

Exe Tailings Storage Facility

Application Number: **03310**

Commencement Date:
23/01/2026

Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Exe Tailings Storage Facility

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Mining

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Other

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/09/2028

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/01/2060

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The proposed action is the construction and operation of a tailings storage facility (TSF) and associated infrastructure to support the safe operation and closure of the TSF.

MMG Australia Limited (MMG) operates two tailings storage facilities at the Rosebery Mine, being the 2/5 Dam TSF and Bobadil TSF. As both facilities approach capacity, MMG is investigating additional tailings storage options to support the projected life of the Rosebery Mine. These investigations have identified Exe valley, 5 km southwest of the Rosebery Mine, as a suitable conventional TSF location.

MMG has undertaken site specific studies and investigations to develop a suitable design for a TSF in the Exe valley. Key elements of the Exe TSF design that constitute the proposed action are:

- The TSF structure (inclusive of embankment, spillway and tailings storage area)
- Tailings pipeline (to convey tailings from Rosebery Mine to the Exe TSF); and
- Water management infrastructure (inclusive of clean water diversion infrastructure, decant and water treatment infrastructure).

Supportive activities and infrastructure specific to the construction, operation and closure phase of the referred action is required.

The activities and infrastructure necessary to support the construction phase include:

- Vegetation clearing
- Internal access roads and haul roads
- Construction materials quarry (inclusive of stockpile areas, settling ponds and overburden locations)
- Electrical substation and communications tower
- Laydown and amenities areas
- Drainage and pumping infrastructure; and
- Clean water diversion infrastructure.

Infrastructure is required to support the operating phase including:

- Tailings delivery pipeline
- Tailings deposition infrastructure
- Decant pipeline, treatment pond and outfall; and
- Seepage management infrastructure.

Infrastructure is required to support the closure phase including:

- Seepage treatment infrastructure (retention of operational infrastructure or additional infrastructure); and
- Closure materials borrow area.

Refer to Attachment A, Figure 1, page 2, for the general site location and Figure 2, page 3, for the proposed site layout. Figures 1 and 2 also depict the location of the Project Area (being the proposed location of the TSF and water management infrastructure) and the Pipeline Corridor (being the proposed location of the tailings pipeline).

The proposed Exe TSF is to provide approximately 26 years of tailings storage at current production rates from the Rosebery Mine. Slurry tailings will be deposited subaerially from the embankment wall, with supernatant water subsequently decanted into a designed treatment pond within the Project Area for further water quality treatment. Construction materials for the embankment wall will be sourced from within the TSF inundation area, spillway cut and quarry on the western ridge of the valley.

The TSF is designed with catchment diversions to ensure 40%-50% of surface water within the Exe TSF catchment is not impacted by contact with supernatant water. Supernatant water will be transferred from a decant pond within the TSF storage area to the proposed treatment pond, prior to controlled discharge into Lake Pieman.

The proposed Exe TSF will be within the existing MMG Exploration Licence EL26/2022, which is anticipated to transition to a MMG Mining Lease in the future, and is located on land parcel PID 3388012, which is Crown Land managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT). The land tenure is Permanent Timber Production Zone Land, in accordance with the *Forest Management Act 2013*.

The proposed action also includes a tailings pipeline to be developed and operated within the tailings pipeline corridor (Pipeline Corridor), which is approximately 5 km in length and crosses a number of land parcels, although the majority of the corridor sits within the PID 3388012, managed by STT. The proposed Pipeline Corridor also includes land parcels 12399 Murchison Highway (PID 7293053, CT 35005/1 and CT 207979/1) and PID 6021427 (Property address – Rosebery Mine – 6 Hospital Road) Casement – NRE Tas (Property Services).

The proposed Exe TSF will directly impact the environment through vegetation clearance, excavation, construction, catchment diversion and treated water discharge.

The total size of the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor is approximately 325 ha with a total disturbance footprint of approximately 152 ha. The disturbance area footprints are estimates, as design of the TSF and the associated ancillary infrastructure is ongoing. The disturbance areas will be refined as the design and environmental investigations progress, potential impacts to natural values and threatened species will be considered and minimised wherever possible. Estimated disturbance area footprints are summarised as:

- TSF (inclusive of embankment, access roads, quarry, electrical substation, laydown and amenities areas) – 136 ha
- Catchment water management infrastructure (inclusive of diversion channels and bunds) – 3 ha
- Tailings delivery pipeline (inclusive of pump stations, access tracks for infrastructure maintenance and construction laydowns) – 9 ha; and
- Decant water pipeline, treatment pond and outfall infrastructure – 4 ha.

Areas of avoidance within the project area are yet to be finalised. Avoidance areas will be defined following further specialist studies, including environmental investigations and engineering design.

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

No

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

Legislative overview

In addition to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBCA), the following Tasmanian legislation is relevant to the proposed action:

- *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*
- *Land Use and Planning Approvals Act 1993*
- *Nature Conservation Act 2002*
- *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*
- *Biosecurity Act 2019*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*
- *Historic Heritage Act 1995*
- *Water Management Act 1999*
- *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*
- *Crown Lands Act 1976*; and
- *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995*.

Required Approvals

Commonwealth legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBCA)

A referral is required under the EPBCA if the action is considered likely to have a significant impact on a MNES.

Based on the EPBC Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1, the following MNES potentially trigger the EPBCA for this project:

- Threatened species – Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae castanops*), Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*), wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*); and spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus subsp. Maculatus*).

Relevant EPBC policies and guidelines include:

- EPBC Act environmental offsets policy and guide.

Tasmanian legislation

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (EMPCA)

The EMPCA establishes the processes for assessment of activities considered to have the potential to cause environmental harm. Schedule 2 of EMPCA lists those activities (Level 2 activities), which may require assessment by the Board of the EPA. This project will be a schedule 2 activity and hence will require assessment by the Board of the EPA.

Land Use and Planning Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA)

The LUPAA provides for the establishment of a statutory framework and a systemic approvals process of land use and development applications in Tasmania.

Under the Tasmanian LUPAA a Discretionary Planning Permit Application, also known as a Development Application (DA) will be required to be submitted to the West Coast Council for approval.

Approval requirements under LUPAA will be determined by West Coast Council, which will assess the activity in accordance with the West Coast Local Provisions Schedule under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (TSPA)

Threatened flora and fauna species are protected under the TSPA. The Act lists endangered, vulnerable, and rare native flora and fauna. Under this Act, a permit is required to 'knowingly take' a threatened species which includes to kill, injure, catch, damage, destroy and collect, and to keep, trade in or process any specimen of a listed species. Any direct impacts to or relocation of threatened species, will require a permit to take from Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

Nature Conservation Act 2002 (NCA)

The NCA regulates the conservation and protection of flora, fauna and geological diversity within Tasmania. It provides for conservation and protection of vegetation communities, conservation significant species within Tasmania, the declaration of national parks and reserve land, and the allocation of other conservation mechanisms, such as conservation covenants. The Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021 regulate the taking, possession and trading of wildlife, wildlife products, hunting, wildlife exhibition and display and deer farming, and the associated permit requirements. Under the NCA, a Permit to Take 'products of wildlife' is required to 'knowingly take' a product of wildlife (which includes nests, eggs and dead bodies).

Biosecurity Act 2019

The *Biosecurity Act 2019* is the principal legislation concerned with the management of declared weeds in Tasmania. It consists of sections relating to the declaration, management, compliance requirements and powers of inspectors appointed under the Act. The project will be required to prepare a project specific Weed Management Plan in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2019* and the Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines – Preventing the spread of weeds and diseases in Tasmania, DPIPWE, March 2015.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* (AHA) provides the current legislative framework for managing and protecting Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage. Under the AHA it is an offence to destroy, damage, damage, deface, conceal or otherwise interfere with relics without a permit granted by the Minister. Aboriginal heritage assessments of the Project Area have been undertaken.

Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995

The Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 (HCHA) was developed to ensure the historic places that are of importance to the whole of Tasmania are recognised, protected, and managed effectively. The Project Area does not contain any historic cultural heritage sites from the Tasmanian Heritage Register, nor any places of cultural significance or archaeological sensitivity identified in the Planning Scheme. Historic heritage assessments of the Project Area have been undertaken.

Mineral Resources Development Act 1995

Quarrying and mining in Tasmania are regulated under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995*. A Mining Lease will be required from Mineral Resources Tasmania under this Act.

Water Management Act 1999

This Act provides for the use and management of freshwater resources in Tasmania. An application for dam works and permits are required under this Act.

Crown Land Act 1976

The *Crown Lands Act 1976* makes provisions with respect to the tenure, management, sale and disposal of the lands of the Crown. Subject to this Act, the relevant Minister responsible for the administration of Crown land has the powers to manage and dispose of all Crown land.

