
3. **Soil Disturbance:** The construction activities will disturb the soil, leading to potential erosion and sedimentation. This can affect the quality of nearby water bodies and the overall health of the rainforest ecosystem.
4. **Pathogens:** The disturbance and creation of new walking tracks and increased visitors have the potential to spread existing and introduce new pathogens that can impact native vegetation. Pathogens detrimental to biodiversity within the study area include chytrid fungus, caused by *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* for amphibians, *Phytophthora cinnamomi* [RB3] for causing dieback in plants, and disease-causing rusts (basidiomycete fungi of the order Pucciniales) which affect plants in the family Myrtaceae through myrtle rust.

Indirect Impacts:

1. **Edge Effects:** The creation of the walking track will introduce edge effects, where the edges of the cleared areas are exposed to increased light, wind, and temperature fluctuations. This can alter the microclimate and affect the species composition and structure of the rainforest.
2. **Invasive Species:** The disturbance and creation of new edges can facilitate the introduction and spread of invasive species, such as weeds and feral animals. These invasive species can outcompete native species and alter the ecological balance of the rainforest
3. **Human Disturbance:** The increased human presence and activity associated with the walking track can lead to trampling of vegetation, disturbance of wildlife, and potential littering. This can degrade the quality of the habitat and affect the behaviours and survival of native species. Noise associated with an increase in human activity is likely to impact resident fauna, particularly during breeding seasons, from the construction of the proposal. Fauna may be deterred from the study area during these times. It is expected that impacts associated with noise will peak during construction and diminish during operations

4. **Hydrological Changes:** The construction of the track and associated infrastructure can alter the natural hydrology of the area. This includes changes to surface water flow, drainage patterns, and groundwater levels. These changes can affect the availability of water for plants and animals and alter the overall functioning of the rainforest ecosystem
5. **Bushfire risks:** Increased human activity during the construction and operation of the walk is expected. Risks of unplanned fire are therefore increased through ignition sources from construction machinery to illegal/careless use of fires for camping. Note that neither parks permit fires outside of designated fireplaces.

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

*

No

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

The detailed heritage and environmental impact assessments (outlined and attached) have identified that the design of the proposal, and the risk management approaches that have been incorporated into the planning, mitigate the potential impacts to the point where there is not likely to be a significant impact.

The MNES report, REF and SoHI together outline the reasons why the DEGW project is not likely to have a significant impact on MNES listed under the EPBC Act including the World Heritage values of *Gondwana Rainforests of Australia*. The MNES report includes details of the application of the UNESCO toolkit approach for impact assessments in a World Heritage context (UNESCO 2022). Refer to **attachments 4,8 and attachment 6 – Tables 1 and 2**.

The principle of avoiding first has been applied through track planning and alignment. A further key design principle is to finalise the track alignment on the ground within a defined corridor to ensure minimal impact and sustainability. The new sections of the walking route will be built to blend into the natural environment using primarily hand tools and local materials where possible. No infilling works are proposed, and very minor excavation works will be undertaken to satisfy safety measures for track alignment and stability. Where possible, the development will be constructed over areas that have previously been cleared by logging activities or disturbed. The designs of the huts and track will be low-key, use sustainable materials and blend in with the environment.

The track construction will use existing formal and informal walking routes, historical logging tracks, and open ridges, with areas of new construction constructed in a way that minimises the footprint. No disturbance to important geological, landscape features or land formations is expected. Removal of trees will be kept to a minimum and focused on the footprints of the hiking camps.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been prepared and will be finalised before construction (refer to **attachment 14**). An Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) will be developed to deliver on the relevant mitigation measures to ameliorate potential impacts associated with the DEGW.

The management of pathogens has been considered through all aspects of the project, including the installation of bridges to reduce foot traffic near waterways. The CEMP and OEMP will include measures to manage biosecurity risks including weeds and pathogens. Several pathogens are widespread within the reserve with vectors that are outside NPWS control, including wind and atmospheric uplift in the case of myrtle rust. Boot washing stations and hygiene protocols will ensure that the DEGW does not contribute to the spread of these pathogens whilst also ensuring education of visitors and safeguards for future strains or emerging pathogens.

