Aurora Green Offshore Wind Farm Preliminary Surveys

Application Number: **02551** Commencement Date: **13/08/2024** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Aurora Green Offshore Wind Farm Preliminary Surveys

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Wind Farm

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

03/11/2024

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/10/2025

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Iberdrola Australia propose to construct and operate Aurora Green Offshore Wind Farm (Aurora Green OWF) (the project), a renewable energy development in Declared Area OEI-01-2022 off the coast of Victoria, Australia. Iberdrola Australia OW 2 Pty Limited was granted Feasibility Licence FL-012 in the Declared Area OEI-01-2022 under s. 33 of the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021.* This EPBC

referral application relates to the preliminary baseline characterisation surveys for the project to collect geotechnical, benthic, archaeological, contamination and geophysical information (the proposed activities) to inform early project development.

The purpose of the proposed activities is to collect geophysical, benthic, archaeological, contamination, geotechnical and Metocean information for the project site. The survey area comprises the Aurora Green OWF feasibility licence area (around 700 square kilometres (km2) plus two kilometre buffer) and export cable corridor (ECC) area (around 40 km2 (including buffer)) resulting in a total survey area of 1,019 km2.

The proposed activities will be conducted in accordance with Iberdrola Australia's policies, processes and requirements that form part of the contractual documents (e.g. health, safety and environment (HSE), vessel, environmental compliance etc) and would provide a basis for:

- where required, providing 'As Low As Reasonably Practicable' (ALARP) unexploded ordinance (UXO) sign-off certificates for the geotechnical locations
- selecting and providing benthic, ecological and archaeological ground truthing and identification of contaminants to support the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- sediment process modelling
- constraint analysis of all seabed features, obstructions, infrastructure and hazards (including UXO)
- ground model development for use in engineering analysis
- geotechnical interpretative reporting
- export and inter-array cable preliminary design, layout optimisation and routing considering the soil profile down to a depth of 10 metres below seafloor.

Objectives of the proposed activities include:

General – mobilisation and demobilisation of vessels and all necessary equipment to site

Metocean surveys – recording meteorological and oceanographic conditions to establish data about wind, waves, currents, and water levels in the survey area. The proposed activities would inform the measurement and analysis of meteorological and oceanographic conditions to ensure safety and reliability of the project, as well as minimise impact of environmental conditions. This is critical for the design of the wind turbines and other associated infrastructure.

Geophysical surveys:

- Detection of UXOs for future geotechnical operations and to support selection of locations for ground truthing, based on the identification of ecological and benthic targets present on the seabed
- Inform survey design for archaeological investigations
- Inform survey design for geotechnical investigations
- Habitat spatial mapping that focusses on the known seabed features to gain an understanding of potential sensitive species associated with the habitat types, and habitats sensitive to disturbance. To be ground-truthed by the physical sampling (benthic sampling) and surveying
- Generate detailed topographical information of the seabed and identify benthic and ecological attributes; selecting locations for benthic and ecological ground truthing based on the attributes, and for input for shallow portion of the ground model and mapping of near seafloor sediment types
- Allow for assessment of variations in thickness and sediment cover of the seabed sediments and shallow geology to a depth of five metres or greater, for inter-array cable and export cable design purposes and development of the ground mode.

Benthic surveys:

- Collect data on the benthic infauna and epifauna communities and sediment characteristics of the survey area by following a benthic sampling plan and method framework agreed with regulators and provided by Iberdrola Australia
- Collect data on potential contamination
- Collect material to allow for Particle Size Analysis

- Identify the presence, relative abundance and distribution of epibenthic species (animals that live on the surface of a seabed), mobile epifauna (shrimps, crabs and fish), bioturbation (indicators of animal presence, burrow, trails), and the presence and extent of habitats and key ecological features (scours, reef structures, debris to understand potential for colonisation)
- Obtain data, reports, and habitat spatial mapping to be used by Iberdrola Australia to identify ecologically sensitive habitats and populations and prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) baseline.

Geotechnical surveys:

- Determine geotechnical properties of the shallow subsurface and characterising soil stratigraphy to inform future survey approaches and provide initial data for design consideration
- Onshore analysis for input into EIA, future pre-construction targeted survey or monitoring works, and if appropriate, the application of site protected zones to protect sensitive natural or anthropogenic features
- To inform archaeologist of organic matter which may be of archaeological interest for sub-sampling and further analysis. Input into EIA, future pre-construction targeted survey or monitoring works, and if appropriate, the application of site Archaeological Exclusion Zones to protect sensitive natural or anthropogenic features.

The proposed activities will be conducted in line with the *Guidance Notes for the Planning and Execution of Geophysical and Geotechnical Ground Investigations for Offshore Renewable Energy Developments* (The Society for Underwater Technology, 2022). Methodologies for the proposed activities include:

- Metocean surveys – remote sensing, buoys, and other sensor technology (including FLiDAR).
- Geophysical surveys:
    - multibeam echosounder (MBES) for determining the water depth and seafloor mapping (bathymetry and backscatter data)
    - side scan sonar (SSS) and/or synthetic aperture sonar (SAS) for seabed classification and detection of debris/objects
    - sub-bottom profiler (SBP) to image the shallow subsurface, typically down to tens of metres below seafloor. Multiple SBP may be utilised, such as chirp, parametric SBP, boomer or sparker
    - ultra-high resolution (UHR) seismic to image the deeper subsurface, typically down to 100 metres below seafloor utilising sparker sources or mini airguns (low volume)
    - magnetometer (MAG) and gradiometer (GRD) to detect magnetic (metallic) objects, such as shipwrecks, debris or unexploded ordinance (UXO)
    - drop down video (DDV) to ground-truth and identify seabed features.
- Benthic surveys:
    - grab sampling (surficial seabed sample) to characterise seafloor sediments and benthic fauna
    - DDV used for analysing benthic fauna and specific seabed features
    - freshwater lens to supplement the towed DDV in areas of high turbidity or low visibility.
- Geotechnical surveys:
    - vibrocoring (down to six metres) using a hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical or electrical power from an external source to generate vibration energy to assist in sediment penetration
    - gravity or gravity piston coring (down to six metres) to characterise shallow seabed sediments and geotechnical properties by a weighted pipe that free falls into the sediments or a piston mechanism that is triggered when the corer hits the bottom and helps to avoid disturbing the sediment
    - cone penetration test (CPT) including seismic CPT (SCPT), thermal CPT (TCPT) and piezo-cone penetration test (PCT) that are used to determine geotechnical properties of the shallow subsurface and characterising soil stratigraphy (down to approximately six metres).

The proposed activities are estimated to commence in late 2024 through to 2025. The duration of the proposed activities is estimated to be around 70 days (for two vessels in operation concurrently) or 120 days (for one vessel in operation) per package of works. With geophysical and benthic surveys in 2024 and hydrographic, unexploded ordinance (UXO) top up and pre-clearance surveys and geotechnical surveys in 2025. Metocean monitoring would be conducted initially over 12 month period commencing in late 2024 or early 2025 and may require additional campaigns subject to the quality of data collected.The nature of activities proposed that may have a potential impact on the environment have been assessed in **Attachment 1 Marine Ecology Report,** section 5, pages 21-25.

Summary of nature of activities that may impact the environment

Vessel use and transit to and from the survey area may impact the ecological values of the survey area through disturbance at sea surface from vessel presence, vessel noise or operational and navigational lights at night; vessel strike; and benthic habitat disturbance from anchors.

The use of sampling equipment including: remote sensing buoys; multi-beam echo sounders; side scan sonars; sub-bottom profilers; ultra high resolution seismic streamers; magnetometers and gradiometers; vibracoring; gravity coring; cone penetration testing including seismic, thermal and piezo cone penetration testing; drop down video; benthic grab sampler, and other technology which may directly impact ecological values of the survey area through disturbance of the seabed and benthic habitats; fauna entanglement; and benthic habitat disturbance from sample collection.

