

# Request to Vary Proposed Action to take an Action under Section 156A of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Silica Project, EPBC 2023/09485 | Southern Access Road



Customer  
Project  
Deliverable  
Version

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22 July 2025

## Document Control

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### Document Identification

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Author	[REDACTED]
Checked By	[REDACTED]
Project Manager	[REDACTED]

### Amendment Record

The Amendment Record below records the history and issue status of this document.

Version	Version Date	Distribution	Record
00	22 July 2025	Diatreme Resources Ltd	Draft

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## Contents

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1 Introduction .....	4
2 Details of the Proposed Action.....	5
3 Reasons for the Proposed Variation .....	7
4 Significance of the Proposed Variation on MNES .....	8
5 Mitigation Measures.....	9
6 Summary .....	10
7 References .....	11
Annex A      MNES Technical Note .....	12

## 1 Introduction

This document presents a formal request by BMT on behalf of Diatreme Resources Limited (the Proponent) to vary the changes to the footprint of the southern access road as part of the Northern Silica Project (EPBC 2023/09485) (the 'Proposed Action') under Section 156A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This variation is submitted to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to enable assessment of a revised project footprint, reflecting the outcomes of project design refinement.

The information provided in this request has been drafted in accordance with Division 5.4, Section 5.08 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* to provide sufficient information on the Proposed Variation to allow the Minister, or the Minister's delegate, to decide whether to approve the proposed variation to the proposed action.


The following terms are used throughout this variation request to maintain consistency with the EPBC Act terminology: The Proposed Action, NSP (EPBC 2023/09485) which is the subject of the referral.

The proponent is Diatreme Limited Resources; the proponent details are provided in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 Table Proponent Details**

Item	Details
<b>Company</b>	Diatreme Resources Limited
<b>ACN</b>	061267061
<b>Address</b>	Unit 8, 55-61 Holdworth St, Coorparoo, QLD, 4151

The key contact person for the proposed variation is:

  
Principal Environmental Consultant  
BMT

Level 5, 348 Edward St, Brisbane City, QLD, 4000

Email 

## 2 Details of the Proposed Action

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The Northern Silica Project (EPBC 2023/09485) is proposing to develop a silica sand mine and associated infrastructure near Cape Flattery, Queensland (hereafter referred to as the proposed action). The proposed action was referred to the Commonwealth pursuant under the EPBC Act in March 2023 (EPBC 2023/09485).

The original proposed project layout includes a southern mine access road connecting the mine site to the Starcke Highway (Mount Webb Wakooka Road). To address constructability considerations, local landform constraints and further minimise environmental impacts and surface disturbance, the proponent has refined the alignment of this proposed road.

The revised alignment is located slightly further inland and follows a narrower corridor. It extends from the Starcke Highway to the mine site, utilising the existing gazetted unnamed road reserve (running west to east), and a new road area that runs north–south to the mine site.

This variation to the proposed action seeks to formalise the revised mine access road footprint. The updated alignment is shown in Figure 2.1.