The proposed activity involves the development of Crown land. As the activity would be undertaken for mining purposes, the TSF is required to be held under a Mining Lease Tenure. The granting of a Mining Lease constitutes consent by the Minister responsible for the administration of Crown land, and accordingly, no separate consent is required.

State Policies and Projects Act 1993 (SPPA)

State Policies are made under the SPPA and they outline the Tasmanian Government's strategic policy direction on matters of State significance. State Policies do not override legislation and are implemented through the State's planning, development and regulatory systems, including incorporation into planning schemes or special planning orders. Planning decisions made by Tasmanian Government regulators and councils must be consistent with the provisions of the State Policies. There are currently three state policies operational in Tasmania:

- State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land 2009
- Tasmanian State Coastal Policy 1996; and
- State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997.

State Policies are captured in the normal permit application approval processes of local councils, in their capacity as acting as local government planning authorities, and relevant Tasmanian Government regulators.

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. *

MMG is highly engaged with the local community and understands the importance of stakeholder and community engagement. MMG maintains regular communications with various members of the local community and other key stakeholders, which includes the provision of a community-facing 'Pop-up shop'.

Stakeholder Engagement Approach

MMG maintains a Rosebery Community Stakeholder Management Plan, which is reviewed regularly and identifies key stakeholders, their relevant areas of interest and describes engagement activities. The Management Plan is based on a foundation of International Council of Mining and Minerals focus areas and the promotion of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; aligning to the company/community focus. Stakeholder engagement is recorded and managed within a stakeholder management program.

MMG Rosebery has two Community Liaison Co-ordinators (CLCs) who partake in a broad variety of stakeholder engagement. The roles are split into two workstreams, community based, and project based. The approach taken by the CLCs is to engage with stakeholders through participation in working groups, committees, and boards. Attendance at these meetings ensures a working knowledge of community needs and that community voice is heard in line with MMG's Stakeholder Management Plan and the provision of both financial and in-kind support.

The creation and ongoing promotion of the Rosebery Community Consultative Committee (RCCC), a group created through the invitation of key stakeholders, provides MMG an opportunity to inform the community of activities and life extension studies. This group is supported by the CLCs, but operates as an autonomous body, providing recommendations and feedback to the company.

Community Engagement

MMG has recently refurbished its Rosebery community office and installed new signage, with the space providing an inviting area to meet with community groups. Opening hours for the office are Tuesday and Wednesday between 9am-12pm, by appointment.

2024 saw a Bus Tour initiative provided by MMG at the Rosebery Festival, where MMG employees supported 1.5-hour free bus tours to Festival participants. The tours included the lookout near the Rosebery mine administration building with an explanation of the mine site workings and processes, the 2/5 Dam TSF where staff explained the facility, capacity and workings of the dam, and finally the base of Mt Read to explore natural and unique flora elements of the region. The tour then included historical mine workings and sharing knowledge of local heritage.

MMG Pop-up Shop

The Pop-up Shop initiative is aimed at ensuring community members have access to current factual information on work to date to extend the life of the Rosebery Mine, its operations and future projects. Pop up Shops were organised in the main street (Agnes Street) in Rosebery, rather than at the community centre near the mine site. These events offer the local community an opportunity to engage directly with site representatives, learn more about the areas MMG is working, and discuss topics related to the mine. This provides community members transparency and clear communication in relation to mining operations at MMG's Rosebery Mine. The most recent Pop-up Shops were conducted in December 2025, with further Pop-up Shops planned for the future.

The Pop-up Shop has been visited by approximately 120 people, enabling the Rosebery Mine to better inform the community of the future of the Rosebery Mine and provide opportunities for two-way feedback.

There has been no project specific consultation in relation to the Exe TSF at this stage with the local community.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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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 62100220479
Organisation name JBS&G AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address 2000 NSW

Referring party details

Name Katy Limpert
Job title Environmental Consultant
Phone 0490707469
Email klimpert@jbsg.com.au
Address 137 Liverpool St, Hobart TAS 7000

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 23004074962
Organisation name MMG Australia Limited
Organisation address Level 24 28 Freshwater Place Southbank, Victoria, 3006 Australia

Person proposing to take the action details

Name Steve Scott
Job title General Manager- Rosebery Mine
Phone 1800 767 664
Email ROSCommunity@MMG.com
Address Rosebery Mine, 6 Hospital Rd, Rosebery TAS 7470

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. *

Minerals and Metals Group was formed in June 2009 following China Minmetals Corporation (CMC)'s acquisition of the majority of OZ Minerals assets through CMC's subsidiary, China Minmetals Non-ferrous Metals Co. Ltd (CMN). In December 2010, Minerals and Metals Group was acquired by MMG Australia Limited (MMG), a subsidiary of CMC, and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

MMG's Rosebery operations produce zinc, copper, and lead concentrates, as well as gold doré, with the capacity to mine and process up to 1,100,000 tonnes of ore per year.

The Rosebery mine has been operating continuously for 90 years, with operations starting in 1936. Zinc, copper and lead concentrates, as well as gold doré, are produced at Rosebery using mechanised underground mining methods followed by crushing, grinding and flotation processes.

Concentrates are then transported by rail to the Port of Burnie, where the zinc and lead concentrates are shipped in bulk carriers to smelters in Hobart, and Port Pirie respectively, and the copper concentrates are shipped to overseas smelters. Gold doré bars are sold to a refinery in Australia, where they are refined into gold bullion.

MMG Rosebery has a proven track record of responsible environmental management. This approach is guided by MMG's Safety, Security, Health, Environment and Community (SSHEC) Policy and embedded within its broader Sustainability Framework.

Key MMG environmental priorities include efficient use of resources (energy and water), comprehensive waste and emissions management, protection and rehabilitation of ecosystems and climate change resilience. Each key element is supported by site-specific strategies and transparent performance reporting detailed within the annual Sustainability Reports.

There have been no past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth or State law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against MMG.

For completeness, it is noted that MMG has referred an action under the EPBC Act (EPBC number 2021/9079) relating to the design and assessment works for the South Marionoak Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Rosebery, Tasmania, as well as a separate referral of the South Marionoak TSF project (EPBC 2021/8909). Both referrals are currently awaiting a Decision.

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 MMG corporate group has a vision to be the world's most respected mining company. To achieve this, the group is committed to positively contributing to the regions in which they work while also effectively managing the risks to people, heritage and the environment.

The MMG group recognises that the sustainable development of the countries and communities they work in is the result of many shared steps. Over time these steps lead to real and lasting improvements in the quality of the lives of those touched by our operations. Transforming natural resources into sustainable development is how MMG mines for progress.

MMG prioritises minimising environmental impact by efficiently utilising natural resources, managing waste products, and implementing effective life-cycle management. MMG's environmental and biodiversity efforts are closely aligned with life-of-asset plans.

For MMG's performance refer to Sustainability Reports. Sustainability Reports - MMG

The Safety, Security, Health, Environment and Community (SSHEC) Policy is included in Attachment H.

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 23004074962
Organisation name MMG Australia Limited
Organisation address Level 24 28 Freshwater Place Southbank, Victoria, 3006 Australia

Proposed designated proponent details

Name Steve Scott
Job title General Manager- Rosebery Mine
Phone 1800 767 664
Email ROSCommunity@MMG.com
Address Rosebery Mine, 6 Hospital Rd, Rosebery TAS 7470

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	62100220479
Organisation name	JBS&G AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Katy Limpert
Representative's job title	Environmental Consultant
Phone	0490707469
Email	klimpert@jbsg.com.au
Address	137 Liverpool St, Hobart TAS 7000

✔ 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	23004074962
Organisation name	MMG Australia Limited
Organisation address	Level 24 28 Freshwater Place Southbank, Victoria, 3006 Australia
Representative's name	Steve Scott
Representative's job title	General Manager- Rosebery Mine
Phone	1800 767 664
Email	ROSCommunity@MMG.com
Address	Rosebery Mine, 6 Hospital Rd, Rosebery TAS 7470