Potential indirect impacts between survey activities and the environment and resultant interactions have been identified as potential introduction of invasive marine species and diseases in ballast or hull biofouling; accidental discharge of pollutants; and water quality changes from sediment resuspension impacting downstream ecosystems or populations outside of the survey area.

While potential impacts on marine ecological values have been identified in association with the proposed survey activities, mitigation and management options have been identified to maintain baseline ecological conditions. See **Attachment 1 Marine Ecology Report,** Section 6, pages 42-44.

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

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

Yes

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

The proposed activities are the first stage of a broader set of referrals required for the project. A ‘whole of project’ (including the offshore wind farm and all associated infrastructure) referral would be submitted at a later date. The results of the proposed activities would inform the ‘whole of project’ development.

However, the potential for additive impacts with future actions of the project with the proposed activities is expected to be unlikely due to implementation of mitigation measures and temporary short-term nature of the proposed activities.

A Feasibility Licence (FL-012) for the project was granted under section 33 of the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* on 15 July 2024 to Iberdrola Australia OWF 2 Pty Ltd. The Feasibility Licence would be in effect for a period of seven years in which the proponent is to conduct all feasibility studies, conduct

environmental impact assessments / approvals and address the requirements of a Commercial Licence prior to construction and operation of the project. As such, a separate referral would be submitted for the project's construction and operation (Aurora Green OWF whole of project – predicted to be submitted in 2025).

The project would be located around 25 kilometres offshore, comprising around 150 wind turbine generators (WTGs), three offshore substations, one onshore substation, inter-array cables and export cable. The project is proposed to be constructed in three stages (around one gigawatt each), and once fully constructed would provide around three gigawatts of clean energy to the National Electricity Market (NEM). However, the proposed activities in this referral are essential to be conducted first as it would inform 'whole of project' development to inform the future action and referral application.

Potential for additive impacts with future actions of the project with the proposed activities are expected to be unlikely due to implementation of mitigation measures and temporary short-term nature of the proposed activities.

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

The proposed activities are required to inform siting of the potential wind turbine generators (WTG) locations, foundation design, cable routing and burial. The proposed activities would comprise vessel-based surveys within the survey area spanning both Commonwealth and State waters.

Commonwealth legislation

Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021

The *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (OEI Act) and associated regulations stipulate the framework to enable construction, operation and decommissioning of offshore electricity infrastructure projects in Commonwealth waters. A 'whole of project' Feasibility Licence (FL-012) was granted on 15 July 2024 by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy in accordance with the OEI Act. The Feasibility Licence provides the proponent the opportunity to assess the feasibility of the proposed project for a period up to seven years. The proposed activities would provide a baseline understanding of the survey area for project development.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), proposed actions with the potential to significantly impact matters of national environmental significance (MNES) protected by the EPBC Act must be referred to the DCCEEW to determine whether they are controlled actions and require approval from the Australian Government Minister for the Environment (Minister).

A search of the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) for the survey area using a five and 25 kilometre buffer was conducted in July 2024 to identify potential MNES that may trigger the need for referral of the action to the DCCEEW. Based on the survey area and methodologies of the proposed activities, it is anticipated that the proposed activities would not result in significant impacts on Commonwealth listed threatened species and ecological communities. This has been supplemented by the results of a desktop Marine Ecology Assessment and Underwater Noise Assessment (refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report**).

Other relevant legislation

- *EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1 – Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales (Industry Guidelines)*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015* – this Act empowers authorities to quarantine goods, vessels and people to prevent the introduction, establishment or spread of diseases or pests (e.g. invasive marine species)

affecting human beings, animals or plants.

- *Native Title Act 1993* – provides for recognition of native title and establishes ways in which future dealings affecting native title may proceed, sets the standards for those dealings and establishes a mechanism for determining claims to Native Title. A search of Native Title Register found there are no native title claims or Indigenous land use agreements that apply to the area covered by the proposed activities.
- *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018* – shipwrecks, sunken aircraft and associated artefacts are protected under the *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018*. Some important heritage zones have a 'protected zone' around them that prohibit certain activities. Desktop searches identified one shipwreck within the survey area (City of Hobart screw steamer) and the proposed activities would seek to identify the exact location of the shipwreck to ensure it would be avoided in project design phase.
- *Navigation Act 2012* – this Act regulates ship-related activities in Australia waters, including elements of several international agreements. As the proposed activities are vessel-based and in Australian waters, they are subject to the Act.
- *Environmental Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* – waters surrounding Australia's coastlines are protected from wastes and pollution dumped at sea by the Act. The Act regulates loading and dumping of material at sea and creation of artificial reefs in Australian waters. The proposed activities would not require a sea dumping permit.
- *Environment Effects Act 1978* – outlines a process for assessing the likely environmental effects of a proposed project and informs statutory decision-makers to decide if a project with a likelihood of significant environmental effects should be given approval. Due to the limited scope, the proposed activities are not likely to have a significant impact on the environment.
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987* – establishes the framework for planning the use, development, and protection of land in Victoria. The proposed activities would not require approval under the Act.
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* – includes a range of enforcement provisions to provide better protection for Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria. The proposed activities are not likely to impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- *Victorian Heritage Act 2017* – provides for protection and conservation of cultural heritage of the State, establishes a register of places and provides for the management of places listed on the Victorian Heritage Register and Heritage Inventory and considers impacts on archaeological relics (non-Aboriginal archaeological relics).
- *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* – enables protection of the coastline and ability to address long-term challenges of climate change, population growth and ageing coastal structures.
- *National Parks Act 2018* – establishes protection, use and management for National and state parks in Victoria including national parks, state parks, marine national parks and coastal parks. The proposed activities are not likely to impact National Parks.
- *Water Act 1989* – a licence is required to construct, alter, operate, remove or decommission any works on a waterway.
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* – aims to protect species, genetic material and habitats, to prevent extinction and allow maximum genetic diversity within Victoria. The proposed activities would not take place on public land therefore would not impact species under this Act.
- *Environment Protection Act 1970* – focuses on preventing waste and pollution events in order to promote protection of Victoria's environment and human health. The proposed activities are not likely to produce waste or pollution.
- *Wildlife Act 1975* – aims to ensure protection and sustainable use of all wildlife, which includes native wildlife, as well as non-native wildlife such as deer that has been declared to be wildlife.

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. *

Public Consultation

Iberdrola Australia is committed to comprehensive and open public consultation on all its developments, in a timely manner reflecting project development phases and activities. Engagement about the project was conducted taking into consideration the status of our feasibility licence application and respecting the levels of consultation fatigue, particularly in the local community, prior to any decision about the award of feasibility licences by the Commonwealth Government. Public engagement was by way of public events where we had a dedicated presence. Accordingly, all consultation was necessarily not specific to the Aurora Green project while awaiting a decision on the application for the feasibility licence. A feasibility licence was granted for the Aurora Green Project on 17 July 2024.

To inform the feasibility licence, Iberdrola Australia conducted (through a third party) over 600 focus group interviews and surveys across all six Shire regions of Gippsland, underpinning rich information and diverse insight to inform engagement and public sentiment. Consultation in the Gippsland region commenced in 2023 and is ongoing with public engagements to date including: TRANSFORM Expo (13 and 14 October 2023); Gippsland New Energy Conference 2023 – Iberdrola Australia Community Day (31 August – 2 September 2023); Federation University Open Day (13 August 2023); Gippy Youth Energy Summit (30 August 2023); Industry Capability Network Victoria (ICN) both through the ICN tender portal and speaking engagements (2023 and 29 February 2024). In 2024, discussions have commenced with coastal land holders, and bodies such as Destination Gippsland, noting that the former is awaiting outcomes from VicGrid at the request of Government, before formal consultations can begin.