In terms of assessment of impacts on World-heritage rainforest values, an analysis was undertaken on the impacts of the proposal on the Keith Formation 'Rainforest' Plant Community Types (PCTs) which occur within the Dorrigo National Park. A precautionary approach was undertaken, whereby all PCTs associated with rainforest communities were considered as associated with World-heritage rainforest values. A total area of 8.87 ha of 'Rainforest' Keith formation PCTs occur within the proposal area within Dorrigo National Park, where up to 4.57 ha will be directly impacted. Of this a total area of 0.02 ha is commensurate with the EPBC Act listed TEC Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia, with 0.01 ha expected to be directly impacted. Refer to **attachment 5 and attachment 6, Section 5.7**.

Although the DEGW project spans over 44.1 km, it has a very small overall footprint measuring just over 15 ha. The area within the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property within Dorrigo National Park is 7,885 ha which this represents less than 0.07% of the total WHA within the Park. Given the very small area, the design which focuses on minimising impacts, and deliberate limiting of people permitted to walk the path, this impact assessment considers the impacts to be negligible and potential risks to be sufficiently mitigated to avoid any significant impacts the outstanding universal values of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property.

The assessment concludes that the preparation of a referral under the Act is not required in relation to MNES, however, given the potential for impacts, referral to the Commonwealth will be recommended to provide the highest level of public confidence in the project. Two pre-referral meetings with DCCEEW have occurred to inform the REF.

Locally significant Indigenous cultural values and Historical heritage values have been identified within the DEGW and in the vicinity. The SoHI (**Attachment 8**) and an ACHA (**Attachment 7**) have been prepared to assess potential impacts on indigenous and other cultural heritage and provide recommendations to reduce risk. An assessment of cultural heritage significance is made in **attachment 8 section 2.4**.

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

No

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

*

The REF, and the SOHI assessment concluded that the proposal will not result in significant impacts and that the preparation of a referral under the Act is not required in relation to MNES under the EPBC Act. However, referral to the Australian Government has been recommended to provide opportunity for input from AG-DCCEEW, and to provide for a high level of public confidence in the DEGW project. Refer to **attachment 4 & 8** and as set out in section 4.1.1.6 above.

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

The DEGW project includes a comprehensive suite of avoidance and mitigation measures to minimise environmental and operational impacts during both construction and operation phases. Impacts have been minimised wherever possible through design and site-specific and project-specific environmental safeguards and mitigation measures. These are documented in the REF (refer to **attachment 4, section 9**), Ecological Report (refer to **attachment 5 section 7**) and CEMP (refer to **attachment 14 section 5**). A summary of the measures:

Pre-planning/broad mitigation measures

- Sitting of track route to avoid sensitive areas including cultural sites
- Low impact natural grade 4 track construction
- Using existing disturbed areas where possible to reduce overall impacts
- Establishing all camps on existing management trails or dormant roads to reduce the need for helicopter operations and increase sustainability
- Design principles of nothing more than necessary
- Suspension bridges over major rivers to reduce impacts to waterways and riparian vegetation.

Biodiversity mitigation measures

- **Vegetation & habitat protection:**
 - Micro-siting of tracks to avoid sensitive areas.
 - Grade 4 natural surface walking track construction using primarily hand tools and natural materials from the footprint
 - Pre-clearing protocols and exclusion zones.
 - Tree protection zones per Australian Standard 4970-2009.
 - Avoidance of hollow-bearing trees (HBTs); if removal is necessary, supervised by ecologist/fauna spotter.
 - Revegetation using local provenance species only
- **Threatened species:**
 - Stop work near active nests during breeding seasons.
 - Fauna relocation by qualified handlers.
 - Leaf litter relocation to allow fauna self-evacuation.
 - Induction for staff on local threatened species.
- **Weeds & pathogens:**
 - Site induction material and briefings for all users of the DEGW to ensure compliance with guidelines and protocols.
 - Hygiene protocols for equipment and personnel – construction and management.
 - Weed control per NSW DPI Weed Wise protocols.
 - All materials certified pest-free (e.g. yellow crazy ants).
 - Monitoring and adaptive management for myrtle rust, chytrid fungus, phytophthora Including the installation of boot washing stations at each camp and strategic locations and educational and interpretive material.

Waterways & hydrology

- **Erosion & sediment control:**
 - Works scheduled during dry periods.
 - Silt curtains, sediment fencing, and clean water diversions.
 - No stockpiling within 40 m of waterways.
 - Stabilisation of disturbed areas with brush matting and mulch.
- **Water quality protection:**
 - No construction materials placed near high-water marks.
 - Shower facilities at camp 2 to discourage river bathing.
 - Education on low-impact toileting and sunscreen use.

- **Fish habitat protection:**
 - Bridges designed per DPI guidelines for fish passage.
 - DPI Fisheries and EPA notified in case of fish kills.