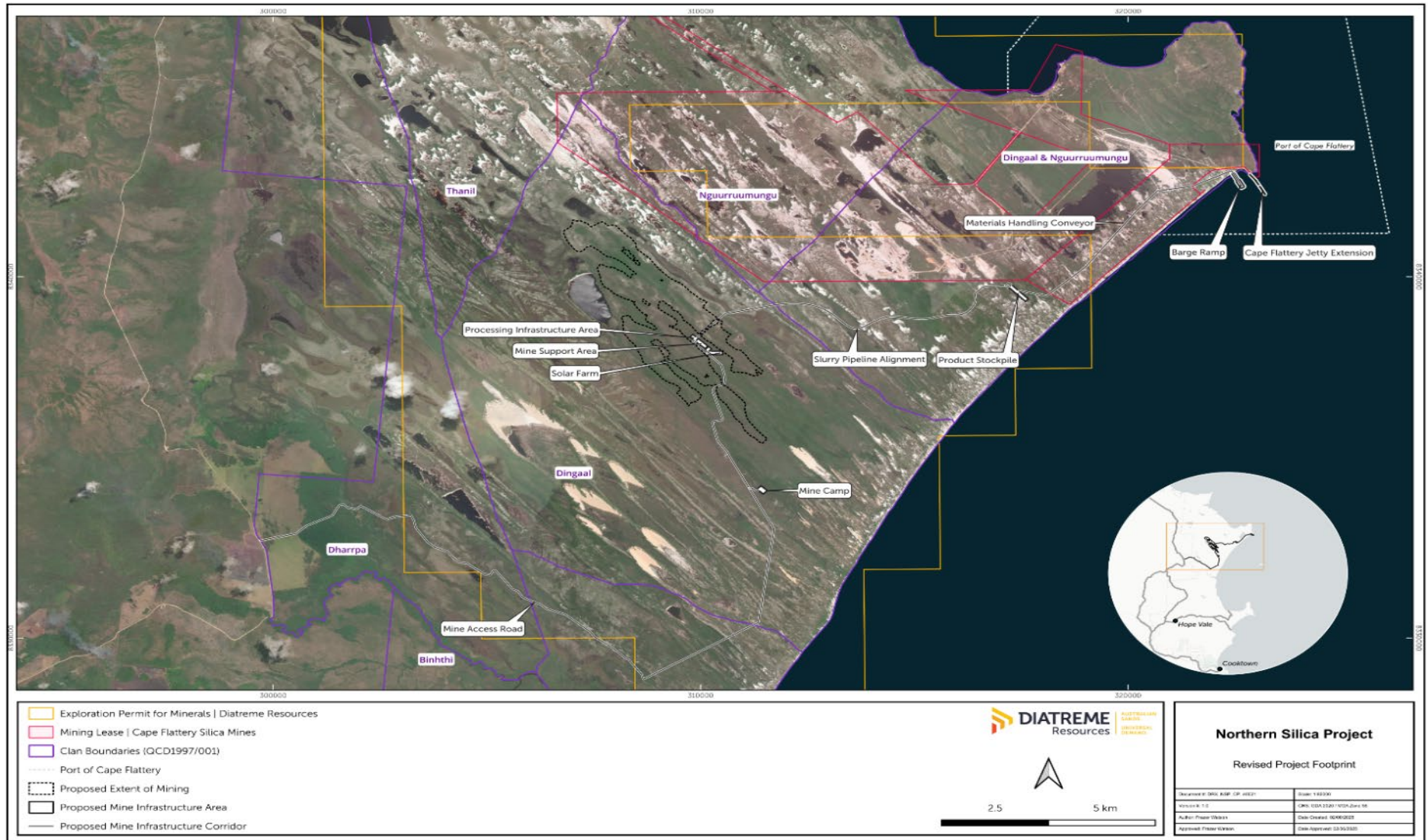


Figure 2.1 Revised project footprint of mine access road

### 3 Reasons for the Proposed Variation

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This request for variation arises from refinements to the overall design of the proposed action following further development of the footprint for the mine access road. This has been informed by:

- Project design optimisation
- Site-specific landform constraints (e.g., erosion prone terrain)
- Opportunities to reduce environmental impacts and surface disturbance, especially as it relates to the coastal environment.

As such, these refinements shall further improve the constructability and overall environmental performance of the proposed action while remaining consistent with its scope, nature and intent as originally referred under the EPBC Act.

## 4 Significance of the Proposed Variation on MNES

Under the provisions of the EPBC Act, any action that is likely to have a significant impact on a Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES) must be referred to DCCEE for assessment and a decision on whether approval is required under the EPBC Act.

To support this variation request, BMT has undertaken a screening-level assessment of MNES for the revised mine access road alignment. This was informed by an updated search using the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) and a review of relevant MNES habitat requirements and distribution (see Annex A). Potential impacts were considered in accordance with the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance* (DoE, 2013).

The revised mine access road alignment extends slightly further inland than originally proposed to address constructability and landform constraints. This adjustment is expected to:

- Reduce ground disturbance by avoiding steep or erosion-prone terrain
- Minimise clearing of coastal dune systems that would have been affected under the original alignment
- Minimise the risk of impacts to migratory shorebird habitat and to state threatened species (e.g. listed Ingram's Ibis (*Leucophaea ingrami*)).
- Reduce potential impacts to marine MNES, visual amenity and coastal features associated with the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) and National Heritage Place (GBRNHP) by setting the alignment further from the coastal environment.

The updated PMST identified the following MNES features:

- 1 listed threatened ecological community (TEC): Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia
- 43 listed threatened species
- 24 listed migratory species

These features are consistent with those identified in the original PMST and do not introduce any new MNES beyond those already addressed in the Northern Silica Project Terms of Reference (ToR).

While seven additional species appear in the updated PMST search that were not identified in the original, none represent new or relevant MNES for the purposes of this assessment:

- Five shorebird species (sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*), Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*), Asian dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*), little tern (*Sternula albifrons*), common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) were previously included in the original PMST as migratory species and are therefore already considered within the scope of the action.
- *Leichhardtia araujacea* is associated with lowland rainforest habitats, which are not present within the revised alignment area. The species is therefore not expected to occur.
- Merten's water monitor has a known distribution over 100km from the Project area and is associated with lowland wetland and riverine systems, which are absent from the revised alignment corridor. As such, it is also not expected to occur.

All migratory species identified in the updated PMST are consistent with those identified in the original search and do not introduce additional MNES values.