Acknowledging Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) compliance, Iberdrola is a member of two groups recently formed in Gippsland including:

- Gippsland Licence Holder Advisory Committee (GLAC) with executive representation from each offshore wind developer in the region. The primary focus of GLAC is on engagement with the Commonwealth through and addressing areas of collaboration, challenges and solutions.
- Gippsland Regional Engagement Exchange (REX), is a sub-working group of GLAC, also comprising senior engagement representatives from each offshore wind developer in the Gippsland area. The primary focus of this group is to maximise areas of collaborative engagement and consultation; a shared events calendar to mitigate multiple consultation sessions occurring in any one town; analyse opportunities to engage with community as a developer-collective on broader issues pertaining to the sector and the Gippsland community; and provide common information through for, e.g., an Offshore Wind Fact Sheet.

Iberdrola Australia consider these two groups exemplify their approach to positive collaboration, enhancing strategies to address consultation fatigue, and for community to engage on certain aspects through whole-of-sector consultation.

Government

Iberdrola Australia has been engaging with Ministers and their respective teams in both Commonwealth and State Governments. Multiple briefings on the project have been provided to the DCCEEW, Office of the Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy (The Hon Chris Bowen) and Department of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action (DEECA) – Office of the Minister for Energy & Resources of Victoria (The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio) from 2022 through to current date. Iberdrola are also undertaking ongoing consultation with executives from Offshore Wind Energy Victoria (OWEV) (currently occur every six weeks). Other government representatives and/or their respective teams that have received briefings on the project include: The Hon. Harriet Shing, Minister for Housing, Water and Equality (20 September 2023); Eastern Victoria Legislative Council representative Tom McIntosh and Sam Forbes (14 November 2023); Greens spokespeople for Climate & Energy Ellen Sandell and Tim Read (23 October 2023). Engagement with relevant government agencies would be ongoing for all stages of the project.

Local Government

Iberdrola Australia has well established relationships with each of the six Shires in Gippsland with Wellington Shire Council, Latrobe City Council, and South Gippsland Shire Council being the three most directly connected to the Gippsland energy transition. Multiple briefings have been provided during 2023 and 2024 and Iberdrola Australia is represented on the Wellington Energy Forum (hosted by Wellington Shire Council. Formal notification and consultation on the proposed activities would be undertaken concurrent to the assessment of this EPBC referral application. This consultation would be ongoing throughout the proposed activities.

Traditional Owners

Iberdrola Australia has been formally engaging with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) as part of the Feasibility Licence process and these formal sessions continue towards a final Heads of Agreement that GLaWAC would hold with all individual offshore wind developers in the Gippsland zone. Formal scheduled sessions took place on 30 August 2023; 24 October 2023; and 24 May 2024. Formal notification and consultation of the proposed activities would be advised concurrent with assessment of this EPBC referral application. This consultation would be ongoing throughout the proposed activities.

Fishing Licence Holders

Iberdrola Australia has engaged Atlantis Fisheries Consulting to undertake a commercial fishery study in 2024 (currently underway) to understand, relative to the whole of project investigation area, key commercial fishing demographics for activities, current and historic catch data, identifying fishing licence holders, and relevant industry bodies to engage with, including the South East Trawling Fishing Association (SETFIA) and Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA).

Iberdrola Australia has undertaken discussion with the CEO of SETFIA and SSIA (30 May and 18 July 2024) and provided current details including the project management team and the Feasibility Licence area information. The CEO has advised there may be some overlap between the project and where their licence holder members operate. However, overlap with the proposed activities would have a minimal impact that can be managed through ongoing consultation with SSIA and SETFIA. Atlantis has provided SETFIA and SSIA a SMS notification service which Iberdrola Australia would use to notify licence holder members of all activities occurring in the survey area.

Iberdrola Australia has extended a consultation request with the CEO of Seafood Industry Victoria and is awaiting confirmation of a time for more detailed discussions on their member activities in the survey area, inclusive of Victorian rock lobster.

Oil and Gas licence holders

Iberdrola Australia have established a relationship with Exxon Mobil and has arrangements in place to notify them of the proposed activities. Iberdrola Australia has provided formal consultation feedback to Exxon Mobil as a noted stakeholder in their operations, on their early activities in relation to their oil and gas decommissioning activities.

CarbonNet Project – Iberdrola Australia has a mutual engagement meeting with the CEO of the CarbonNet Project on 31 July 2024 and would continue to engage to understand their activities and advise of the proposed activities.

Gippsland Offshore Wind Licence Holders – As noted above, Iberdrola Australia is represented on the Gippsland Developer Forum and the sub-working group Regional Engagement Exchange. Both these groups provide ongoing access and discussion between all twelve Feasibility Licence holders where (excluding competitive and pricing related elements) community engagement and consultation, and scheduling of the proposed activities would be shared within ACCC compliant boundaries.

Barry Beach Marine Terminal – Iberdrola Australia has established a relationship with QUBE, the operators of the Barry Beach Marine Terminal. This relationship has, and will continue, to support informing of activities as they are programmed, noting it is not expected to require formal consultation from QUBE regarding the geophysical and geotechnical activities for Aurora Green. We consider this to be courteous engagement with a stakeholder connected to oil and gas vessel activities in the region.

Broader community consultation

We are currently preparing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project. Engagement will be conducted in accordance with Iberdrola Australia's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy. See **Attachment 3**, Iberdrola Australia's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy. Consultation will continue to expand to the broader community about the project, specifically the proposed activities. In addition to noted stakeholders in this submission, this will include the general community, community more closely located to the project (Seaspray and The Honeysuckles), key environmental groups, recreational fishing and boating community, Seaspray Surf Life Saving Club. Information dissemination about the proposed activities and inviting feedback and consultation would occur through direct approach, newspaper and/or publication advertising, social media, newsletters, roundtables and working groups, and community reference groups. Iberdrola Australia has assets all over Australia and highly values the relationships it develops and nurtures with the communities who host and may be impacted by our developments. How we engage and consult is imperative to the success of the project and to our Iberdrola Australia national brand and social performance

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@awe.gov.au.

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	667065689
Organisation name	IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA OW 2 PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW

Referring party details

Name	Claire Single
Job title	Executive Manager ESG & Approvals
Phone	0459896174
Email	claire.single@iberdrola.com.au
Address	Level 22 Governor Phillip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	667065689
Organisation name	IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA OW 2 PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Claire Single
Job title	Executive Manager ESG & Approvals
Phone	0459896174
Email	claire.single@iberdrola.com.au
Address	Level 22 Governor Phillip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000

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. *

Iberdrola Australia has a sound record of responsible environmental management. Iberdrola Australia does not have any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Iberdrola Australia is a wholly owned company of Iberdrola Australia Limited\. Iberdrola Australia is a long-term owner, operator and developer of renewable generation in Australia. Iberdrola Australia has renewable and firming assets with a total capacity of 2.4 GW and a large pipeline of future opportunities with the aim of driving Australia's energy transition. Previously Infigen Energy, Iberdrola Australia has been operational in the Australian market for over 15 years, successfully developing a number of wind, solar and battery projects. These assets are located across the states of New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, and Western Australia. Iberdrola Australia remain responsible for its assets across their full project lifecycle, with dedicated teams working on the development, construction management, and operation and maintenance of their projects. Iberdrola Australia has experience implementing and complying with both state and Commonwealth environmental approvals in the pre-construction, construction and operations phases of its projects. Iberdrola Australia is part of the Iberdrola Group, and is ultimately owned by Iberdrola, S.A. (Iberdrola). Iberdrola is one of the leading renewables companies globally with over 60 GW of installed capacity as of the end of 2023.

There are no current or previous proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against Iberdrola Australia.