Fire risk management

- **Bushfire Mitigation:**
 - Fuel stove-only restrictions.
 - No open fires except in designated fireplaces.
 - Fire bans and partial closures based on risk modelling
 - Integration into NPWS bushfire planning and response.

Construction-Specific Measures

- **Site controls:**
 - Delineation of work areas and “no-go” zones.
 - Minimal clearing at camps; use of screw pier footings.
 - Storage and stockpiling only in disturbed areas only
- **Waste & hazardous materials:**
 - Spill kits and bunded storage for fuels/oils.
 - Grey water treated on-site and all other waste fully captured and removed
- **Noise & visual impact:**
 - Compliance with NSW construction noise guidelines.
 - Helicopter use scheduled to avoid breeding seasons where possible.
 - Minimal clearing of trees to reduce visual impacts from the air and surrounding valleys

Cultural Heritage Protection

- **Aboriginal heritage:**
 - Cultural inductions for all contractors.
 - Avoidance of culturally modified trees and sites
 - Cease work and notify authorities if artefacts or remains are found.
 - Ongoing consultation with registered Aboriginal parties.
- **Non-Aboriginal heritage:**
 - Avoidance of heritage-listed sites.
 - Statement of heritage impact prepared.
 - Monitoring for unrecorded heritage values.

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

No offsets are proposed for the proposal

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
Yes		Gondwana Rainforests of Australia

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. *

Gondwana Rainforests of Australia is also listed on the National Heritage List (NHL #105704). The SoHI (refer to **attachment 8**) and an ACHA (refer to **attachment 7**) have been prepared to assess the heritage impacts and provide recommendations. The direct and indirect impacts are the same as listed in **section 4.1.1.2** of this referral

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 DEGW project is not likely to have a significant impact on MNES listed under the EPBC Act, as identified under the REF applies to the National Heritage values of *Gondwana Rainforests of Australia*. The National Heritage Listing mirrors that of the World Heritage listing (as per section 4.1.1.6 above) and the application of the toolkit's approach for impact assessments in a World Heritage context (UNESCO 2022). Refer to **attachment 6 – Tables 1 and 2**.

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 REF assessment concludes that the impacts of the proposal are not considered significant and the preparation of a referral under the Act is not required in relation to MNES, however, given the potential for impacts, referral to the Commonwealth will be recommended to provide the highest level of public confidence in the project.

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. *

Avoidance and mitigation actions are as described in section 4.1.1.10 of referral for the World Heritage Property

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

No offsets are proposed as part of the proposal

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.

*

There are no Ramsar Wetlands in the vicinity of the proposal area

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Argynnis hyperbius inconstans</i>	Australian Fritillary
No	No	<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i>	Hairy-joint Grass
No	No	<i>Asperula asthenes</i>	Trailing Woodruff
Yes	Yes	<i>Assa darlingtoni</i>	Pouched Frog
Yes	Yes	<i>Atrichornis rufescens</i>	Rufous Scrub-bird
No	No	<i>Bertya</i> sp. Clouds Creek (M.Fatemi 4)	
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>Callistemon pungens</i>	
Yes	Yes	<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>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>Cryptostylis hunteriana</i>	Leafless Tongue-orchid
No	No	<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni</i>	Coxen's Fig-Parrot
No	No	<i>Cynanchum elegans</i>	White-flowered Wax Plant
Yes	Yes	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
No	No	<i>Endiandra hayesii</i>	Rusty Rose Walnut, Velvet Laurel

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	Red Goshawk
No	No	<i>Euastacus simplex</i>	Simple Crayfish, Small Mountain Crayfish
No	No	<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint
No	No	<i>Eulamprus kosciuskoi</i>	Alpine Water Skink
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Haloragis exalata</i> subsp. <i>velutina</i>	Tall Velvet Sea-berry
Yes	Yes	<i>Harrisoniascincus zia</i>	Rainforest Cool-skink
No	No	<i>Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia</i>	Monkey Nut, Bopple Nut, Red Bopple, Red Bopple Nut, Red Nut, Beef Nut, Red Apple Nut, Red Boppel Nut, Ivory Silky Oak
Yes	Yes	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Kardomia silvestris</i>	Woodland Babingtonia
No	No	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot
No	No	<i>Leichhardtia longiloba</i>	Clear Milkvine
No	No	<i>Litoria subglandulosa</i>	New England Tree Frog, Glandular Frog
No	No	<i>Macadamia integrifolia</i>	Macadamia Nut, Queensland Nut Tree, Smooth-shelled Macadamia, Bush Nut, Nut Oak
No	No	<i>Macadamia tetraphylla</i>	Rough-shelled Bush Nut, Macadamia Nut, Rough-shelled Macadamia, Rough-leaved Queensland Nut
Yes	Yes	<i>Marsdenia longiloba</i>	Clear Milkvine
No	No	<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
Yes	Yes	<i>Mixophyes balbus</i>	Stuttering Frog, Southern Barred Frog (in Victoria)
Yes	Yes	<i>Mixophyes iteratus</i>	Giant Barred Frog, Southern Barred Frog