## 5 Mitigation Measures

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The revised alignment targeted strategies to minimise environmental impacts and cultural heritage impacts. These include:

- Setting the alignment back from the coast to reduce risks to marine MNES, visual amenity, and coastal processes.
- Consultation with Traditional Owners, who supported the revised alignment due to its reduced risk to potential cultural heritage values.

As no new MNES have been identified and overall impacts are not increased, no offsets are proposed or required. Mitigation measures, including pre-clearance surveys, MNES-specific protocols, and buffer zones will remain applicable to the proposed action and will be detailed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

## 6 Summary

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Based on the MNES search and analysis, revised mine access road alignment does not introduce new MNES or increase the scope of potential impacts beyond those addressed in the NSP EIS ToR for the proposed action.

The alignment has been refined to reduce both environmental and cultural heritage risks through improved design and avoidance of sensitive areas.

On this basis, the proposed variation remains within the scope of the originally referred action and does not trigger a significant increase in impact under the EPBC Act. No offsets are proposed or required.

## 7 References

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DCCEEW (2024) *Protected Matters Search Tool*. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Retrieved 27 August 2024, from <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/protected-matters-search-tool>

Department of State Development and Infrastructure (2024) *Terms of reference for an environmental impact statement – Northern Silica Project, Diatreme*.

Diatreme Resources Ltd (2024) *Potential Variation to Referral for EPBC Number: 2023/09485*. Diatreme Resources Ltd.



## **Annex A MNES Technical Note**

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## Electronic transmission

To:	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water		
Attention:	[REDACTED]	Date:	22 July 2025
Email:	[REDACTED]	From:	[REDACTED]
Document ref:	F.A11701.016_AccessRoad-MNES.docx		

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Dear [REDACTED]

This technical note presents the findings of a screening of changes in the alignment of the Mine Access Road that forms part of the Northern Silica Project. This assessment is to support the change in the action description for the Project to accommodate this alignment change. This note has been prepared in the context of identifying if there are any MNES features within the Mine Access Road that could be affected which are not already included within the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Northern Silica Project.

The area referred for the project is shown in Figure 1.1 while the Mine Access Road is shown in Figure 1.2.