✔ Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

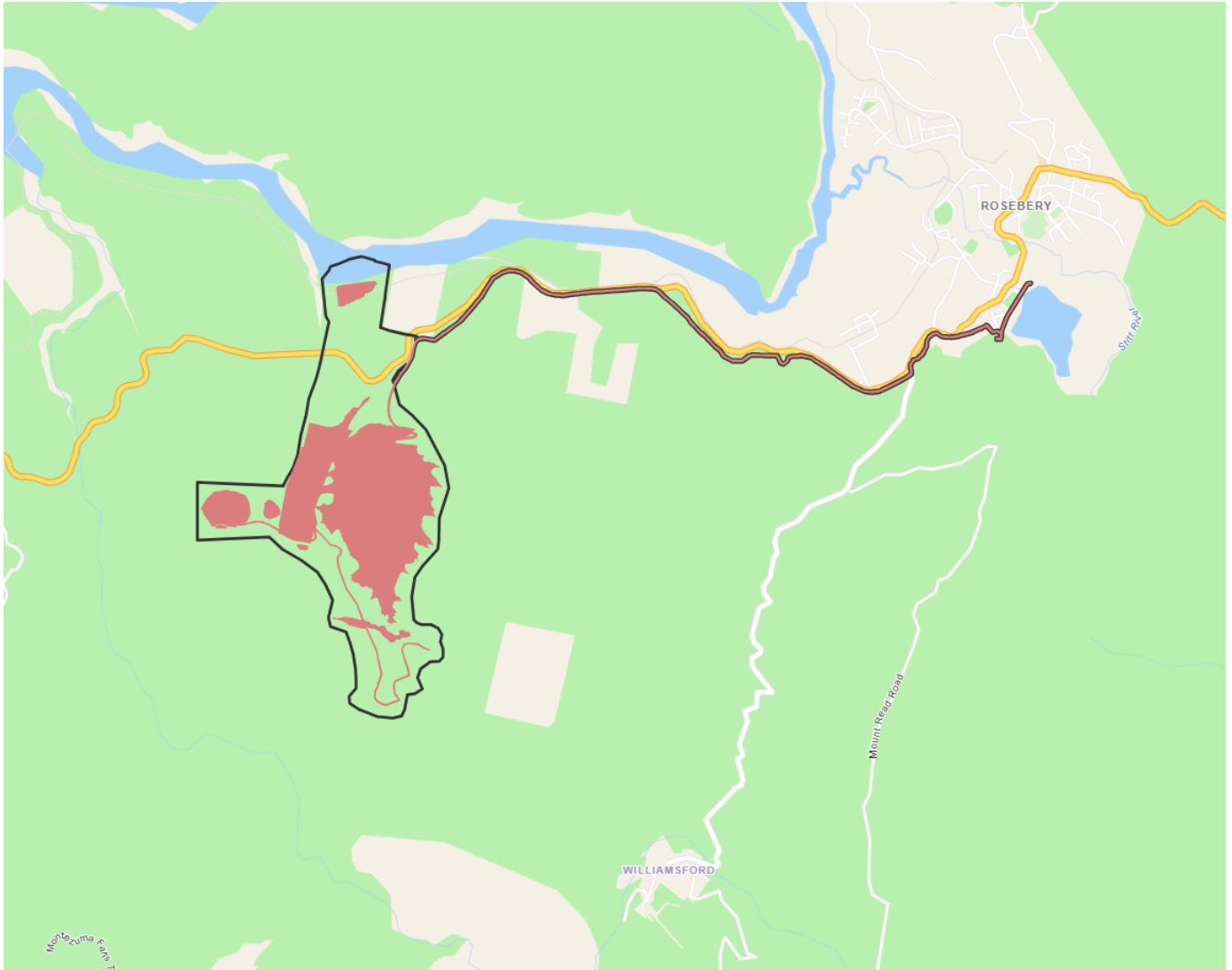
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 322.49 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 149.12 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Murchison Highway, West coast of Tasmania, 5 km southwest of Rosebery. Refer to Attachment

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

Tasmania

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? *

Excepting the majority of the Pipeline Corridor, the Project Area is located within MMG's Exploration Licence, EL26/2022, which is within a large parcel of Crown Land managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT). The land is classed as Permanent Timber Production Zone Land in accordance with the *Forest Management Act 2013*. Refer to Attachment A, Figure 5 for the land tenure of the Project Area.

The majority of the Pipeline Corridor is also within the STT land parcel, which is Crown Land. There is a section traversing the Rosebery Golf Club (approximately 1 km), which is Private Freehold. An additional cadastral parcel adjacent to the STT land parcel is also Crown Land, managed by NRE Tasmania (Property Services), where the eastern end of the Pipeline Corridor is located. Refer to Attachment A, Figure 5 for the land tenure of the Pipeline Corridor.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The majority of the proposed Exe TSF Project Area is located on the southern side of the Murchison Highway, approximately 5 km to the southwest of the Rosebery township on Tasmania's west coast.

The Exe TSF site is largely native forest, dominated by rainforest communities. The Project Area sits within a natural valley, with Exe Creek flowing through the centre. The Exe Creek catchment is approximately 600 ha flowing northwards for approximately 3.5 km before entering Lake Pieman with multiple lower order tributaries. There are legacy tracks at various locations within the Project Area which relate to historical mining and timber harvesting activities.

The site is zoned Rural in accordance with the *West Coast Local Provisions Schedule*. There will be no changes in zoning required for this activity. Refer to Attachment A, Figure 4, page 5 for the land use zoning of the site and the surrounding area.

The surrounding land use is limited, with STT managed land surrounding the site to the west, east, south and to the north across the Murchison Highway. The Rosebery Golf Course, approximately 2 km to the east of the site is the closest alternate land use. The closest sensitive receptor, a residential property, is located on the northeast boundary of the Project Area and approximately 1.5 km from the dam embankment. The Rosebery Gun Club is also located approximately 1.5 km from the site. The southeast end of the Rosebery township is located approximately 4 km from the proposed TSF. Lake Pieman is managed by Hydro Tasmania for water storage and electricity generation.

The main Exe TSF site will be accessed via the Murchison Highway. There are no other access roads to the Project Area.

The proposed Exe TSF development includes a corridor to place pipeline infrastructure which extends from the Exe TSF site to the 2/5 Dam TSF. The proposed corridor (Pipeline Corridor) traverses mostly vegetated areas along the southern side of the Murchison Highway and includes one waterway crossing at Natone Creek. Similar to the proposed TSF site, the corridor is largely zoned Rural, with the exception of the Rosebery Golf Course, which is zoned Recreation in accordance with the *West Coast Local Provisions Schedule*. Refer to Attachment A, Figure 3, page 4 for the location of the Pipeline Corridor.

Natural Values

A natural values assessment (NVA) was completed by North Barker Ecosystem Services (NBES) covering the proposed Project Area and Pipeline Corridor between 2022 to 2025, to accommodate seasonal survey requirements and the evolving TSF design. General, baseline natural values assessments, as well as targeted field surveys were undertaken, such as eagle nest searches, eagle nest activity assessments, Tasmanian masked owl habitat searches, masked owl habitat tree mapping, masked owl surveys, as well as deployment and retrieval of detection equipment to identify the presence of threatened fauna. Refer to Attachment B for the full report.

Vegetation communities

The TSF site is typical of western Tasmanian lowland vegetation and habitats on similar geologies. Native vegetation types identified within the Exe TSF Project Area and Pipeline Corridor include:

- *Acacia dealbata* forest (NAD)
- *Acacia melanoxylon* swamp forest (NAF)
- *Acacia melanoxylon* forest on rises (NAR)
- *Leptospermum scoparium* – *Acacia mucronate* forest (NLA)
- *Leptospermum lanigerum* - *Melaleuca squarrosa* swamp forest (NLM)
- *Nothofagus*–*Phyllocladus* short rainforest (RMS)
- *Nothofagus*–*Atherosperma* tall rainforest (RMT)
- *Eucalyptus nitida* forest over *Leptospermum* (WNL)
- *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest over *Leptospermum* (WOL)
- *Eucalyptus nitida* forest over rainforest (WNR)

- *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest with broad-leaf shrubs (WOB)
- *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest over rainforest (WOR)
- Freshwater aquatic sedgeland and rushland (ASF); and
- Buttongrass moorland with emergent shrubs (MBS).

Modified land comprising of existing infrastructure such as roads and rail, powerline easement and a large weed infestation in a former landfill area to the north of Murchison Highway is present within the Project Area. Unrehabilitated alluvial and underground historical mine workings are dispersed throughout the western and eastern slopes of the Exe valley.

Refer to Attachment B, Figures 2 and 3, pages 16 and 17 for vegetation communities for the Exe TSF Project Area and Figures 4 and 5, pages 18 and 19 for vegetation communities for the Pipeline Corridor.

None of the vegetation communities identified within the Project Area, are listed as threatened under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002* (NCA) and/or the EPBCA.

In the initial broader survey area, the native vegetation community, *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest (WBR), was identified. This community is listed as threatened under both the NCA and the EPBCA. This vegetation community occupies an area of approximately 17.27 ha to the east of the Project Area. Following refinement of the Project Area, this vegetation community has been avoided and now lies outside the Project Area boundary. Refer to Attachment B, Figure 3, page 17. It is included here due to its proximity to the Exe TSF site.