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

Iberdrola Australia is part of the Iberdrola Group, and is ultimately owned by Iberdrola, S.A. (Iberdrola). Iberdrola Australia's **Environment Policy** is **Attachment 3.** Iberdrola Group’s policies include the Iberdrola Group Environmental Policy detailed further below, and the Biodiversity Policy which is intended to establish a framework of reference for integrating the protection and promotion of biodiversity into the Group-level strategy. This helps to define the principles of conduct for the development of a business model that is sustainable and contributes to a nature-positive society, such that the activities of Iberdrola’s companies protect and promote the development and growth of the natural heritage and a global commitment to being "nature positive" by 2030.

Iberdrola's Environmental Policy, approved by the Board of Directors of Iberdrola, S.A., outlines the company's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. It establishes guidelines for integrating environmental concerns into the company's strategy, investments, and operations, emphasising the importance of renewable energy, efficiency, emissions reduction, and digital transformation. Key points of the policy include:

- Purpose: The policy aims to integrate environmental protection into the company's strategy, investments, and operations, emphasising the importance of renewable energy and environmental management principles.
- Scope of Application: The policy applies to all companies within the Iberdrola Group and investees over which the company has effective control. It also encourages alignment with the policy for companies in which Iberdrola has an interest.
- Main Principles of Conduct: The policy outlines principles such as respect for nature and biodiversity, compliance with legal provisions and environmental standards, promotion of innovation and sustainable technologies, sustainable use of natural capital, and integration of biodiversity protection into the business model.
- Priority Lines of Action: The policy focuses on three priority areas: climate action, protection of biodiversity, and the circular economy, emphasising the application of the main principles of conduct in these areas.

Overall, the policy underscores Iberdrola’s commitment to environmental sustainability, legal compliance, innovation, and stakeholder engagement, with a focus on addressing climate change, protecting biodiversity, and promoting circular economy principles.

Iberdrola Australia published its first Sustainability Report in 2024. The report outlines Iberdrola Australia’s environmental and biodiversity policies in the fight against climate change and protection of biodiversity.

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	667065689
Organisation name	IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA OW 2 PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Claire Single
Job title	Executive Manager ESG & Approvals
Phone	0459896174
Email	claire.single@iberdrola.com.au
Address	Level 22 Governor Phillip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000

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	667065689
Organisation name	IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA OW 2 PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Claire Single
Representative's job title	Executive Manager ESG & Approvals
Phone	0459896174
Email	claire.single@iberdrola.com.au
Address	Level 22 Governor Phillip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

Same as Referring party information.

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

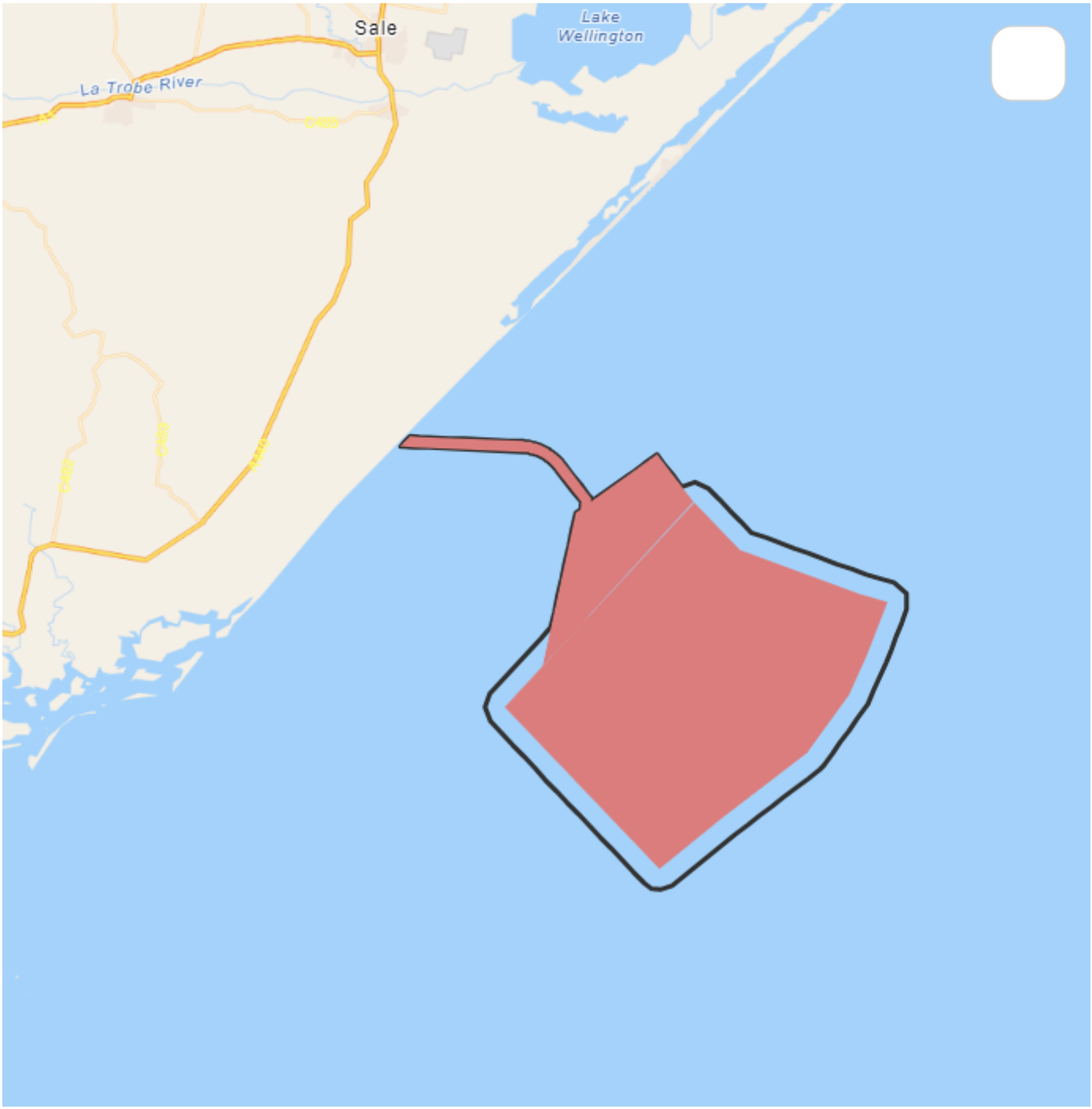
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 101760.85 ha Disturbance Area: 83305.79 ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Offshore of the Gippsland region of Victoria

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

Commonwealth Marine

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

Yes

2.2.4 Where is the secondary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

Victoria

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

A Feasibility Licence (FL-012) for the project was granted on 15 July 2024 by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy in accordance with the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act* 2021 (OEI Act). The proposed activities will be within the Feasibility Licence area (plus two kilometre buffer) and Export Cable Corridor (ECC) (plus 500 metre buffer). Under section 8 of the OEI Act, a Feasibility Licence, would remain in force for seven years (subject to any extensions granted), and allows the licence holder to assess the feasibility of an offshore infrastructure project that the licence holder proposes to carry out under a potential future Commercial Licence.

The proposed activities within this referral are within the permissions of the licence and would inform early development decisions for the proposed 'whole of project' development.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

Local and regional community

The proposed activities would be within both Commonwealth and State waters off the coast of the Gippsland region of Victoria. The regional community encompasses the Latrobe – Gippsland SA4 (ABS Geographical boundaries), with the most populated township being Traralgon.

The local community includes the Wellington and South Gippsland SA3 ABS Geographical Boundaries. Within this area the smaller coastal towns, villages closest to the proposed activities include:

- Port Albert
- Robertsons Beach
- Manns Beach
- Mcloughlin's Beach
- Seaspray
- Woodside Beach
- Woodside
- The Honeysuckles
- Golden Beach
- Paradise Beach.