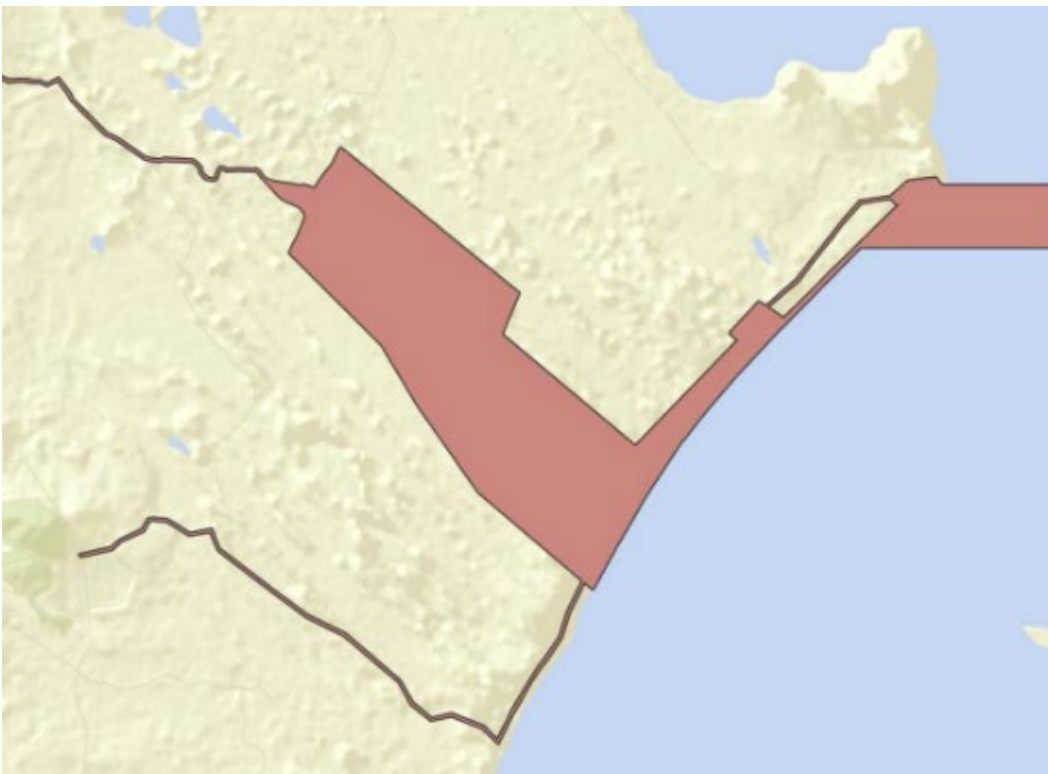


Figure 1.1 Project footprint, as shown in EPBC referral

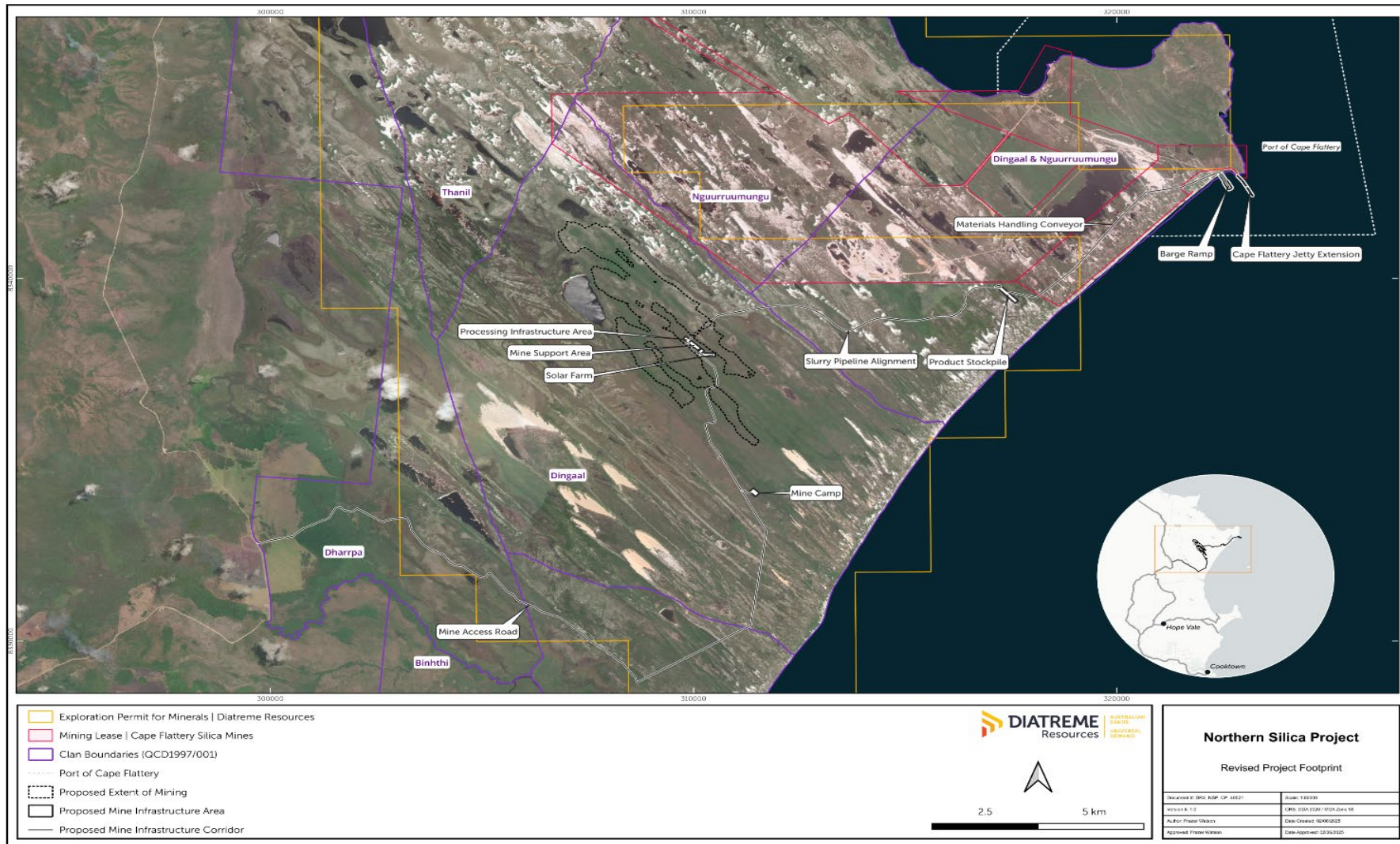


Figure 1.2 Revised Project footprint of Mine Access Road

## Existing MNES Features

The MNES features currently noted in the EIS ToR for the Northern Silica Project are:

- Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Great Barrier Reef National Heritage Place
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Listed threatened species and communities
  - Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia
  - Ant Plant (*Myrmecodia beccarii*)
  - Chocolate Teatree Orchid (*Dendrobium johannis*)
  - Cooktown Orchid (*Dendrobium bigibbum*)
  - *Eremochloa muricata*
  - Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat (*Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus*)
  - Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*)
  - Large-eared horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus robertsi*)
  - Australian Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*)
  - Crimson Finch (white-bellied) (*Neochmia phaeton evangelinae*)
  - Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
  - Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)
  - Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)
  - Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)
  - Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)
  - Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)
  - Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*)
  - Yakka Skink (*Egernia rugosa*)
  - Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
  - Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
  - Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
  - Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
  - Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)
  - Flatback Turtle (*Natator depressus*)
  - Freshwater sawfish (*Pristis pristis*)
  - Green sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*)
  - Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*)