Threatened flora

No threatened flora species listed under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSPA) or the EPBCA were identified within the immediate Project Area of the TSF or the Pipeline Corridor.

One rare species, *Micrantheum serpentinum* (western trident bush), listed under the TSPA, was recorded approximately 115 m south of the Exe TSF Project Area.

One threatened flora species, *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* (river clubsedge), listed as rare under the TSPA, was identified in one location associated within a small patch of freshwater aquatic sedgeland and rushland (ASF) in the Pipeline Corridor, directly opposite a mechanic workshop on the Murchison Highway, close to the 2/5 Dam TSF. The species occurs within a 5 m² area, within the ASF.

Threatened fauna

The identified fauna habitats are also typical of west coast wet forests and scrubs. The landscape is not particularly productive in terms of nutrients or prey availability, and the relatively low numbers of wildlife, especially large predators, is reflective of this.

The following threatened fauna, listed under both the TSPA and the EPBCA are present within the Project Area:

- Wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*), listed as endangered under the TSPA and EPBCA
- Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*), listed as endangered under the TSPA and EPBCA
- Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus subsp. Maculatus*), listed as rare under the TSPA and vulnerable under the EPBCA
- Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae castanops*), listed as endangered under the TSPA and vulnerable under the EPBCA; and
- Grey goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*), listed as endangered under the TSPA.

Weeds and disease

Introduced flora species are typically infrequent within the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor, with the identified locations largely restricted to north of the Murchison Highway, within areas of past disturbance, such as the Murchison Highway itself, the Melba Railway and nearby powerline easements. Nine declared weeds listed under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019* were identified in the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor. A particularly dense weed infestation in the Project Area located north of the Murchison Highway also included holly, pampas grass and English broom. Refer to Attachment B, Figure 17-18, page 77-80 for the distribution of declared weeds. Refer to Attachment B, Table 8, page 77 for the declared weeds in the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor. Three of the declared weeds are also listed as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), under the *Australian Weed Strategy 2017 – 2027*.

No evidence of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, chytrid fungus or myrtle wilt was observed during surveys.

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

The Project Area sits within an area of Crown Land (PID 3388012) managed by STT and is classified as unreserved land in the Regional Forest Agreement. The land is therefore public land that is not within a formal reserve and is managed for multiple uses, including sustainable timber production.

The Pipeline Corridor, which is approximately 5 km in length, crosses a number of land parcels, although the majority of the corridor is within the PID 3388012, managed by STT. The proposed tailings delivery infrastructure corridor also crosses land parcels:

- 12399 Murchison Highway (PID 7293053, CT 35005/1 and CT 207979/1), which includes the Rosebery Golf Course; and
- PID 6021427 (Property address – Rosebery Mine – 6 Hospital Road) Casement – NRE Tas (Property Services), in the vicinity of 2/5 Dam TSF, which sits within the MMG's Rosebery Mine land parcel.

The proposed Pipeline Corridor crosses both native vegetation and modified land, adjacent to the Murchison Highway.

Mining is the predominant industry in the region with the Renison Bell mine located approximately 3.5 km to the west of the site, on the Murchison Highway.

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

There are no natural features and/or important or unique values relevant to the proposed development areas. There are none of the following reserves within or in proximity to the Exe TSF Project Area or the Pipeline Corridor:

- National Parks
- Nature reserves
- Conservation areas; or
- Conservation covenants.

Adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Project Area is the Colebrook Hill Conservation Fossicking Area. This area is a designated mineral fossicking reserve on Crown land under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995* and is set aside specifically for recreational fossicking. The land is unavailable for mining or exploration activities at the surface and is unavailable to commercial or large-scale mineral development.

To the south of the Project Area, the land is designated as Future Potential Production Forest.

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 Exe TSF site is located within a natural valley with the site ranging between 160 m to 290 m AHD (Australian Height Datum where sea level is 0 m).

Colebrook Hill, to the east of the Project Area reaches an elevation of approximately 540 m AHD, whilst to the west of the Project Area is an unnamed hill with an elevation of 350 m AHD.

The Pipeline Corridor follows the southern side of the Murchison Highway from the proposed Exe TSF embankment to the 2/5 Dam TSF and sits within the range of 160 to 290 m AHD.

3.2 Flora and fauna

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

A natural values assessment (NVA) was completed by North Barker Ecosystem Services (NBES) covering the proposed Project Area, Pipeline Corridor and the broader Exe valley between 2022 to 2025, to accommodate seasonal survey requirements and the evolving TSF design. Refer to Attachment B for the full report.

Flora species

No threatened flora species listed under either the TSPA or the EPBCA were recorded within the Project Area.

One rare species, *Micrantheum serpentinum* (western trident bush), listed under the TSPA, was recorded approximately 593 m south of the TSF Project Area. This species is not listed under the EPBCA.

One threatened flora species, *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* (river clubsedge), listed as rare under the TSPA, was identified in one location associated with a small patch of freshwater aquatic sedgeland and rushland (ASF) in the Pipeline Corridor, directly opposite a mechanic workshop on the Murchison Highway, close to the 2/5 Dam TSF. The species occurs within a 5 m² area, within the ASF, at the edge of the proposed Pipeline Corridor.

Fauna Species

The fauna habitats in the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor are characteristic of wet forests and scrublands found on the west coast. The landscape is not particularly productive in terms of nutrients or prey availability, and the relatively low numbers of wildlife, especially large predators, is reflective of this.

Four fauna species considered likely to occur in the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor are MNES as listed under the EPBCA.

Wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*)

One wedge-tailed eagle nest is located just outside the Project Area in a large *Eucalyptus obliqua* tree on a northeast-facing slope in the northeastern section of the site. Refer to Attachment B, Figure 8, page 50. The nest is located within 500 m of the Project Area on the eastern ridgeline, bordering the Exe valley, but is not within line of sight. The majority of the forest habitat within the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor is not optimal for eagle nesting, however, habitat along the eastern ridge, adjacent to the Project Area, is modelled as supporting high quality habitat.

A pair of wedge-tailed eagles have been observed in the vicinity of the nest on a number of occasions.

Monitoring of the eagle nest since the November 2022, found the nest not used for breeding in 2022/23 and 2023/24. During the 2024/25 breeding season, the nest was determined to be unsuccessful, following early activity in the breeding season. A recent inspection found the nest to be active for the 2025/26 breeding season.

Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*)

The August 2022 natural values assessment recorded scats in the Project Area suggesting the presence of the Tasmanian devil. This was confirmed by camera trapping from December 2022 and into January 2023 with a total of 27 observations recorded across four cameras during this time. Both healthy adult and healthy juvenile devils were detected in the area.

While devils are known to inhabit the area, the majority of the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor has been mapped as suboptimal or unsuitable conditions for denning habitat, due to the relatively dry slope position and the presence of low lying rainforest communities with poorly drained and often waterlogged soils. Refer to Attachment B, Figure 14, page 61 and Figure 15, page 62 showing the habitat suitability for the Tasmanian devil. No evidence of dens were recorded during field surveys, with similar and more suitable denning habitat being extensive in the region.

Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus subsp. Maculatus*)

The Project Area and Pipeline Corridor is not within an important population of the spotted-tailed quoll, with the nearest important population approximately 15 km to the west in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park. Refer to Attachment B, Figure 16, page 65 for the distribution of important populations.

Native vegetation in the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor constitutes predominantly foraging habitat for the species. Similar to the Tasmanian devil, the majority of denning habitat is sub-optimal, however, some potential denning sites or lay ups were identified in large tree hollows within the Project Area. There was no evidence of natal activity observed at these locations.

No spotted-tailed quolls were observed during targeted camera trap surveys, indicating the quoll is unlikely to be common in the area. It is likely that quolls would utilise the area for foraging, with the Project Area likely to be part of one or more female home ranges, as the native vegetation in the area does constitute foraging habitat for the species.

Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*)

The Project Area and Pipeline Corridor lies within the core range of the Tasmanian masked owl (masked owl) and contains potential nesting habitat for the species, with large old trees occurring within *E. obliqua* forest (WOR) on the eastern boundary of the Project Area. Refer Attachment B, Figure 9, page 53. To determine presence or absence of breeding masked owls, preliminary targeted surveys were carried out using passive acoustic monitoring devices (PAMs) throughout the Project Area in November 2022. Over the 59-day recording period, masked owl calls were detected on 9 days, including several instances of characteristic 'chattering' vocalisations.