Features of the natural and built environment

The survey area is within Commonwealth and State waters. A desktop assessment found that the seabed largely comprises calcareous sands with varying degrees of cementation due to fluctuating sea levels and corresponding sub-arial exposure, with interbedded gavels and limestone at depth.

The survey area is around 36.5 kilometres northeast of the nearest Australian Marine Park and has been mapped as a potential biological area for seabirds, sharks, and whales.

Existing major infrastructure

Declared Area OEI-01-2022 is subject to existing marine uses, including major infrastructure, such as:

- oil and gas platforms
- oil and gas pipelines
- submarine electricity cables
- submarine cables.

Ecoregional context

Victoria's marine environment has high species richness and diversity with many species endemic to the state.

Bass Strait is a dynamic marine environment prone to severe storms and high waves. It is influenced by the South Australian Current (SAC), the East Australian Current (EAC) and sub-Antarctic Surface Water (SASW). The tides exhibit a daily pattern, and sea temperatures range from 13°C in winter to 17–18°C in summer (VEAC, 2019). The navigational charts suggest the depth of the survey area ranges from approximately 10 to 60 metres and the survey area does not appear to support biogenic reefs.

The seabed is primarily calcareous gravel, sand, and silt (Seamap Australia, 2023). There are no threatened benthic species identified in the survey area and is therefore unlikely to support critical benthic habitat (PMST, 2024). However, information for benthic habitats within the survey area is limited, and benthic habitat mapping is recommended. The ECC is approximately 220 metres from Ninety Mile Beach Marine Park that hosts a significant benthic habitat (Parks Victoria 2023).

In general, studies in Bass Strait describe the region as having high diversity for benthic assemblages including the presence of benthic invertebrates such as polychaetes, bivalves, molluscs and echinoderms inhabiting the sediment flats (Advisian 2017). Tubeworms, small crustaceans, nematodes, nemerteans and sea pens are burrowing species which may use the soft seabed (Advisian 2017).

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

Existing use

The survey area consists of open ocean in Commonwealth and State waters. The Declared Area OEI-01-2022 is subject to existing marine uses, including major infrastructure, such as:

- oil and gas platforms
- oil and gas pipelines
- submarine electricity cables
- submarine cables.

A preliminary desktop assessment has been completed to identify other uses and users of the proposed lease area, including a search of:

Fishing industry

A review of fishing density data (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2022) identified:

- medium and high catch density areas of the Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector Shark Gillnet sub-sector
- low catch density areas of the Squid by the SESSF Commonwealth Trawl Sector
- low and medium catch density areas of the SESSF Commonwealth Trawl Sector Danish-seine sub-sector.

1. *Submarine cables*

No existing or proposed submarine cables are mapped within the survey area (TeleGeography, 2022). However, due to the broad scale of the data, the exact location of submarine cables cannot be determined by a desktop preliminary assessment and would be informed by the proposed activities.

Oil and gas

The survey area is within a GHG Assessment Permit area (G-5-AP), with the permit is held by The Crown in right of Victoria and has an expiry of 14/05/2023 (NOPTA, 2023). Activities under the permit include:

- offset well study including consideration of integrity and abandonment status
- geological and geophysical modelling, analysis and interpretation of the storage formation
- conceptual development planning.

The survey area is traversed by one National Oil Gas Pipelines (gas) connecting Tasmania with mainland Australia. The project site is adjacent to two oil and gas platforms (and their associated pipelines), including:

- 'Dolphin', an offshore facility used for the extraction, processing and/or storage of oil and natural gas
- 'Perch', an offshore facility used for the extraction, processing and/or storage of oil and natural gas.

Defence

The survey area overlaps areas mapped with the potential for UXOs, as part of a former Air Weapons Range (392 Bass Strait) (Navy, 2022; Geoscape Australia, 2022).

Shipping

Shipping density data indicates that there is high maritime traffic utilising the area (Australian Maritime Safety Authority, 2022).

Aviation

The survey area is within Class E Airspace, which generally applies to airspace between 8,500 and 12,500 feet above sea level (Air Services Australia, n.d). In addition, the survey area contains restricted airspace. Restricted airspace generally applies to airspace and is controlled by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority Office of Airspace Regulation. Restricted airspace can include (and not limited to) airspace around military installations or high-density flying operations.

Proposed use

The proposed activities would collect geophysical, benthic, archaeological, contamination and geotechnical information to inform early project development for Aurora Green OWF. The future project is consistent with the Declared Area as it would provide an offshore wind energy project, and the proposed activities are consistent with the Feasibility Licence as it is the first stage of feasibility assessments to establish the feasibility of the 'whole of project' development .

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

Key features of the marine area include the following National Parks and Marine Reserves:

Ninety Mile Beach Marine National park

The survey area is around 19.5 kilometres (from the Aurora Green OWF site) and 220 metres (from the ECC) from Ninety Mile Beach Marine National Park. This is a protected coastal area with high species diversity within a subtidal sandy habitat. Ninety Mile Beach Marine National Park is reported to host more organisms per square metre in sand than many marine habitats worldwide (Parks Victoria 2023).

Wilsons Promontory National Park

The survey area is around 63 kilometres from Wilsons Promontory National Park that is a national marine park that supports significant marine life and is Victoria's largest and southern-most marine park. Within the park, Kanowna and Anderson Islands support 9,000–10,000 breeding Australian fur seals.

Beagle Marine Park

The survey area is around 36.5 kilometres from Beagle Marine Park. This marine park hosts rocky reefs, diverse sponge gardens and is a critical habitat for seabirds that use the area for breeding and foraging (Australian Marine Parks 2023). Likewise, the islands enclosed by Beagle Marine Park are important sanctuaries for Australian fur seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus*), many Australian seabirds, and great white shark

(*Carcharodon carcharias*) have a foraging area within its waters (Barrett et al, 2021). Large aggregations of Port Jackson shark (*Heterodontus portusjacksoni*) have also been found within the Beagle Marine Park (Barrett et al, 2021).

Kent Group National Park

The survey area is around 60 kilometres from Kent Group National Park that sits within Beagle Marine Park and is a group of islands managed by Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service. Kent Group hosts Tasmania's largest Australian fur seal population on Judgement Rocks (Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service, 2020). The five kilometres surrounding the park forms part of a Kent Group Marine Reserve, which is a marine protected area that restricts fishing in the area.

Based on the survey area and scope of the proposed activities, it is not anticipated that the proposed activities would result in significant impacts on these parks.

Refer to **Attachment 1: Significant Impact Assessment – Desktop Marine Ecology, Section 4.2, pp 11-14**.

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 proposed survey area is located within Declared Area OEI-01-2022 in Commonwealth waters off the coast of Victoria. The OWF site is 699.93 square kilometres (km2) with its closest point approximately 25 kilometres from the coast. The project would comprise around 150 turbines in water depths of around 41.1 metres in the northern corner and 61.1 metres along the south-eastern boundary (Geoscience Australia Bass Strait Bathymetry, 2022).

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.

Victoria's marine environment has high species richness and diversity with many species' endemic to the state.

Threatened species and Ecological Communities

Threatened ecological communities

There are no threatened marine ecological communities within five kilometres of the survey area. There is a vulnerable Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh habitat within 25 kilometres of the survey area. However, this habitat occurs in coastal areas under regular or intermittent tidal influence in the intertidal

zone and estuaries and is not within or near the survey area.

Threatened marine mammals

Four listed threatened marine mammals are known or likely to be within or near the survey area:

- Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*) – Endangered
- Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) – Endangered
- Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*) – Vulnerable
- Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) – Vulnerable.

These whales are migratory species. The three *Balaenoptera* species are likely to be present for foraging, feeding or related behaviour and the southern right whales is known to occur in the area. However, the likelihood of the survey area being a significant breeding area for these species are expected to be low.