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Myuchelys georgesi</i>	Bellinger River Snapping Turtle, Georges' Snapping Turtle, Georges Helmeted Turtle
No	No	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot
Yes	Yes	<i>Notamacropus parma</i>	Parma Wallaby
No	No	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	<i>Olearia flocktoniae</i>	Dorrigo Daisy-bush
Yes	Yes	<i>Parsonia dorrigoensis</i>	Milky Silkpod
Yes	Yes	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider (southern and central)
No	No	<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
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)
Yes	Yes	<i>Phyllorhina sphagnicola</i>	Sphagnum Frog
Yes	Yes	<i>Phyllodes imperialis smithersi</i>	Pink Underwing Moth
Yes	Yes	<i>Potorous tridactylus tridactylus</i>	Long-nosed Potoroo (northern)
No	No	<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse, Pookila
No	No	<i>Pseudomys oralis</i>	Hastings River Mouse, Koontoo
Yes	Yes	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox
Yes	Yes	<i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i>	Scrub Turpentine, Brown Malletwood
No	No	<i>Rhodomyrtus psidioides</i>	Native Guava
No	No	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	<i>Saltuarius moritzi</i>	New England Leaf-tailed Gecko, Moritz's Leaf-tailed Gecko
Yes	Yes	<i>Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii</i>	Ravine Orchid
No	No	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail
No	No	<i>Syzygium hodgkinsoniae</i>	Smooth-bark Rose Apple, Red Lilly Pilly

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Thesium australe	Austral Toadflax, Toadflax
No	No	Triplarina imbricata	
No	No	Turnix melanogaster	Black-breasted Button-quail
Yes	Yes	Tylophora woollsii	
No	No	Vincetoxicum woollsii	

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Coastal Swamp Sclerophyll Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland
No	No	Dunn's white gum (Eucalyptus dunnii) moist forest in north-east New South Wales and south-east Queensland
No	No	Grey box-grey gum wet forest of subtropical eastern Australia
Yes	Yes	Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia
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. *

Ecological Communities:

One (1) threatened ecological community as the Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia, which is listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the EPBC Act, is recorded within the DEGW study area. This CEEC has the potential to be impacted by the proposed works and has been assessed in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance (Cth DEWHA 2013).

The CEEC is known to occur within the study area below 300 m in altitude. The TEC is associated with five (5) PCTS (PCT 3019, 3021, 3032, 3165, 4107) within the study area. Upon further review of the conservation advice, only patches of PCT 3021 and 4107 meet the key diagnostic characteristics. According to the State Vegetation Type Map (SVTM) and elevation intersect approximately 1700 ha of potential habitat for this TEC occurs within the wider NP estate

Patches of the CEEC within the study area are maintained in a high condition and, in the broader sense maintain an integral occurrence of an otherwise heavily disturbed community across its range. However, the limited proposed removal and modification to a portion of the threatened community in the study area is not considered likely to adversely affect its habitat to the extent that a patch would be significantly impacted. Refer **attachment 6 section 5.6**

Direct impacts - removal of up to 0.04 ha is proposed to occur to this TEC. Impacts are proposed to occur to the following growth forms: groundcover, vines, woody mid-storey and canopy species that are <15 cm DBH. Except for areas of this TEC that occur at the proposed camp and bridge sites, which may involve the removal of larger individuals of canopy species and additional growth forms.