Following preliminary investigations, a detailed survey design was developed for a more comprehensive study of masked owl occupancy, incorporating saturated acoustic monitoring across suitable habitats within the Project Area. Fourteen PAMs were deployed between 15 November 2023 and 9 January 2024. Masked owl calls were captured on thirteen of the fourteen devices, indicating a high likelihood that a masked owl nest is located within 200 metres of the PAM locations. Refer to Attachment B, Figure 10, page 54 for the call density results.

The consistent detection of this species throughout the survey period, indicates that the area supports a core area of local masked owl breeding territory and is likely to support a nest and/or roost site.

Grey goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*), listed as endangered TSPCA, not a MNES

The grey goshawk has been recorded within 5 km of the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor. Potential nesting and foraging habitat for the grey goshawk is present within the Project Area, however no nests or incidental observations of the grey goshawk were observed during targeted searches. This species is not listed under the EPBCA.

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

A NVA was completed by NBES covering the proposed Project Area, Pipeline Corridor and the broader Exe valley between 2022 to 2025, to accommodate seasonal survey requirements and the evolving TSF design. Refer to Attachment B for the full report.

The vegetation groups across the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor fell into four groups: wet eucalyptus forest; rainforest; non-eucalypt forest and woodland; and non-native vegetation communities including agricultural, urban and exotic vegetation. Most of the Project Area is dominated by rainforest communities with wet eucalypt forest mainly along the eastern ridge and regenerating blackwood forest along the western ridgeline.

The higher elevations are mainly covered with tall rainforest and mature blackwood forests, which gradually transition into dense, low-growing rainforest along drainage lines to the south of the Project Area. In the western section, tall rainforest continues north of Colebrook Creek, while shorter, dense rainforest is found to the south of the creek. At the northern edge of the Project Area, tall rainforest and mature blackwood forest extend into the drainage lines. On both sides of the Murchison Highway, eucalypt forest growing above a layer of *Leptospermum* is present.

There are also areas of modified land present in the Project Area, comprising existing infrastructure such as roads and rail, powerline easement, legacy mining heritage and a large weed infestation in a former landfill area to the north of Murchison Highway.

The vegetation communities within the Pipeline Corridor consist mainly of eucalypt forest over either *Leptospermum* or broad-leaf shrubs as well as areas subject to past disturbance comprising non-eucalypt forest. Streams that cross the Pipeline Corridor are typically impacted by invasive weed species. Generally, the Murchison Highway contributes to edge effects, resulting in degraded vegetation in its immediate surroundings.

Vegetation communities identified within the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor are provided in Table 1 (NBES, 2025, Attachment B, Table 4, page 15), including the total area in hectares (ha). Refer to Attachment B, Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5, pages 16 to 19 for vegetation communities mapped within the proposed Project Area. Summary of vegetation communities present within the project area and pipeline corridor are summarised below:

Wet eucalypt forest:

This vegetation group includes several TASVEG types:

Eucalyptus brookeriana wet forest (WBR) — not recorded within either the project area or pipeline corridor.

Eucalyptus nitida forest over *Leptospermum* (WNL) — 1.42 ha occurs within the project area and 1.64 ha within the pipeline corridor, giving a total of 3.06 ha.

Eucalyptus obliqua forest with broad-leaf shrubs (WOB) — covers 0.72 ha in the project area and 2.51 ha in the corridor (total 3.23 ha).

Eucalyptus obliqua forest over *Leptospermum* (WOL) — found only in the corridor, covering 0.56 ha.

Eucalyptus obliqua forest over rainforest (WOR) — the dominant wet eucalypt community, with 4.38 ha in the project area and 0.05 ha in the corridor (total 4.43 ha).

Rainforest:

Nothofagus-Phyllocladus short rainforest (RMS) — 33.43 ha within the project area and 0.22 ha in the corridor (total 33.65 ha).

Nothofagus-Atherosperma tall rainforest (RMT) — the largest individual vegetation type recorded, with 194.58 ha in the project area and 0.16 ha in the corridor (total 194.74 ha).

Non-eucalypt forest and woodland:

Acacia dealbata forest (NAD) — 12.72 ha within the project area and 0.84 ha in the corridor, totalling 13.56 ha.

Acacia melanoxylon swamp forest (NAF) — present only in the project area (1.17 ha).

Acacia melanoxylon forest on rises (NAR) — 52.40 ha in the project area and 0.97 ha in the corridor (total 53.37 ha).

Leptospermum scoparium – Acacia mucronata forest (NLA) — found only in the pipeline corridor (1.09 ha).

Leptospermum lanigerum – Melaleuca squarrosa swamp forest (NLM) — 2.47 ha occurs solely within the project area.

Saltmarsh and wetland:

Freshwater aquatic sedgeland and rushland (ASF) — 0.01 ha occurs within the corridor only.

Moorland, sedgeland, and rushland:

Buttongrass moorland with emergent shrubs (MBS) — 0.68 ha is present in the pipeline corridor.

Agricultural, urban, and exotic vegetation:

Permanent easements (FPE), which include either NLA or RMT elements, total 4.27 ha (3.10 ha in the project area and 1.17 ha in the corridor).

Regenerating cleared land (FRG) — 0.33 ha present only in the corridor.

Extra-urban miscellaneous areas such as roads and tracks (FUM) — 1.41 ha in the project area and 3.18 ha in the corridor (total 4.60 ha).

Weed infestations (FWU) — 2.14 ha in the project area and 0.11 ha in the corridor (total 2.25 ha).

Overall total area:

Across all vegetation groups, the project area covers **309.94 hectares**, while the pipeline corridor covers **13.53 hectares**, for a **combined total of approximately 323.47 hectares**.

3.3 Heritage

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

A number of historic heritage assessments have been undertaken by Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA) in the Project Area. As a result of these assessments, no registered historic heritage sites or places were located within or in the immediate vicinity of the areas surveyed by CHMA. (CHMA, 2023, 2023, 2025).

Historic heritage assessments undertaken by CHMA cover a number of areas within the Project Area, and consequently a number of reports have been prepared. These areas include Area A, Area B, Areas 1 and 2, which are shown in the Attached reports. Historic Heritage Assessments are attached as Attachment C, D, E and F.

The Historical Heritage Assessments concluded:

- A search of historic heritage registers identified no registered heritage sites or places located within or in the vicinity of the survey areas A, B or Areas 1 and 2
- Eleven (11) historic heritage features were identified in Area A, with all of these features representing exploratory mining activity or selective logging activity. There is likely to be additional historic heritage features associated with previous mining and logging activity within Area A
- Four historic heritage features were identified in Area B. The features include components of a former tramway dating back to 1911, a large rubbish dump (no longer in use), a small dam, potentially associated with historic mining activity and earthworks, also associated with historic mining activity. There is some likelihood additional historic heritage features associated with previous mining and logging activity, or waste disposal may be present within survey Area B; and

No historic heritage sites or features were identified in Areas 1 and 2. There is some potential for undetected historic heritage sites to occur within the Area 1 footprint. If present, they are likely to represent either small scale exploratory mining or selective logging activity.

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

2023, 2025).

Aboriginal heritage assessments undertaken by CHMA cover a number of areas within the Project Area, and consequently a number of reports have been prepared. These areas include survey areas - Area A, Area B, Areas 1 and 2. Aboriginal heritage assessments are not attached due to their confidential nature.

The Aboriginal heritage assessments identified:

- Registered Aboriginal Sites in the surrounding area, with the closest site approximately 2.4 km south of Area A
- No registered sites were located within or in the immediate vicinity of the CHMA survey areas
- No Aboriginal heritage sites, suspected features, or specific areas of elevated archaeological potential were identified during the field survey of Area A
- No Aboriginal heritage sites or suspected features were identified during the field survey of Area B
- One specific area of potential archaeological sensitivity was identified along the northern boundary of Area B. This area is a 25 m wide strip which follows the Melba rail line and is closest to the corridor of the Pieman River; and
- No Aboriginal heritage sites, suspected features, or specific areas of elevated archaeological potential were identified during the field survey of Areas 1 and 2.

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. *

A baseline assessment of Exe Creek was undertaken by Klohn Crippen Berger (KCB) in 2024. Refer to Attachment G for the full report, dated 11 December 2024.

Exe Creek is classified as a minor creek and is a perennial stream, which has a continuous flow of surface water throughout the year. According to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (Data - Water Information Tasmania Web Portal), Exe Creek begins at approximately 520 m AHD, near the southern extent of Colebrook Hill. Exe Creek largely flows in a northerly direction discharging into Lake Pieman to the north of the Project Area. Refer to Attachment G, Figure 2.1, page 4, for the topography and drainage of the Project Area.