- Listed migratory species
  - Salt-water Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)
  - Narrow Sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidata*)
  - Reef Manta Ray (*Mobula alfredi*)
  - Giant Manta Ray (*Mobula birostris*)
  - Australian Snubfin Dolphin (*Orcaella heinsohni*)
  - Australian Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa sahalensis*)
  - Dugong (*Dugong dugon*)

This list was informed by a referral made by Diatreme under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This referral in turn was informed by a scoping study undertaken by Diatreme for the Northern Silica Project.

### MNES Features for Mine Access Road

A Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) (See Annex A) was run for the area of the Mine Access Road. This identified the following MNES features as potentially occurring:

- 1x listed threatened ecological community
- 43x listed threatened species
- 24x listed migratory species.

### Threatened Ecological Community

The listed threatened ecological community is the Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia ecological community. This is expected to occur within the Project based on regional vegetation mapping. This matter is already included in the EIS ToR and therefore **does not represent an additional matter**.

### Threatened Species

The following threatened species have been identified in the current PMST which were not identified for the previous PMST:

- Sharp-tailed sandpiper
- Latham's snipe
- Asian dowitcher
- Little tern
- Common greenshank
- *Leichhardtia araujacea*
- Merten's water monitor.

Of these species, the five shorebird species were on the previous PMST as migratory species only. These species, therefore, are already included in the action scope and **therefore do not represent additional matters**.

*Leichhardtia araujacea* is associated with lowland rainforests which do not occur in the realignment area. This matter is not expected to occur and therefore **does not represent an additional matter**. Note also that this matter was not included in the previous PMST as it was not listed at the time.

Merten's water monitor known distribution is 120km from the Project Area. Preferred habitat for the species is lowland wetlands and rivers which are not presented in the realignment area. This matter is not expected to occur and therefore **does not represent an additional matter**.

Based on this, no additional threatened species are expected to be introduced through the realignment.

### **Migratory Species**

The listed migratory species identified in the PMST were all included in the previous PMST and **therefore do not represent additional matters**.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the new PMST search and an assessment of the distribution and habitat requirements of MNES features, there are a series of matters relevant to the new Mine Access Road alignment. None of these features represent new matters, however, compared to those already listed in the Northern Silica Project EIS ToR.

### **Other Considerations**

The changed alignment has sought to avoid impacts to the dune system closer to the coast that otherwise would have been cleared as part of the original alignment. Specifically, this reduces risk to shorebird species that utilise this area, and the state-listed Ingram's Ibis (*Leucophaea ingrami*), a species highly endemic to foredune systems. Additionally, by setting the alignment back from the coastal environment, there is a lower risk of impacts to the marine environment and associated marine MNES and other features. Visual amenity from the Great Barrier Reef will be significantly reduced to Nil, in comparison to some visual impacts from the previous alignment.

The alignment has been developed in consultation with Traditional Owners for the area and preferred over the previous alignment due to lower risk of impacting potential cultural heritage sites associated with coastal areas.

## Annex A Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) Search

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Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water

# EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected. Please see the caveat for interpretation of information provided here.

Report created: 25-Jun-2025

[Summary](#)

[Details](#)

[Matters of NES](#)

[Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act](#)

[Extra Information](#)

[Caveat](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

# Summary

## Matters of National Environment Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the [Administrative Guidelines on Significance](#).

<a href="#">World Heritage Properties:</a>	None
<a href="#">National Heritage Places:</a>	None
<a href="#">Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)</a>	None
<a href="#">Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:</a>	None
<a href="#">Commonwealth Marine Area:</a>	None
<a href="#">Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:</a>	1
<a href="#">Listed Threatened Species:</a>	43
<a href="#">Listed Migratory Species:</a>	24

## Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage>

A [permit](#) may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

<a href="#">Commonwealth Lands:</a>	None
<a href="#">Commonwealth Heritage Places:</a>	None
<a href="#">Listed Marine Species:</a>	33
<a href="#">Whales and Other Cetaceans:</a>	None
<a href="#">Critical Habitats:</a>	None
<a href="#">Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial:</a>	None
<a href="#">Australian Marine Parks:</a>	None
<a href="#">Habitat Critical to the Survival of Marine Turtles:</a>	None

## Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have

<a href="#">State and Territory Reserves:</a>	None
<a href="#">Regional Forest Agreements:</a>	None
<a href="#">Nationally Important Wetlands:</a>	1
<a href="#">EPBC Act Referrals:</a>	1
<a href="#">Key Ecological Features (Marine):</a>	None
<a href="#">Biologically Important Areas:</a>	1
<a href="#">Bioregional Assessments:</a>	None
<a href="#">Geological and Bioregional Assessments:</a>	None

# Details

## Matters of National Environmental Significance

### Listed Threatened Ecological Communities

[\[ Resource Information \]](#)

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Status of Vulnerable, Disallowed and Ineligible are not MNES under the EPBC Act.