Indirect impacts - during and post construction include a higher risk of invasion of exotic plant species, edge effects and trampling of elements of this TEC from increased foot traffic. Refer to **attachment 6, Sections 5 and 6 - Tables 3 and 4**

Threatened species (20)

The likelihood of occurrence assessment returned a list of 20 threatened species that are known or likely to occur within the study area. These species have the potential to be impacted by the proposed works and have been assessed in accordance with the MNES Significant Impact Guidelines. A summary of the assessment is provided below. More detailed information is found in **Attachment 6**

Vulnerable species (n = 11)

- **Slender marsdenia (*Marsdenia longiloba*)** - 24 individuals were recorded within the study area, with 2 BioNet records within the wider NP estate. Predicted direct impacts of 4 individuals and disturbance to up to 9.27 ha of potential habitat have been considered for this assessment. Indirect impacts may occur during construction and operation through pedestrian trampling and potential spread of the soil-borne pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.
- **Ravine orchid (*Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*)**: 334 individuals were recorded within the study area. Predicted direct impacts to 44 individuals occurring along the proposed walking track have been considered for this assessment. It is difficult to quantify the disturbance to potential habitat from the DEGW for this species given that it grows in niche microhabitats supported mostly by surface rock. Indirect impacts may occur during construction and operation through pedestrian trampling and potential for illegal poaching.
- **Pouched frog (*Assa Darlingtoni*)**: Disturbance of 3.79 ha of potential habitat. Indirect impacts during construction through trampling and potential spread of Chytrid fungi causing the disease chytridiomycosis. An increase in ongoing indirect disturbance of adjacent habitat from increased human interaction and maintenance is anticipated.
- **Stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*)**: Disturbance of 9.27 ha of potential foraging habitat and indirect impacts during construction and operation through trampling. Potential spread of Chytrid fungi and other pathogens.

- **Sphagnum frog (*Philoria sphagnicolus*)** Direct removal of up to 3.24 ha of potential habitat (that could at time host suitable seepage habitat) for this species and indirect impacts during construction, through trampling and potential spread of Chytrid fungi causing the disease chytridiomycosis.
- **Glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*)** Disturbance of up to 3.56 ha of potential forest habitat, which may present foraging for this species and up to 6 HBTs that may provide roosting habitat. Incidental mortality during construction. Ongoing indirect disturbance of the adjacent habitat from increased human interaction and maintenance.
- **White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)** Although this species is aerial it is mostly recorded flying over large tracts of native forest in which the proposed disturbance to is 9.34 ha of potential habitat. Indirect impacts during construction and operation through pedestrian activity and maintenance.
- **Black-breasted button-quail (*Turnix melanogaster*)** Potential for disturbance of up to 9.27 ha of forest habitat which may present foraging and nesting habitat for this species. Incidental mortality during construction. Indirect impacts during construction and operation through pedestrian activity and maintenance.
- **Parma wallaby (*Notamacropus parma*)** Disturbance of up to 9.27 ha of potential habitat. An increase in ongoing indirect disturbance of adjacent habitat from increased human interaction and maintenance is anticipated.
- **Long-nosed potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*)** Disturbance of up to 9.27 ha of suitable forest. Ongoing disturbance of adjacent habitat from increased human interaction and maintenance.
- **Grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)** Direct impact of up to 9.27 ha of suitable foraging habitat. No roosting habitat is expected to be impacted given no camps were observed within the study area.
- **Rainforest cool-skink (*Harrisioniascincus zia*)** Disturbance of 5.34 ha of potential habitat. An increase in ongoing indirect disturbance of adjacent habitat from increased human interaction and maintenance is anticipated however this is considered marginal given the already high volume of visitors and maintenance that currently occurs.

Endangered species (n = 8)

- **Cryptic forest twiner (*Tylophora woollsi*)** - 6 individuals were recorded within the study area. Predicted direct impacts on 1 individual and disturbance to up to 9.27 ha of potential habitat have been considered for this assessment. Indirect impacts during construction and operation through pedestrian trampling and potential spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.
- **Milky silkpod (*Parsonia dorrigoensis*)** - 44 individuals were recorded within the study area. Predicted direct impacts on 4 individuals and disturbance to up to 9.27 ha of potential habitat have been considered for this assessment. Indirect impacts may occur during construction and operation through pedestrian trampling.
- **Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*)** - Direct removal will occur of up to 1.20 ha of potential foraging habitat for this species and indirect impacts may also occur during construction, through trampling and potential spread of Chytrid fungi causing the disease chytridiomycosis.
- **Rufous scrub-bird (*Atrichornis rufescens*)** - Direct impact of up to 6.97 ha of forest habitat, which may represent foraging and nesting habitat for this species. Incidental mortality during construction. Indirect impacts during construction and operation through pedestrian activity and maintenance.
- **Pink underwing moth (*Phyllodes imperialis*) - southern subspecies:** Direct impact of up to 0.03 ha of suitable subtropical rainforest habitat where the host plant *Carronia multisepealea* was identified.
- **Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*)** - Disturbance of up to 9.34 ha of foraging habitat. Removal of 8 HBTs with suitable hollows and disturbance to large woody debris that may provide shelter habitat. No rocky outcrops that could provide shelter or latrine sites will be impacted. Indirect impacts may include incidental mortality during construction and ongoing disturbance of adjacent habitat from increased human interaction and maintenance.
- **Southern greater glider (*Petauroides volans*)** - Disturbance of up to 3.56 ha of foraging habitat. Removal of 1 HBT with suitable hollows (>300mm) that may provide shelter habitat. Incidental