A total of ten water samples have been collected from nine locations during February and September 2024 to determine baseline water quality information. No springs were identified during either sampling round.

The water quality was typically fresh with a neutral pH. Some metals were detected, although the levels were minor. The February and September results were considered consistent. Nitrate levels in surface water were marginally higher than guideline values[1], however these are likely due to natural sources or possible historic mining activities.

Surface water and groundwater investigations are continuing across the Project Area to further refine surface water and groundwater quality, surface water and groundwater interactions as well as potential flow paths.

[1] EPA Tasmania 2021, default guideline values (DGVs) of the Pieman Catchment for a slightly to moderately disturbed ecosystem (SMD). Refer Attachment G, Table 4.2, page 13.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

The Project Area and surrounding area does not occur within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) is listed for its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) under multiple World Heritage and National Heritage values. These values, as defined in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the Summary of Values of the TWWHA, relate to exceptional wilderness landscapes, geological and ecological processes, biodiversity of global significance and extensive Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The proposed action is not anticipated to result in any direct or indirect impacts on the TWWHA, which is located more than 15 km east of the Exe TSF Project Area and Pipeline Corridor. The Exe TSF site is situated within a low-lying valley, with the West Coast Range and Mount Murchison (approximately 1,000 m ASL) located between the proposed action and the TWWHA. The intervening topography, combined with the separation distance, is considered to effectively limit any visual impacts to the TWWHA.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

No National Heritage values were identified within or surrounding the Project Area. While a small portion of the TWWHA occurs within the Pieman River catchment, this area is approximately 15 km upstream of the proposed action. Given the separation distance, catchment position, and absence of direct hydrological connections, no direct or indirect hydrological impacts are anticipated.

The proposed action is not anticipated to result in any impacts on the TWWHA. The separation distance, combined with intervening topography, absence of direct hydrological connections, and lack of identified visual, ecological, or cultural heritage pathways, indicates no risk of affecting the integrity, authenticity, or OUV of the TWWHA

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.

*

No Ramsar listed wetlands were identified within or surrounding the Project Area.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	Yes	<i>Aquila audax fleayi</i>	Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, Wedge-tailed Eagle (Tasmanian)
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Carinascincus orocryptus</i>	Heath Cool-skink, Mountain Skink
No	No	<i>Ceyx azureus diemenensis</i>	Tasmanian Azure Kingfisher
Yes	Yes	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (Tasmanian population)	Spotted-tail Quoll, Spot-tailed Quoll, Tiger Quoll (Tasmanian population)
No	No	<i>Epacris glabella</i>	Funnel Heath, Smooth Heath
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Hiya distans</i>	Scrambling Ground-fern
No	No	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot
No	No	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	Australian Grayling
No	No	<i>Pseudocephalozia paludicola</i>	Alpine Leafy Liverwort
No	No	<i>Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera</i>	Gould's Petrel, Australian Gould's Petrel
Yes	Yes	<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>	Tasmanian Devil
Yes	Yes	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae castanops</i> (Tasmanian population)	Masked Owl (Tasmanian)

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (Eucalyptus ovata / E. brookeriana)
No	No	Tasmanian white gum (Eucalyptus viminalis) wet forest

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. *

Threatened species

- **Tasmanian Wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*)**

The construction and operation of the Exe TSF and associated infrastructure will require the permanent clearing of approximately 152 ha of foraging habitat for the wedge-tailed eagle, which is likely to utilise the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor for hunting. There is unlikely to be direct impacts to nesting habitat of the species, due to the lack of high quality nesting habitat within the proposed development area. The closest known wedge-tailed eagle nest is located to the east of the Project Area, along the eastern ridge, outside of the project footprint (#3120). Although the eagle nest is outside of the area required for vegetation clearance, it is likely to be within 500 m of construction activity.

There is minimal high quality nesting habitat within the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor. An area just outside the Project Area, along the eastern ridge, where the known eagle nest is located, is modelled as supporting high quality habitat. Refer to Attachment B, Figure 8, page 50. Although the eastern ridge is outside the Project Area, it will be within 500 m of construction activity.

Monitoring of the eagle nest since the November 2022, found the nest not used for breeding in 2022/23 and 2023/24. During the 2024/25 breeding season, the nest was determined to be unsuccessful, following early activity in the breeding season. A recent inspection found the nest to be active for the 2025/26 breeding season.

Potential indirect impacts to the nest, if active during the breeding season, will likely be from noise during the construction phase, as the nest is within 500 m of the proposed TSF. This could deter eagles from utilising the nest for breeding. Although the proposed construction works as well as a small section of the Murchison Highway are within 500 m of the nest, the area visible from the nest is to the north-east and to the opposite side of the proposed activity. Construction works will therefore not be in line of site of the nest. Nest disturbance is therefore possible during construction if the nest is active during the breeding season. Construction works for the proposed TSF are proposed to take approximately 24 months to complete.

The noisiest construction activities are anticipated to be drilling and blasting associated with quarrying operations. The proposed western quarry is approximately 1.5 km from the known eagle nest. Quarrying associated with the proposed spillway would occur approximately 500 m from the nest, while further quarrying within the inundation zone would be 1 km from the nest.

- **Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*)**

The proposed activity will result in direct impact to the Tasmanian devil through the permanent loss of 152 ha of foraging habitat, with devils known to occur in the Project Area.

The proposed TSF Project Area and Pipeline Corridor has been mapped as sub-optimal and unsuitable denning habitat for the Tasmanian devil, with no optimal denning habitat identified within either area. Refer to Attachment B, Figure 14 (Project Area), page 61 and Figure 15 (Pipeline Corridor), page 62. No evidence of dens was observed during the field surveys. The potential for dens to occur within the area is possible, given the area of habitat is large, albeit sub-optimal. It is considered unlikely that impact to devil denning habitat will occur, noting similar and more suitable denning habitat being extensive in the region. Nevertheless, pre-clearance surveys will be undertaken to ensure no disturbance to breeding devils occurs.

The construction phase of the project will have the potential to directly impact the devil through increased vehicle traffic and hence increased risk of roadkill, if not managed appropriately.

- **Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus subsp. Maculatus*)**

Whilst the presence of spotted-tailed quolls has not been confirmed within the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor, the use of the Project Area for foraging is considered likely. Similar to the Tasmanian devils, the clearing of approximately 152 ha of vegetation will result in a direct impact through the permanent loss of

foraging habitat for this species.

As indicated above for the Tasmanian devil, the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor has been mapped as sub-optimal and unsuitable for denning due to the prevalence of dense rainforest and associated wet ground conditions. Nevertheless, pre-clearance surveys will be undertaken to ensure no disturbance to spotted-quolls breeding habitat occurs.

The construction phase of the project will have the potential to directly impact the spotted-tailed quoll through increased vehicle traffic and hence increased risk of roadkill, if not managed appropriately.

- **Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae castanops*)**

The presence of masked owls within the Project Area has been determined within suitable large trees with nesting hollows likely to be directly impacted by construction of the proposed TSF. These suitable nesting trees occur on the eastern boundary of the Project Area and could be part of the core territory of a breeding pair. Further assessment will be required to determine the extent of impact on the potential breeding habitat trees to this species.

There will also be a direct impact to foraging habitat to the masked owl with the loss of 152 ha of vegetation.

Indirect impacts to potential nesting habitat is also likely to occur from noise and human activity in the vicinity of the potential nesting habitat during the construction phase. Construction works for the proposed TSF are proposed to take approximately 24 months to complete.

Additional MNES that are unlikely to be directly and/or indirectly impacted:

Additional MNES that have the potential to occur within the Project Area are unlikely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed action are discussed in Section 2 of Attachment A.

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

*

Yes

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

The only MNES considered to be potentially significantly impacted is the Tasmanian masked owl. Refer below. The Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle, Tasmanian devil, and spotted-tailed quoll are not expected to be significantly impacted by this proposed action. The significant impact assessment of these species is provided in Attachment A.

POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae castanops*)

There is potential for the proposed project to have a significant impact on the Tasmanian masked owl from loss of potential breeding habitat and nest trees, if not mitigated or offset.

It is noted that further assessment of potential impacts to the masked owl will be undertaken as the development of the proposed Exe TSF and associated infrastructure continues.