Community Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<a href="#">Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia</a>	Critically Endangered	Community likely to occur within area

### Listed Threatened Species

[\[ Resource Information \]](#)

Status of Conservation Dependent and Extinct are not MNES under the EPBC Act.

Number is the current name ID.

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<b>BIRD</b>		
<a href="#">Calidris acuminata</a> Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Calidris canutus</a> Red Knot, Knot [855]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
<a href="#">Calidris ferruginea</a> Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Charadrius leschenaultii</a> Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover [877]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Erythrotriorchis radiatus</a> Red Goshawk [942]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Falco hypoleucos</a> Grey Falcon [929]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<a href="#">Gallinago hardwickii</a> Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Hirundapus caudacutus</a> White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Limnodromus semipalmatus</a> Asian Dowitcher [843]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Limosa lapponica baueri</a> Nunivak Bar-tailed Godwit, Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit [86380]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Numenius madagascariensis</a> Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew [847]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Probosciger aterrimus macgillivrayi</a> Palm Cockatoo (Australian) [67033]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Rostratula australis</a> Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Sternula albifrons</a> Little Tern [82849]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Tringa nebularia</a> Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Turnix olivii</a> Buff-breasted Button-quail [59293]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli</a> Masked Owl (northern) [26048]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<a href="#">Stiphodon semoni</a> Opal Cling Goby [83909]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<b>FROG</b>		
<a href="#">Litoria dayi</a> Australian Lace-lid, Lace-eyed Tree Frog, Day's Big-eyed Treefrog [86707]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<b>MAMMAL</b>		
<a href="#">Dasyurus hallucatus</a> Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu] [331]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Hipposideros semoni</a> Semon's Leaf-nosed Bat, Greater Wart-nosed Horseshoe-bat [180]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Macroderma gigas</a> Ghost Bat [174]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Mesembriomys gouldii rattoides</a> Black-footed Tree-rat (north Queensland), Shaggy Rabbit-rat [87620]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)</a> Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) [85104]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Pteropus conspicillatus</a> Spectacled Flying-fox [185]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Rhinolophus robertsi</a> Large-eared Horseshoe Bat, Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat [87639]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus</a> Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat, Bare-rumped Sheath-tail Bat [66889]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<a href="#">Xeromys myoides</a> Water Mouse, False Water Rat, Yirrkoo [66]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<b>PLANT</b>		
<a href="#">Dendrobium johannis</a> Chocolate Tea Tree Orchid [13585]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Leichhardtia araujacea</a> [91900]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Myrmecodia beccarii</a> Ant Plant [11852]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Phlegmariurus dalhousieanus</a> Blue Tassel-fern [86550]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Phlegmariurus squarrosus</a> Rock Tassel-fern, Water Tassel-fern [86556]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Vappodes phalaenopsis</a> Cooktown Orchid [78894]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<b>REPTILE</b>		
<a href="#">Caretta caretta</a> Loggerhead Turtle [1763]	Endangered	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Chelonia mydas</a> Green Turtle [1765]	Vulnerable	Breeding known to occur within area
<a href="#">Dermochelys coriacea</a> Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth [1768]	Endangered	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Egernia rugosa</a> Yakka Skink [1420]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Eretmochelys imbricata</a> Hawksbill Turtle [1766]	Vulnerable	Breeding likely to occur within area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<a href="#">Lepidochelys olivacea</a> Olive Ridley Turtle, Pacific Ridley Turtle [1767]	Endangered	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Natator depressus</a> Flatback Turtle [59257]	Vulnerable	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Varanus mertensi</a> Mertens' Water Monitor, Mertens's Water Monitor [1568]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area

## SHARK

<a href="#">Pristis pristis</a> Freshwater Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish [60756]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
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## Listed Migratory Species [\[ Resource Information \]](#)

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<b>Migratory Marine Birds</b>		
<a href="#">Apus pacificus</a> Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Sternula albifrons</a> Little Tern [82849]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area