Threatened sharks

Three listed threatened sharks are known, likely or may occur within or near the survey area:

- Great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) – Vulnerable
- Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) – Vulnerable
- School shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) – Conservation Dependent.

The great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) is a migratory species and is known to occur in the survey area. Therefore, it is probable that great white sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) could be encountered in or near the survey area.

Although, the PMST results indicate that whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) may occur in the survey area, they are only occasionally seen in Victorian waters and most commonly seen in Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland (Department of the Environment (DoE), 2024b). Therefore, the probability of encountering a whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) or a significant proportion of the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) population in or near the survey area is low.

Threatened reptiles

Three listed threatened marine reptiles could occur within or near the survey area:

- Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) – Endangered
- Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) – Endangered
- Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) – Vulnerable.

These turtles are migratory species and none have a biologically important area within five kilometres of the survey area. Likewise, the relatively cold-water temperatures in Bass Strait reduces the probability of encountering a turtle or a significant proportion of their populations in or near the survey area to low.

Threatened fish

There are three threatened fish species that are known or likely to occur within or near the survey area:

- Australian grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*) – Vulnerable
- Blue warehou (*Seriolella brama*) – Conservation Dependent
- Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) – Conservation Dependent.

Blue warehou (*Seriolella brama*) and southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) are Conservation Dependent species and are therefore not considered further in this assessment. However, it is possible that larvae or juvenile Australian grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*) could be encountered in or near the survey area, as such the probability of encountering a significant proportion of their population is low.

Migratory species

Migratory marine mammals

In addition to the four threatened marine mammals identified above, five non-threatened migratory cetacean species listed under the EPBC Act that are known, likely or may occur within 25 kilometres of the survey area and include:

- Bryde's whale (*B. edeni*)
- Pygmy right whale (*Caperea marginata*)
- Dusky dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus obscurus*)
- Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
- Orca(*Orcinus orca*).

In general, all five cetaceans have been previously threatened by whaling and/or are now threatened by typically anthropogenic threats including pollution, illegal killing, interactions with fisheries and incidental capture. The biologically important area for the pygmy right whale(*Caperea marginata*) overlaps the survey area for foraging, feeding or related behaviour.

Migratory sharks

In addition to the two threatened sharks identified above, three non-threatened migratory shark species listed under the EPBC Act that are likely or may occur within 25 kilometres of the survey area and include:

- Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)
- Mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)
- Porbeagle(*Lamna nasus*).

In general, each of these species are threatened by overfishing globally.

Migratory marine reptiles

The threatened marine reptiles listed above are also migratory species.

Migratory birds

There are 55 migratory birds listed under the EPBC Act that are known, likely or may occur within 25 kilometres of the survey area. Most species are shorebirds that are highly unlikely to be encountered in the subtidal marine environment where the proposed activities are focussed.

Refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Section 4.3, pp 15-19**.

Information about all flora and fauna found within the affected area is not yet available. The proposed action is to undertake surveys to identify this information.

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

Not applicable for this referral as survey area does not include terrestrial areas of the coast.

Information describing the presence and condition of marine vegetation relevant to the project area found within the affected area is not yet available. The proposed action is to undertake surveys to identify this information.

3.3 Heritage

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

The Commonwealth Heritage List contains places owned or controlled by the Australian Government that have been declared by the Minister as a place that has Commonwealth Indigenous, historic or natural heritage significance. A search of the Commonwealth Heritage List was conducted on 25 July 2024 and found there are no Commonwealth Heritage listed places within the survey area.

The nearest Commonwealth Heritage listed place to the project is the Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse located on the southernmost point of the promontory, approximately 83.6 kilometres west of the survey area. Two other Commonwealth heritage listed items were identified within the Gippsland region; Gabo Island Lighthouse in Mallacoota, and Leongatha Post & Telegraph Office in Leongatha, however these are not within close proximity to the survey area.

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

The Gippsland Region is the traditional lands of the Gunaikurnai who have occupied the vast region for tens of thousands of years (GLaWAC, 2023). Wilsons Promontory to the west of the survey area remains a site of major spiritual significance to First Nations people today (Parks Victoria, n.d).

A search of Victoria's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS) was completed on 25 July 2024 and the survey area was not mapped within an Area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity. However, GLaWAC identify their Country as 'the land, the rivers and the ocean, the people and the stories, the past and the future' (GLaWAC, 2022). As such all are connected and are important to the First Nations community of Gippsland. The survey area is therefore within Gunaikurnai waters (yarnda), and State waters within the survey area are formally recognised under the traditional ownerships of the Gunaikurnai People.

A search of Native Title Register found that there are no Native Title claims within the survey area.

The proposed activities are not expected to have an impact on Indigenous heritage values.

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. *

Not applicable for this referral as the survey area does not include terrestrial areas and would have no impact on hydrological features onshore, including watercourses, wetlands and Gippsland Lakes.

However, information describing the hydrology characteristics of the project area are not yet available. The proposed action includes Metocean surveys to understand hydrological conditions.

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	Yes	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	Yes	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

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
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. *

There are no World Heritage properties within 25 kilometres of the survey area. As such, the proposed activities are unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact on World Heritage properties due to the nature of the proposed activities and the distance to the closest listing.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

There are no National Heritage Places within 25 kilometres of the survey area. As such, the proposed activities are unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact on National Heritage Places due to the nature of the proposed activities and the distance to the closest listing.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

The survey area is not located within or near Ramsar wetlands. As such, the proposed activities are not expected to impact Ramsar Wetlands.

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		Amphibromus fluitans	River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass
Yes		Antechinus minimus maritimus	Swamp Antechinus (mainland)
Yes		Anthochaera phrygia	Regent Honeyeater
Yes		Ardenna grisea	Sooty Shearwater
Yes		Balaenoptera borealis	Sei Whale
Yes		Balaenoptera musculus	Blue Whale
Yes		Balaenoptera physalus	Fin Whale
Yes		Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern
Yes		Caladenia tessellata	Thick-lipped Spider-orchid, Daddy Long-legs
Yes		Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes		Calidris canutus	Red Knot, Knot
Yes		Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes		Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo
Yes		Carcharodon carcharias	White Shark, Great White Shark
Yes		Caretta caretta	Loggerhead Turtle
Yes		Charadrius leschenaultii	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
Yes		Chelonia mydas	Green Turtle

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes		Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
Yes		Commersonia prostrata	Dwarf Kerrawang
Yes		Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
Yes		Delma impar	Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard
Yes		Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth
Yes		Dianella amoena	Matted Flax-lily
Yes		Diomedea antipodensis	Antipodean Albatross
Yes		Diomedea antipodensis gibsoni	Gibson's Albatross
Yes		Diomedea epomophora	Southern Royal Albatross
Yes		Diomedea exulans	Wandering Albatross
Yes		Diomedea sanfordi	Northern Royal Albatross
Yes		Dodonaea procumbens	Trailing Hop-bush
Yes		Eubalaena australis	Southern Right Whale
Yes		Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
Yes		Fregetta grallaria grallaria	White-bellied Storm-Petrel (Tasman Sea), White-bellied Storm-Petrel (Australasian)
Yes		Galaxiella pusilla	Eastern Dwarf Galaxias, Dwarf Galaxias
Yes		Galeorhinus galeus	School Shark, Eastern School Shark, Snapper Shark, Tope, Soupfin Shark
Yes		Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes		Glycine latrobeana	Clover Glycine, Purple Clover
Yes		Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
Yes		Halobaena caerulea	Blue Petrel
Yes		Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
Yes		Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
Yes		Limosa lapponica baueri	Nunivak Bar-tailed Godwit, Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes		Lissolepis coventryi	Swamp Skink, Eastern Mourning Skink
Yes		Litoria aurea	Green and Golden Bell Frog
Yes		Litoria raniformis	Southern Bell Frog,, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
Yes		Macronectes giganteus	Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel
Yes		Macronectes halli	Northern Giant Petrel
Yes		Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
Yes		Neophema chrysogaster	Orange-bellied Parrot
Yes		Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
Yes		Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
Yes		Pachyptila turtur subantarctica	Fairy Prion (southern)
Yes		Phoebetria fusca	Sooty Albatross
Yes		Prototroctes maraena	Australian Grayling
Yes		Pseudomys novaehollandiae	New Holland Mouse, Pookila
Yes		Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera	Gould's Petrel, Australian Gould's Petrel
Yes		Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
Yes		Pterostylis chlorogramma	Green-striped Greenhood
Yes		Rhincodon typus	Whale Shark
Yes		Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
Yes		Senecio psilocarpus	Swamp Fireweed, Smooth-fruited Groundsel
Yes		Seriolella brama	Blue Warehou
Yes		Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
Yes		Sternula nereis nereis	Australian Fairy Tern
Yes		Thalassarche bulleri	Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche bulleri platei	Northern Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes		Thalassarche carteri	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche cauta	Shy Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche chrysostoma	Grey-headed Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche impavida	Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche melanophris	Black-browed Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche salvini	Salvin's Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche steadi	White-capped Albatross
Yes		Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus	Eastern Hooded Plover, Eastern Hooded Plover
Yes		Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank
Yes		Uperoleia martini	Martin's Toadlet
Yes		Xerochrysum palustre	Swamp Everlasting, Swamp Paper Daisy