An action is likely to have a significant impact on a vulnerable species if there is a real chance or possibility that it will:

- **Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population** – there is potential nesting habitat known to occur within and adjacent to the Project Area, with the high proportion of chatter calls detected suggesting the presence of a masked owl nesting tree, possibly within or adjacent to the Project Area. Further assessment will be required to determine the significance of the impact if a nest tree/s does occur within the Project Area and is required to be removed. The species is known from many sites in Tasmania and does not have a severely fragmented distribution, therefore the area is considered unlikely to be part of an important population, with higher densities observed in the east and north of the state[1]
- **Reduce the area of occupancy of an important population** – the loss of potential habitat, including known nesting habitat, may potentially reduce the area of occupancy of a breeding pair. The masked owl has large home ranges, approximately 1,000 -2,000 ha[2], therefore, further assessment will be required to determine the significance of the impact from the project
- **Fragment an existing important population into two or more populations** – the project is unlikely to fragment an important population due to the species highly mobile nature and the likelihood that the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor would be within the home range of one breeding pair
- **Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species** – there is potential for nesting habitat to be impacted as a result of vegetation clearance, this could adversely affect a breeding pair. Further assessment will be required to determine the significance of the impact from the project on nesting habitat
- **Disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population** – a disruption to the breeding cycle of a pair of masked owls is possible. Further assessment will be required to determine the significance of the impact from the project of the breeding cycle of an important population
- **Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline** - a decline in the species due to habitat changes would require large scale changes in territories to become unsuitable for foraging, with a lack of nesting opportunities within multiple territories. The loss of foraging and nesting habitat for a nesting pair is unlikely to cause species decline although it could result in modification of the behaviour within an existing territory
- **Result in invasive species that are harmful to a vulnerable species becoming established in the vulnerable species' habitat** - the project is unlikely to result in the introduction of an invasive species harmful to the masked owl
- **Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline** - the project is unlikely to encourage the spread or introduction of diseases; and
- **Interfere with the recovery of the species** - the project will contribute to the loss of habitat and in particular, nesting habitat for this species. Further assessment will be required to determine the

significance of the impact from the project on the interference with the recovery of the species.

[1] *Tyto novaehollandiae castanops* (Tasmanian Masked Owl) Listing Advice

[2] Forest Practices Authority, 2014, 'Identifying masked owl habitat', Fauna Technical Note No. 17, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania

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

Yes

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

There is potential for impact to occur to MNES through the clearance of 152 ha of native vegetation which is likely to include foraging and some potential nesting habitat for threatened fauna species.

The project is in the initial stages of development with feasibility studies and engineering design ongoing. Additional assessment of environmental impacts is being undertaken to ensure the project design will avoid and minimise impacts, wherever possible, to threatened fauna likely to occur in the proposed Project Area and Pipeline Corridor.

Nevertheless, there is potential for significant impact to occur to the Tasmanian masked owl if not mitigated appropriately.

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. *

A summary of management measures proposed in the NBES, 2025 (Attachment B) are provided below.

Wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*)

- Protection of the nest tree – retain an intact patch of forest surrounding the nest as a long-term reserve. The design of the reserve will take account of local topographic conditions and be at least 10 ha in size or greater with the nest no closer than 100 m from the nearest edge of the reserve
- The nest currently falls within existing informal reserves on state forest under authority of Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT). Forest between the nest and the Project Area embankment should be added to the informal reserves in this area and formalised through STT
- Avoid breeding season disturbance, where possible; and
- A pre-clearance search for eagle nests will be undertaken prior to construction commencing to determine if any new nests have been established within a 1 km boundary of the project. If a new nest is identified, a plan for nest management will be implemented.

Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*) and Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus subsp. Maculatus*)

The following mitigation measures for Tasmanian devils and spotted-tailed quolls will be implemented:

- Pre-clearance surveys within 50 m of all disturbance areas prior to commencement of works to confirm presence/absence of potential devil or quoll dens. Dens that are found and confirmed to be in use for maternal denning will be managed with a minimum 50 m disturbance-free exclusion zone
- Prepare a devil and quoll management plan to mitigate the risk of impact through habitat disturbance and roadkill hazard. Measures within this plan are to include:
 - Restricting speed limits on internal mine roads to 25 km/h or lower
 - Installing roadkill warning and speed limit signs
 - Using high-radiance and wide-dispersal lighting on all vehicles
 - Counting and removing roadkill of all animals from the affected section of the Murchison Highway and internal mine roads; and
 - Responding to an increase in roadkill by reinforcing speed limits on mine roads, removing roadkill from roads and erecting caution signs.

Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae castanops*)

Further assessment of the potential impacts to the masked owl from the proposed TSF and associated infrastructure is required. To reduce the likelihood of impacts to the masked owls, the following mitigation strategies will be considered:

- An avoidance strategy and habitat impact mitigation protocol will be developed
- Avoid direct and indirect impacts *E. obliqua*, especially large (>1 m DBH) trees within WOR vegetation community, where possible; and
- No direct works to occur within 15 m of any large (>1 m DBH) eucalypt tree where practicable.

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

Further assessment of the potential impact on the Tasmanian masked owl is required to determine if a significant impact to the species is likely to occur from the proposed project. Following this assessment, a determination will be made on whether an offset for this species is required.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail

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

No

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

*

The following migratory species are unlikely to be directly and/or indirectly impacted from the proposed action due to lack of suitable habitat within the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor:

- **Pectoral sandpiper:** This migratory wetland and coastal species, which does not breed in Tasmania, lacks suitable habitat within the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor as it forages in coastal and wetland environments, while the site contains only small forested streams.
- **Fork-tailed swift:** This swift is rarely recorded in Tasmania and mostly on the Bass Strait Islands. This species is therefore unlikely to utilise the dense forest and scrub vegetation of the site.
- **Latham's snipe** - This migratory wetland species does not breed in Tasmania and forages in coastal and inland wetlands. The small forested streams within the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor do not provide suitable habitat.
- **White-throated needletail:** This migratory species breeds in northern Asia and spends the non-breeding season in eastern and south-eastern Australia, including Tasmania. As an aerial species, it is likely unaffected by terrestrial habitat alteration in Tasmania.
- **Sharp-tailed sandpiper:** This migratory wetland and coastal visitor does not breed in Tasmania and forages in coastal flats and inland wetlands. The Project Area and Pipeline Corridor's small forested streams provide no suitable habitat.
- **Common sandpiper:** This migratory wetland visitor does not breed in Tasmania and forages in coastal sand and mud flats, as well as inland wetlands. The Project Area and Pipeline Corridor lacks traditional wetlands, with only small forested streams present, so no suitable habitat exists.
- **Curlew sandpiper:** Curlew sandpipers frequent intertidal mudflats in Tasmania's north and east coasts, and occasionally use edges of inland lakes. The site and adjacent deep lake edge lack suitable wading habitat, with only one distant record nearby. Therefore, suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and Pipeline Corridor.

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.

*

There are no nuclear actions within or surrounding the Project Area.

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.

*

There are no Commonwealth Marine Areas within or surrounding the Project Area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

*

The Great Barrier Reef is not located within or in the vicinity of the Project Area.

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

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

No

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

*

This project does not include water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

There is no Commonwealth Land within or surrounding the Project Area.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

No Commonwealth Heritage Places were identified within or surrounding the Project Area.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

MMG do have other alternatives but they are not part of this proposed action. Refer below for “**Considered alternative**” for additional information. This was discussed and agreed with DCCEE Officers, Wednesday 5th November 2025.

Addressing 4.3.8 Alternatives for this proposed action are not possible

MMG Rosebery’s Life of Mine is continually extending following successful mineral exploration activities, with the two existing TSFs, 2/5 Dam and Bobadil, eventually reaching capacity. Two embankment raises on Bobadil TSF, have been approved as part of a separate assessment to increase tailings storage capacity. A further approval is currently in progress to permanently deposit sub-aerially into 2/5 Dam TSF, which will further increase tailings storage capacity. These raises will not be sufficient to meet MMG’s future tailings deposition forecast and guarantee uninterrupted continued operation, consequently a third TSF is required.

To ensure MMG’s continued operations the development of the Exe TSF in a timely manner is therefore critical.

The location for a third conventional TSF has been comprehensively investigated, with on and off tenement options considered. The Exe TSF site has been identified as the most prospective location for a long-term conventional solution. An alternative location to Exe TSF is South Marionoak, situated near Rosebery to the west of Lake Pieman and in the vicinity of McKimmie Creek. Geotechnical investigations and related activities have been proposed within this area to inform the design and assessment of a TSF. Due to approval and legal delays associated with the ability to complete the investigation program, the South Marionoak location cannot be confirmed as a feasible location for the construction of a TSF until such investigations are completed.

To ensure all appropriate TSF locations were considered, an options analysis was conducted by MMG based on both short-term and long-term tailings storage requirements; Natone Creek, South Marionoak and Exe valley were identified as meeting the necessary criteria for further consideration.

An investigation program of the South Marionoak location has not been completed due to the delays outlined above. Geotechnical design investigations at Natone Creek identified fatal flaws, resulting in the determination that the site is unsuitable for the development of a conventional TSF.