## Migratory Marine Species

<a href="#">Caretta caretta</a> Loggerhead Turtle [1763]	Endangered	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Chelonia mydas</a> Green Turtle [1765]	Vulnerable	Breeding known to occur within area
<a href="#">Crocodylus porosus</a> Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile [1774]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Dermochelys coriacea</a> Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth [1768]	Endangered	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Eretmochelys imbricata</a> Hawksbill Turtle [1766]	Vulnerable	Breeding likely to occur within area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<a href="#">Lepidochelys olivacea</a> Olive Ridley Turtle, Pacific Ridley Turtle [1767]	Endangered	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Natator depressus</a> Flatback Turtle [59257]	Vulnerable	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Pristis pristis</a> Freshwater Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish [60756]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<b>Migratory Terrestrial Species</b>		
<a href="#">Cuculus optatus</a> Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo [86651]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Hirundapus caudacutus</a> White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<b>Migratory Wetlands Species</b>		
<a href="#">Actitis hypoleucos</a> Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Calidris acuminata</a> Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Calidris canutus</a> Red Knot, Knot [855]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
<a href="#">Calidris ferruginea</a> Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Calidris melanotos</a> Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Charadrius leschenaultii</a> Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover [877]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<a href="#">Gallinago hardwickii</a> Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Limnodromus semipalmatus</a> Asian Dowitcher [843]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Limosa lapponica</a> Bar-tailed Godwit [844]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Numenius madagascariensis</a> Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew [847]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Pandion haliaetus</a> Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
<a href="#">Tringa nebularia</a> Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area

## Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Listed Marine Species		[ Resource Information ]
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
Bird		
<a href="#">Actitis hypoleucos</a> Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Anseranas semipalmata</a> Magpie Goose [978]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Apus pacificus</a> Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<a href="#">Bubulcus ibis as Ardea ibis</a> Cattle Egret [66521]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Calidris acuminata</a> Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Calidris canutus</a> Red Knot, Knot [855]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Calidris ferruginea</a> Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Calidris melanotos</a> Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Chalcites osculans as Chrysococcyx osculans</a> Black-eared Cuckoo [83425]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Charadrius leschenaultii</a> Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover [877]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Gallinago hardwickii</a> Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Haliaeetus leucogaster</a> White-bellied Sea-Eagle [943]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Hirundapus caudacutus</a> White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<a href="#">Limnodromus semipalmatus</a> Asian Dowitcher [843]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Limosa lapponica</a> Bar-tailed Godwit [844]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Merops ornatus</a> Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Monarcha frater</a> Black-winged Monarch [607]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Monarcha melanopsis</a> Black-faced Monarch [609]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Myiagra cyanoleuca</a> Satin Flycatcher [612]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Numenius madagascariensis</a> Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew [847]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Pandion haliaetus</a> Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
<a href="#">Rhipidura rufifrons</a> Rufous Fantail [592]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Rostratula australis as Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato)</a> Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text
<a href="#">Sternula albifrons as Sterna albifrons</a> Little Tern [82849]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<a href="#">Symposiachrus trivirgatus as Monarcha trivirgatus</a> Spectacled Monarch [83946]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area
<a href="#">Tringa nebularia</a> Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area
<b>Reptile</b>		
<a href="#">Caretta caretta</a> Loggerhead Turtle [1763]	Endangered	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Chelonia mydas</a> Green Turtle [1765]	Vulnerable	Breeding known to occur within area
<a href="#">Crocodylus porosus</a> Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile [1774]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Dermochelys coriacea</a> Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth [1768]	Endangered	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Eretmochelys imbricata</a> Hawksbill Turtle [1766]	Vulnerable	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Lepidochelys olivacea</a> Olive Ridley Turtle, Pacific Ridley Turtle [1767]	Endangered	Breeding likely to occur within area
<a href="#">Natator depressus</a> Flatback Turtle [59257]	Vulnerable	Breeding likely to occur within area

## Extra Information

### Nationally Important Wetlands [\[ Resource Information \]](#)

Wetland Name	State
<a href="#">Cape Flattery Dune Lakes</a>	QLD

### EPBC Act Referrals [\[ Resource Information \]](#)

Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status
<a href="#">Northern Silica Sand Mining Project</a>	2023/09485		Assessment

### Biologically Important Areas [\[ Resource Information \]](#)

Scientific Name	Behaviour	Presence
Seabirds		
<a href="#">Anous stolidus</a>		
Common Noddy [825]	Breeding	Known to occur

# Caveat

## 1 PURPOSE

This report is designed to assist in identifying the location of matters of national environmental significance (MNES) and other matters protected by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) which may be relevant in determining obligations and requirements under the EPBC Act.

The report contains the mapped locations of:

- World and National Heritage properties;
- Wetlands of International and National Importance;
- Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves;
- distribution of listed threatened, migratory and marine species;
- listed threatened ecological communities; and
- other information that may be useful as an indicator of potential habitat value.

## 2 DISCLAIMER

This report is not intended to be exhaustive and should only be relied upon as a general guide as mapped data is not available for all species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act (see below). Persons seeking to use the information contained in this report to inform the referral of a proposed action under the EPBC Act should consider the limitations noted below and whether additional information is required to determine the existence and location of MNES and other protected matters.