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes		Natural Damp Grassland of the Victorian Coastal Plains
Yes		Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh

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. *

Potential direct and indirect impacts to threatened species and ecological communities are summarised below. Potential impacts are identified and detailed in **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Chapter 5, pp 21-40** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.5, pp 25-43**.

Potential impacts, including underwater noise, from the proposed activities are considered temporary and localised to the area of vessel and equipment operation. Threatened species identified in Section 3.2 of this referral (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*)) can immediately re-utilise the survey area

after the survey vessel has moved on meaning there is no long-lasting impacts from the proposed activities to the health of either individuals or the threatened species population, or their recovery. Behavioural impacts would also be very localised and temporary.

Threatened marine species identified in Section 3.2 of this referral (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*)) are also susceptible to entanglement with the survey equipment, especially as most techniques require deployment of cables. However, the risk of entanglement for cetaceans is considered low because the operation of the gear would employ best-practise environmental methods, including making sure that the equipment would not be used with slack lines and would always be tended.

Potential risks, such as vessel collision with cetaceans identified in Section 3.2 of this referral (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*)), is considered low due to the requirement of the survey vessel to follow EPBC Act and any other relevant government regulations. There is negligible threat concern for other MNES and the proposed activities are not expected to interfere with the recovery of critically endangered and endangered MNES in or near the survey area.

Marine pollution has potential impact to all marine fauna identified in Section 3.2 of this referral (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*)) due to contamination of the marine environment. Likewise, the introduction and establishment of invasive marine species through biofouling or ballast water discharge that results in impacts to migratory species (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*)) is unlikely. However, survey vessels and operation of equipment would follow relevant guidelines and implement mitigation measures that potential impacts from pollution and invasive species are unlikely.

With the recommended mitigation measures, the proposed activities are unlikely to have a significant impact that would lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a marine mammal population. As such, the proposed activities would not be considered a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

Refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Chapter 5, pp 21-40** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.5, pp 25-43**.

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

No

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

Potential impacts, including underwater noise, from the proposed activities are considered temporary and localised to the area of vessel and equipment operation. Threatened species identified in Section 3.2 of this referral (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*)) can immediately re-utilise the survey area after the survey vessel has moved on meaning there is no long-lasting impacts from the proposed activities to the health of either individuals or the threatened species population, or their recovery. Behavioural impacts would also be very localised and temporary. As such, the proposed activities:

- are unlikely to lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population of a species (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*))
- are unlikely to reduce the area of occupancy of an important population (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*))
- would have not fragment an important population into two or more populations (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*))
- are unlikely to adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species
- are unlikely to disrupt the breeding cycles of an important population (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*))

- are unlikely to modify, destroy, remove or isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline
- are unlikely to result in invasive species that are harmful to a vulnerable species becoming establish in the vulnerable species' habitat
- are unlikely to introduce disease that may cause the species to decline
- are unlikely to interfere substantially with the recovery of the species.

With the recommended mitigation measures, the proposed activities are unlikely to have a significant impact that would lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a marine mammal population. As such, the proposed activities would not be considered a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

The potential for additive impacts on threatened species (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*)) with future actions of the project with the proposed activities are expected to be unlikely due to the implementation of mitigation measures and temporary short-term nature of the proposed activities.

Refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Chapter 5, pp 21-40** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.4, pp 25-43**.

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

No

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

Based on the minor level of physical disturbance from the minor and short-term nature of the proposed activities and the implementation of mitigation measures (refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Chapter 7, pp 43** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Chapter 4, pp 49**), it is not anticipated that the proposed activities would result in a significant impact on threatened species or other protected matters, and therefore is not considered a controlled action.

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. *

Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Section 6.2, pp 41-42 and **Attachment 3: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.5, pp 44-48** outline the key mitigation measures and environmental mitigation measures that would be implemented for the proposed activities.

Recommended mitigation measures include:

- standard industry and marine vessel management in accordance with statutory and international maritime regulations to minimise emissions, comply with waste treatment and disposal requirements,

prevent and minimise impacts from potential spills, reduce lighting impacts and reduce unnecessary noise.

- survey vessels will maintain a slow speed during use of equipment for the proposed activities (four to five knots)
- survey vessels will abide by all relevant marine biosecurity guidelines and requirements to minimise the potential for introducing invasive marine species and diseases to the survey area and marine species populations including, the ballast water exchange guidelines, National Biofouling Management Guidance, international quarantine requirements (where applicable), anti-fouling system certification in accordance with AMSA Marine Order Part 98 (Anti-fouling systems) and National Biofouling Management Guidance.
- proposed activities will be completed in accordance with the measures outlined in EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1 – Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales and managed in alignment with the Part 8 of the EPBC Regulations.
- measures to minimise and mitigate the impact of potential interactions between marine species or the marine environment with vessels and survey equipment, including (and not limited to) maintenance of vessels and equipment, constant slow vessel speed and turning off equipment when not in use to reduce unnecessary noise and inclusion of two Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) onboard.
- MMOs will be trained and experienced in whale identification and behaviour, distance estimation, and be capable of making accurate identifications and observations of whales, turtles and sharks in Australian waters. The MMOs will assist other observers (e.g. trained crew) and be available to provide advice, should whales, turtles and sharks be encountered.
- during the period 31 May to 1 September, Sparkers/Boomers, mini-airguns or DP systems will not be operated within three kilometres of the Southern Right Whale Reproduction BIA and will not result in impulsive underwater noise exceeding 160 dB SPL LF, (RMS), or non-impulsive underwater noise exceeding 120 dB SPL LF (RMS), being received within the Southern Right Whale Reproduction BIA.
- during the period 1 April to 1 October, Sparkers/Boomers, mini-airguns or DP systems will not result in impulsive and non-impulsive underwater noise exceeding 160 dB SPL LF (RMS) within the Southern Right Whale Migration BIA.

Refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Section 6.2, pp 41-42** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.5, pp 44-48** for the full suite of mitigation measures for the proposed activities.

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

There are no proposed offsets as the residual impacts considered to be minor once relevant controls are in place.