In July 2022, MMG undertook a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) and comprehensive review, informed by the outcomes of the options analysis described above for both on and off tenement locations. This assessment identified additional locations and alternative storage methodologies requiring further consideration. This included Stitt/Koonya Creek and Dalmeny/Saddle Creek with alternative dry filter stacking at Bobadil Heights and a large-scale redevelopment option for the existing Bobadil TSF. The Bobadil Heights filter stack option was carried forward for further detailed investigation, while the other locations and alternatives were determined to exhibit fatal flaws or were not preferred across multiple assessment criteria.

The Exe TSF location has undergone a pre-feasibility geotechnical investigation and is currently undergoing a feasibility investigation. No fatal flaws or material constraints have been identified to date that would preclude the development of a facility at this location. Further studies are ongoing to refine design parameters, confirm long-term capacity, and ensure the appropriate environmental, social and economic factors are appropriately considered in the decision-making process. Ongoing assessments will be undertaken at key project milestones to evaluate outcomes and inform the final determination on the Exe TSF. This phased assessment approach ensures timely decision making and the implementation of appropriate actions as required.

Considered alternative

A considered alternate action is located approximately 2 km north of the Rosebery Mine and east of the existing Bobadil TSF, in a location known as Bobadil Heights. The site is within PID 3388012 and Mining Lease 28M/1993, which is situated in Crown Land managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania. Refer to Attachment A, Figure 6, page 7 for the considered alternate project.

Alternate project description

The alternate proposed action includes the development of a tailings filter plant, a filtered Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) and associated infrastructure. The associated infrastructure includes a pipeline from the Rosebery Mine to the proposed filter plant to transfer tailings, and modification to the existing emergency access road to access the filter plant site and the filtered TSF site for construction. Refer to Attachment A, Figure 6, page 7 for the location of the alternate project and associated infrastructure.

The filtered tailings refer to the solid residue left after filtration, which removes a high proportion of water from the tailings slurry. The dewatered filtered tailings have better geotechnical properties than slurry tailings, which enables placement and compaction of the material in engineered layers, forming a self-supporting landform suitable for long-term storage and closure.

A pre-feasibility study^[1] evaluated several tailings storage options for Bobadil Heights, including slurry dams, sub-aerial and sub-aqueous deposition, and the use of filtered tailings. The assessment concluded that a filtered tailings storage option is preferred for this site, as it provided a larger storage capacity and an extended operational life.

Associated infrastructure required will include:

- A pipeline from the Rosebery mine to the filter plant to transfer the tailings slurry. It is proposed the pipeline will be closely aligned with the western boundary of the existing electricity transmission corridor easement; and
- Upgrading of the emergency access road to the current Bobadil TSF to enable construction machinery to access the site.

The location of the tailings filtration plant and the filtered TSF is within PID 3388012 and Mining Lease 28M/1993, which is situated in Crown Land managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania. The filtration plant and filtered TSF is mostly located within native vegetation, with the exception of part of the filtered TSF which is located within an existing quarry area. The tailings pipeline is located within the same land parcel (PID 3388012) and also crosses the land parcel PID 6021427 which is Crown Land, managed by NRE Tasmania (Property Services), also within Mining Lease 28M/1993. The existing access road is also located in both Crown Land parcels, PID 3388012 and PID 6021427.

The proposed activities will result in potential impacts on the environment through:

- The clearance of native vegetation for the proposed filter plant, filtered TSF, tailings pipeline and modifications to the emergency access road; and
- Water management, from construction and operation of the filtered TSF as well as discharge from the filter plant, which will be collected and treated prior to discharge.

It is noted that the alternate project is in the feasibility design stage, with initial investigations into engineering design, environmental impact as well as stormwater and groundwater investigations currently ongoing to further define the project. Therefore, although some initial design and studies are available, there will be continual development of the design of all aspects of the alternate project as further studies are completed.

Based on the existing investigations to date, the total disturbance footprint is approximately 39 ha for 12 years storage based on current throughput rates, comprising:

- 26 ha filtered TSF
- 3 ha filter plant
- 4 ha tailings Pipeline Corridor; and
- 6 ha for the emergency access road widening.

Avoidance areas and retention areas within the Project Area are yet to be determined. It is considered highly likely that avoidance areas and retention areas will be developed as the engineering design progresses, with input from environmental investigations.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach A_Exe TSF EPBC Referral.pdf Exe Tailings Storage Facility MMG Australia Limited EPBC Referral – Attachment A – Additional information 69290	26/01/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach H_MMG- Safety, Security, Health, Environment and Community (SSHEC) Policy.pdf MMG policy for safety, security, health, environmental, and community	04/09/2025	No	High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach A_Exe TSF EPBC Referral.pdf Exe Tailings Storage Facility MMG Australia Limited EPBC Referral – Attachment A – Additional information 69290	26/01/2026	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach A_Exe TSF EPBC Referral.pdf Exe Tailings Storage Facility MMG Australia Limited EPBC Referral – Attachment A – Additional information 69290	26/01/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Attach B_NBES_2025_NVA_ExeTSF.pdf Natural values assessment for the Exe Tailings Storage Facility	18/11/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach B_NBES_2025_NVA_ExeTSF.pdf Natural values assessment for the Exe Tailings Storage Facility	18/11/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach B_NBES_2025_NVA_ExeTSF.pdf Natural values assessment for the Exe Tailings Storage Facility	18/11/2025	No	High

3.3.1 Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach C_CHMA_2023_Exe Creek Area A Historic Heritage Assessment.pdf Historic Heritage Assessment Report for the Exe Creek Area A in Rosebery, West Coast Region, Tasmania	03/12/2023	No	High
#2.	Document	Attach D_CHMA_2023_Exe Creek Area B Historic Heritage Assessment.pdf Historic Heritage Assessment Report for the Exe Creek Area B in Rosebery, West Coast Region, Tasmania	29/07/2023	No	High
#3.	Document	Attach E_CHMA_2025_MMG Exe Creek Areas 1 and 2 Historic Heritage Assessment.pdf Historic Heritage Assessment Report for the MMG Exe Creek Survey Areas 1 and 2 in Rosebery, West Coast Region, Tasmania	02/03/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Attach F_CHMA_2025_MMG Exe Creek Historic Addendum Report V1.pdf Historic Heritage Addendum Report for the MMG Exe Creek Survey Areas 1 and 2 in Rosebery, West Coast Region, Tasmania	23/07/2025	No	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach G_KCB_2024_ExeCreek Sampling Final.pdf Creek surface water sampling at Exe Creek for the Project	10/12/2024	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document				

	Attach A_Exe TSF EPBC Referral.pdf	26/01/2026	No	High
	Exe Tailings Storage Facility MMG Australia Limited EPBC Referral – Attachment A – Additional information 69290			
#2.	Document Attach	18/11/2025	No	High
	B_NBES_2025_NVA_ExeTSF.pdf Natural values assessment for the Exe Tailings Storage Facility			

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach A_Exe TSF EPBC Referral.pdf Exe Tailings Storage Facility MMG Australia Limited EPBC Referral – Attachment A – Additional information 69290	26/01/2026	No	High
#2.	Link	'Identifying masked owl habitat', Fauna Technical Note No. 17 https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/__data/assets..			High
#3.	Link	Tasmanian Masked Owl (<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> subsp. <i>castanops</i>): Species Management Profile https://www.threatenedspecieslink.tas.gov.au/Pag..			High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach	18/11/2025	No	High
	B_NBES_2025_NVA_ExeTSF.pdf Natural values assessment for the Exe Tailings Storage Facility				

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attach A_Exe TSF EPBC Referral.pdf Exe Tailings Storage Facility MMG Australia Limited EPBC Referral – Attachment A – Additional information 69290	26/01/2026	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	62100220479
Organisation name	JBS&G AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Katy Limpert
Representative's job title	Environmental Consultant
Phone	0490707469
Email	klimpert@jbsg.com.au
Address	137 Liverpool St, Hobart TAS 7000

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, **Katy Limpert of JBS&G AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**, 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	23004074962
Organisation name	MMG Australia Limited
Organisation address	Level 24 28 Freshwater Place Southbank, Victoria, 3006 Australia
Representative's name	Steve Scott

Representative's job title	General Manager- Rosebery Mine
Phone	1800 767 664
Email	ROSCommunity@MMG.com
Address	Rosebery Mine, 6 Hospital Rd, Rosebery TAS 7470

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

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

I, **Steve Scott of MMG Australia Limited**, 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, **Steve Scott of MMG Australia Limited**, 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.