Where data is available to inform the mapping of protected species, the presence type (e.g. known, likely or may occur) that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. It is the responsibility of any person using or relying on the information in this report to ensure that it is suitable for the circumstances of any proposed use. The Commonwealth cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any use of the report or any part thereof. To the maximum extent allowed under governing law, the Commonwealth will not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of, or reliance on the contents of this report.

## 3 DATA SOURCES

### Threatened ecological communities

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are generated based on information contained in recovery plans, State vegetation maps and remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

### Threatened, migratory and marine species

Threatened, migratory and marine species distributions have been discerned through a variety of methods. Where distributions are well known and if time permits, distributions are inferred from either thematic spatial data (i.e. vegetation, soils, geology, elevation, aspect, terrain, etc.) together with point locations and described habitat; or modelled (MAXENT or BIOCLIM habitat modelling) using point locations and environmental data layers.

Where little information is available for a species or large number of maps are required in a short time-frame, maps are derived either from 0.04 or 0.02 decimal degree cells; by an automated process using polygon capture techniques (static two kilometre grid cells, alpha-hull and convex hull); or captured manually or by using topographic features (national park boundaries, islands, etc.).

In the early stages of the distribution mapping process (1999-early 2000s) distributions were defined by degree blocks, 100K or 250K map sheets to rapidly create distribution maps. More detailed distribution mapping methods are used to update these distributions when time permits.

## 4 LIMITATIONS

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in this report:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered vagrants;
- some recently listed species and ecological communities;
- some listed migratory and listed marine species, which are not listed as threatened species; and
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in Australia in small numbers.

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- listed migratory and/or listed marine seabirds, which are not listed as threatened, have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites; and
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

The breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Refer to the metadata for the feature group (using the Resource Information link) for the currency of the information.

# Acknowledgements

This database has been compiled from a range of data sources. The department acknowledges the following custodians who have contributed valuable data and advice:

- [-Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales](#)
- [-Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria](#)
- [-Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania](#)
- [-Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia](#)
- [-Department of Land and Resource Management, Northern Territory](#)
- [-Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland](#)
- [-Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia](#)
- [-Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT](#)
- [-Birdlife Australia](#)
- [-Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme](#)
- [-Australian National Wildlife Collection](#)
- Natural history museums of Australia
- [-Museum Victoria](#)
- [-Australian Museum](#)
- [-South Australian Museum](#)
- [-Queensland Museum](#)
- [-Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums](#)
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- [-Tasmanian Herbarium](#)
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- [-Northern Territory Herbarium](#)
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- [-Australian National Herbarium, Canberra](#)
- [-University of New England](#)
- [-Ocean Biogeographic Information System](#)
- [-Australian Government, Department of Defence](#)
- [Forestry Corporation, NSW](#)
- [-Geoscience Australia](#)
- [-CSIRO](#)
- [-Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns](#)
- [-eBird Australia](#)
- [-Australian Government – Australian Antarctic Data Centre](#)
- [-Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory](#)
- [-Australian Government National Environmental Science Program](#)
- [-Australian Institute of Marine Science](#)
- [-Reef Life Survey Australia](#)
- [-American Museum of Natural History](#)
- [-Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, Tasmania](#)
- [-Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania](#)
- Other groups and individuals

The Department is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

Please feel free to provide feedback via the [Contact us](#) page.

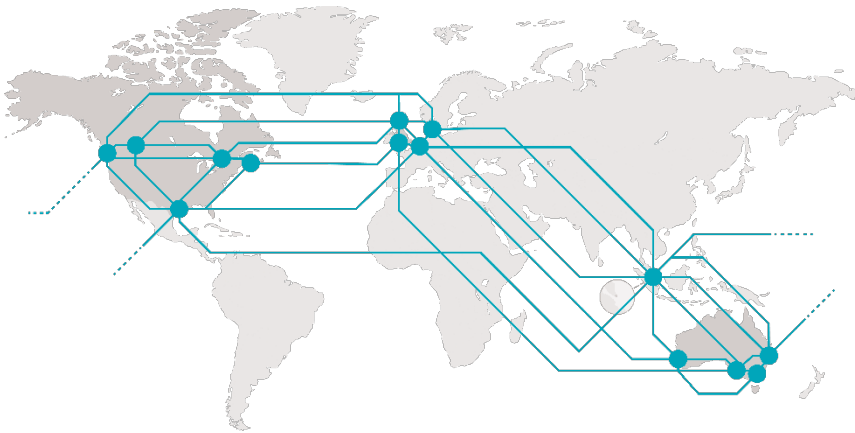
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