mortality during construction. Ongoing disturbance of the adjacent habitat from increased human interaction and maintenance.

- **Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)** - Disturbance of up to 3.56 ha of eucalyptus forest that contains feed tree species. Ongoing disturbance of adjacent habitat from increased human interaction and maintenance.

Critically endangered species (n = 1)

- **Scrub turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*)** - 18 individuals were recorded within the study area. The predicted impact of up to 2 seedlings or juveniles and disturbance of up to 9.27 ha of potential habitat have been considered for this assessment. Indirect impacts during construction and operation through pedestrian trampling and potential spread of myrtle rust. No adult trees were recorded within the study area.

The MNES report (refer to **attachment 6, Section 5.7 - Tables 5-46**), details the assessment of all 21 species under the MNES Significant Impact Guidelines.

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. *

Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia - CEEC (1)

Patches of the CEEC within the DEGW study area on day 4 of the walk (<300m elevation) are maintained in a high condition and, in the broader sense, will maintain an integral occurrence of an otherwise heavily disturbed Lowland Rainforest community across its range. The removal of 0.04 ha and predicted indirect impacts are marginal enough that it is considered unlikely to cause a substantial reduction in the quality or integrity of a patch of Lowland Rainforest. Mitigation measures are also proposed to reduce the risk of invasive species or pathogens.

Given the primarily linear context of the proposal and wider extent of the CEEC patches that occur within the locality, (estimated to be approximately 1700 ha in the adjacent NP estate according to the SVTM and elevation intersect), it is unlikely the removal of 0.04 ha of the TEC compared to the 3,000 ha within the wider extent will become isolated or fragmented as a result of the proposal. This, combined with the nature of the activity (natural surface grade 4 walking track construction using hand tools), where the route can be micro-aligned to avoid direct removal impacts to trees, means that impacts can be minimised. Refer to **Attachment 6, Section 5.6 - Tables 3 & 4.**

Threatened Species (20)

Given the context, size and linear nature of the DEGW project, the MNES assessment for the 21 species has determined that the DEGW is unlikely to have a significant impact (refer to **attachment 6, Section 5.7 - Tables 5 –46**), in that it will not:

- lead to long term decrease fragment the habitat
- reduce or fragment the area of occupancy of an important population
- adversely impact critical habitat
- disrupt breeding cycles
- modify, destroy, remove or isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline
- result in invasive species that are harmful to a vulnerable species becoming established in the vulnerable species' habitat
- introduce disease that may cause the species to decline, or interfere substantially with the recovery of the species.

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 REF assessment concludes that there are not likely to be significant impacts as detailed in **section 5.7 of attachment 6** and the preparation of a referral under the Act is not required in relation to MNES, however referral to the Commonwealth has been recommended to provide the highest level of public confidence in the project.

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

Avoidance and mitigation measures proposed for the construction and operation of the DEGW are detailed in the REF (refer to **attachment 4, Section 9 and Ecology report attachment 5 section 7**) and the draft CEMP (Refer to **attachment 14, Section 5**). The CEMP has been developed and includes erosion, sedimentation, hygiene, and traffic controls, and the OEMP will guide ongoing visitor management, hygiene, fire risk, and seasonal closures.

Key mitigation measures detailed in the CEMP include:

Personnel management and training including inductions process - detailed in **section 5.1 attachment 14**

Protection of natural values including

1. Soil quality and stability protection - detailed in **section 5.2.1 attachment 14**
2. Water quality protection - detailed in **section 5.2.2 attachment 14**
3. General biodiversity controls detailed in **section 5.2.3 attachment 14**
4. Weeds, pests and pathogens (hygiene) - detailed in **section 5.2.4 attachment 14**
5. Fire prevention and control - detailed in **section 5.2.5 attachment 14**
6. Clearing of vegetation - detailed in **section 5.2.6 attachment 14**
7. Identification and protection of fauna (inc. Threatened Fauna) detailed in **section 5.2.7 attachment 14**
8. Unexpected occurrence of threatened Flora and Fauna detailed in **section 5.2.8 attachment 14**
9. Walking track micro alignment protocols detailed in **section 6.1.2 attachment 14**
10. Walk track vegetation clearing and trimming detailed in **section 6.1.3 attachment 14**
11. Tree root protection – track construction detailed in **section 6.1.4 attachment 14**

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

No offsets proposed for the proposal

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
Yes	Yes	<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>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
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? *

Yes

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

The DEGW project assessed the likelihood of occurrence of migratory species listed under the EPBC Act (refer to **attachment 6 section 5.7.11**). 5 species were identified as having the potential to occur within the study area, and for direct and indirect impacts associated with the DEGW project, with the disturbance of 9.27 ha of potential habitat and associated ongoing operational impacts (noise).

- oriental cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*)
- black-faced monarch (*Monarcha melanopsis*)
- satin flycatcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*)
- rufous fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons*)
- spectacled monarch (*Symposiachrus trivirgatus*)

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

*

No

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

The disturbance of 9.27 ha of potential habitat for these migratory species is unlikely to result in the decline of these species given there are extensive areas of similar habitat present in the wider NP estate. Additionally, the study area does not constitute known important habitat for these species. Only non-breeding habitat for white-throated needletail and oriental cuckoo occurs in Australia. Potential impacts to the lifecycle of the remaining species will be minimised through pre-clearance surveys to record and avoid any nests. Refer to **attachment 6 section 5.7.11**

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

No

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

*

The assessments of Significance of the identified migratory species concluded that no significant impact is likely to result from the DEGW project. Refer to **attachments 5 and attachment 6 – Table 48**. Given the design of the DEGW and the initial and ongoing avoidance principles applied including mitigation measures, the potential impacts of the activity are not likely to significantly impact migratory species, within the meaning of the EPBC Act. The disturbance of 9.27 ha of potential habitat for these migratory species is unlikely to result in the decline of these species given there are extensive areas of similar habitat present in the wider NP estate. Additionally, the study area does not constitute known important habitat for these species.

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

Refer to **attachment 6 – Table 48, attachment 5 section 7 and attachment 14, section 5** which detail mitigation measures that will avoid and minimise impacts. Only non-breeding habitat for white-throated needletail and oriental cuckoo occurs in Australia. Potential impacts to the lifecycle of the remaining species will be minimised through pre-clearance surveys to record and avoid any nests.

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

No offsets are proposed for the proposal

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.

*

Proposed action does not impact this feature

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.

*

Proposed action does not impact this feature

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.

*

Proposed action does not impact this feature

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.

*

Proposed action does not impact this feature

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.

*

Proposed action does not impact this feature

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.

*

Proposed action does not impact this feature

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

Yes

4.3.2 Do you have an alternative timeline you are proposing for your proposed action? *

No

4.3.3 Briefly describe why an alternate timeline for your proposed action was not possible.

*

Broad planning for the DEGW project began in early 2021, with funding and more detailed planning, including the environmental and cultural assessments occurring through 2022-2025. Initial timeframes for the DEGW project, when funding was initially announced, were completion by 2025/26. Revised timeframes for completion of the DEGW project are now dependent on final REF approvals. The DEGW project completion is now anticipated to be 2027/28.

Alternate timelines are therefore not considered appropriate for the project except where there are seasonal justifications for avoiding work during the wetter periods.

4.3.4 Do you have an alternative location you are proposing for your proposed action? *

No

4.3.5 Briefly describe why an alternative location for your proposed action was not possible. *

NPWS has carried out multiple investigations and a range of visitor research projects to identify options for a multi-day walk in the area, including considering community proposals. The proposed DEGW was identified as the preferred regional option. The Dorrigo Rainforest Centre is the most accessible location for showcasing the World and National values of the Gondwana Rainforests and provides a unique opportunity for bushwalkers not be oriented to the World Heritage property, the park and the DEGW experience before embarking on the walk. The existing infrastructure, and proximity to the large regional centre of Coffs Harbour and its airport, made this location the only suitable option.

NPWS reviewed the options to identify a preferred route, considering the aims of the walk, the overall walk experience, and technical, social, environmental and economic factors. The final preferred route was informed by expert advice from track designers, ecologists and Aboriginal organisations, along with wider consultation with community and interest groups.

The REF details the various design refinements undertaken to date. Refer to **attachment 4, Section 7.2.2 - Table 16**.

The DEGW option was selected as the preferred option, as it provided the best functional, social, environmental and economic outcomes including:

- maximises visitor experience of the values of the park and World Heritage property while minimising impacts and mitigating risks
- maximises safety and usability for all users and hikers on the DEGW
- minimises impacts through micro-siting and flexibility
- reduces impacts on private lands and neighbours with the DEGW to remain on park wherever possible
- minimises biodiversity impacts
- minimises impact on Aboriginal heritage
- minimises visual impact
- meets the optimal daily distance of between 10 km and 12 km each day over a 4-day period.

Following the public exhibition of the REF and the further planning work around the alternative location for Hiking Camp 3, this alternative location was considered appropriate. This resulted in reduced overall environmental impacts, including reduced road and bridge upgrade requirements and improved access for emergency egress. The details of hiking camp 3 modification are contained in the Addendum Report to the REF. Refer to **attachment 11**.

4.3.6 Do you have alternative activities you are proposing for your proposed action? *

No

4.3.7 Briefly describe why an alternative activity for your proposed action was not possible. *

Funding has been allocated based on the preferred proposal for a multi-day walk experience that showcases the natural and cultural values of the Area, including World and National Heritage. The proposal was developed in response to community interest in enhanced sharing of these places with the regional, national and international community.

4.3.4 Alternatives: Impact and mitigation

4.3.4.1 Do these alternatives have a different impact, avoidance, or mitigation measure compared to what you have already provided? *

No

4.3.5 Alternatives: Considered alternatives

4.3.5.1 Do you have any other alternative actions, including not taking the action, that you have considered but are not proposing as part of this referral? *

No

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	1. Plan of Management for Dorrigo-Bindarri-national-parks-sca.pdf Plan of Management for park management	01/06/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	10. DEGW REF Submissions report.PDF DEGW REF submissions report	01/05/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	11. DEGW REF Addendum report.PDF DEGW Addendum report	01/06/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	12. DEGW REF Determination report.PDF DEGW REF Determination report	13/06/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	13. DEGW REF Decision statement - Redacted.pdf DEGW REF Decision statement	13/06/2025	No	High
#6.	Document	14. DEGW Construction and environmental management plan - DRAFT .pdf Draft CEMP for the DEGW Project	01/08/2025	No	High
#7.	Document	15. Fisheries NSW Consent conditions - DEGW.pdf Fisheries NSW consent DEGW	04/06/2024	No	High
#8.	Document	2. Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk draft master plan.pdf DEGW Masterplan	01/09/2023	No	High
#9.	Document	2025-10285-Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk Project - Multi Day Walk-Resubmission Request1..docx Resubmission request 1	29/09/2025		High
#10.	Document	3. DEGW master-plans-submissions-report.pdf Submissions report for the Draft DEGW masterlan	01/08/2025	No	High
#11.	Document	4. DEGW Review of environmental factors.PDF MNES Report - DEGW - ELA	01/10/2024	No	High
#12.	Document	5. DEGW REF A. Ecological assessment weblink.pdf DEGW Ecological assessment report	01/10/2024	No	High
#13.	Document	6. DEGW REF B. Matters of national environmental significance.PDF MNES Report - DEGW - ELA	01/10/2024	No	High

#14.	Document 7. DEGW REF C. Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment.PDF DEGW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY	31/10/2024	Yes	High
#15.	Document 8. DEGW REF D. Statement of heritage impact.PDF DEGW SoHI report	01/10/2024	No	High
#16.	Document 9. DEGW REF E. Project mapping.PDF DEGW REF Mapping	01/10/2024	No	High

5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	27578976844
Organisation name	DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER - National Parks & Wildlife Service
Organisation address	c/ NPWS Parramatta NSW 2124
Representative's name	Tom Denman
Representative's job title	Senior Project Officer
Phone	0400 863755
Email	npws.dagwp@environment.nsw.gov.au
Address	c/ NPWS Dorrigo Depot - 2 Casuarina St

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, **Tom Denman of DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER - National Parks & Wildlife Service**, 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	27578976844
Organisation name	DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER - NPWS

Organisation address	c/ NPWS Parramatta NSW 2124
Representative's name	Glenn Storrie
Representative's job title	Manager Coffs Coast Area
Phone	02 66520900
Email	Glenn.storrie@environment.nsw.gov.au
Address	32 Marina Drive Coffs Harbour

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

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

I, **Glenn Storrie of DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER - NPWS**, 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, **Glenn Storrie of DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER - NPWS**, 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.