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
Yes		Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
Yes		Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
Yes		Ardenna carneipes	Flesh-footed Shearwater, Fleshy-footed Shearwater
Yes		Ardenna grisea	Sooty Shearwater
Yes		Balaenoptera borealis	Sei Whale
Yes		Balaenoptera musculus	Blue Whale
Yes		Balaenoptera physalus	Fin Whale
Yes		Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes		Calidris canutus	Red Knot, Knot
Yes		Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes		Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
Yes		Caperea marginata	Pygmy Right Whale
Yes		Carcharodon carcharias	White Shark, Great White Shark
Yes		Caretta caretta	Loggerhead Turtle
Yes		Charadrius leschenaultii	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
Yes		Chelonia mydas	Green Turtle
Yes		Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth
Yes		Diomedea antipodensis	Antipodean Albatross
Yes		Diomedea epomophora	Southern Royal Albatross
Yes		Diomedea exulans	Wandering Albatross
Yes		Diomedea sanfordi	Northern Royal Albatross
Yes		Eubalaena australis	Southern Right Whale

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes		Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes		Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
Yes		Isurus oxyrinchus	Shortfin Mako, Mako Shark
Yes		Lagenorhynchus obscurus	Dusky Dolphin
Yes		Lamna nasus	Porbeagle, Mackerel Shark
Yes		Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit
Yes		Macronectes giganteus	Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel
Yes		Macronectes halli	Northern Giant Petrel
Yes		Megaptera novaeangliae	Humpback Whale
Yes		Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
Yes		Myiagra cyanoleuca	Satin Flycatcher
Yes		Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
Yes		Orcinus orca	Killer Whale, Orca
Yes		Phoebetria fusca	Sooty Albatross
Yes		Rhincodon typus	Whale Shark
Yes		Rhipidura rufifrons	Rufous Fantail
Yes		Sternula albifrons	Little Tern
Yes		Thalassarche bulleri	Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche carteri	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche cauta	Shy Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche chrysostoma	Grey-headed Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche impavida	Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche melanophris	Black-browed Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche salvini	Salvin's Albatross
Yes		Thalassarche steadi	White-capped Albatross

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes		Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

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

Yes

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

The proposed activities are localised to the area around the vessel or at relatively small sampling sites and for a short duration. Migratory marine species can immediately re-utilise the area after the survey vessel has moved on meaning there is no long-lasting impact from the proposed activities. Therefore, the proposed activities are unlikely to substantially affect habitat for migratory MNES.

There is no important habitat for a listed migratory species that would be substantially modified, destroyed, or isolated as a result of the proposed activities.

Refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Chapter 5, pp 21-40** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.4, pp 25-43**.

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

No

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

The proposed activities are localised to the area around the vessel or at relatively small sampling sites and for a short duration. Migratory marine species can immediately re-utilise the area after the survey vessel has moved on meaning there is no long-lasting impact from the proposed activities. As such, the proposed activities:

- are unlikely to substantially modify (including by fragmenting, altering nutrient cycles or altering hydrological cycles), destroy or isolate an area of important habitat for a migratory species
- are unlikely to result in an invasive species that is harmful to the migratory species becoming established in an area of important habitat for the migratory species
- are unlikely to seriously disrupt the lifecycle (breeding, feeding, migration or resting behaviour) of an ecologically significant proportion of the population of a migratory species.

With the recommended mitigation measures, the proposed activities are unlikely to have a significant impact on migratory species or habitat. As such, the proposed activities would not be considered a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

The potential for additive impacts on migratory species (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*)) with future actions of the project with the proposed activities are expected to be unlikely due to the implementation of mitigation measures and temporary short-term nature of the proposed activities.

Refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Chapter 5, pp 21-40** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.4, pp 25-43**.

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

No

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

There would be no loss of habitat due to the proposed works for the project, and based on the minor level of physical disturbance from the minor and short-term nature of the proposed activities and the implementation of mitigation measures (refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Chapter 7, pp 43** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Chapter 4, pp 49**), it is not anticipated that the proposed activities would result in a significant impact on migratory species or other protected matters, and therefore is not considered a controlled action.

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

Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Section 6.2, pp 41-42 and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.5, pp 44-48** outline the key mitigation measures and environmental mitigation measures that would be implemented for the proposed activities.

Recommended mitigation measures include:

- standard industry and marine vessel management in accordance with statutory and international maritime regulations to minimise emissions, comply with waste treatment and disposal requirements, prevent and minimise impacts from potential spills, reduce lighting impacts and reduce unnecessary noise.
- survey vessels will maintain a slow speed during use of equipment for the proposed activities (four to five knots)
- survey vessels will abide by all relevant marine biosecurity guidelines and requirements to minimise the potential for introducing invasive marine species and diseases to the survey area and marine species populations including, the ballast water exchange guidelines, National Biofouling Management Guidance, international quarantine requirements (where applicable), anti-fouling system certification in accordance with AMSA Marine Order Part 98 (Anti-fouling systems) and National Biofouling Management Guidance.

- proposed activities will be completed in accordance with the measures outlined in EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1 – Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales and managed in alignment with the Part 8 of the EPBC Regulations.
- measures to minimise and mitigate the impact of potential interactions between marine species or the marine environment with vessels and survey equipment, including (and not limited to) maintenance of vessels and equipment, constant slow vessel speed and turning off equipment when not in use to reduce unnecessary noise and inclusion of two Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) onboard.
- MMOs will be trained and experienced in whale identification and behaviour, distance estimation, and be capable of making accurate identifications and observations of whales, turtles and sharks in Australian waters. The MMOs will assist other observers (e.g. trained crew) and be available to provide advice, should whales, turtles and sharks be encountered.
- during the period 31 May to 1 September, Sparkers/Boomers, mini-airguns or DP systems will not be operated within three kilometres of the Southern Right Whale Reproduction BIA and will not result in impulsive underwater noise exceeding 160 dB SPL LF, (RMS), or non-impulsive underwater noise exceeding 120 dB SPL LF (RMS), being received within the Southern Right Whale Reproduction BIA.
- during the period 1 April to 1 October, Sparkers/Boomers, mini-airguns or DP systems will not result in impulsive and non-impulsive underwater noise exceeding 160 dB SPL LF (RMS) within the Southern Right Whale Migration BIA.

Refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Section 6.2, pp 41-42** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.5, pp 44-48** for the full suite of mitigation measures for the proposed activities.

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

There are no proposed offsets as the residual impacts considered to be minor once relevant controls are in place.

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

The proposed activities are not a nuclear action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

Yes

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

The Commonwealth marine area commences three nautical miles from the lowest astronomical tide. The survey area includes both the Aurora Green OWF Feasibility Licence area and part of the ECC areas within the Commonwealth marine area. However, the proposed activities are non-intrusive, and would not involve the taking of, or interference with any flora or fauna. Potential impacts in the Commonwealth marine area include:

- introduction of invasive species from ballast water
- loss or damage to marine species habitat
- change to life cycle and spatial distribution of a population of a marine species
- underwater noise from the proposed activities and vessel movements
- entanglement of marine species in equipment used for the proposed activities
- marine pollution from the proposed activities (e.g. leaks and spills while refuelling vessels)
- damage or destruction of an historic shipwreck.

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

No

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

Potential impacts, including underwater noise, from the proposed activities are considered temporary and localised to the area of vessel and equipment operation. Threatened species identified in Section 3.2 of this referral (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*)) can immediately re-utilise the survey area after the survey vessel has moved on meaning there is no long-lasting impacts from the proposed activities to the health of either individuals or the threatened species population, or their recovery. Behavioural impacts would also be very localised and temporary.

The proposed activities are:

- unlikely to result in a known or potential pest species becoming established in the Commonwealth marine area as the survey vessel would abide by the ballast water exchange and biofouling guidelines
- unlikely to modify, destroy, fragment, isolate or disturb an important or substantial area of habitat such that an adverse impact on marine ecosystem functioning or integrity in a Commonwealth marine area as the proposed activities would be localised to the area around the vessel or at relatively small sampling site for a short duration, where marine species can immediately re-utilise
- unlikely to have a substantial adverse effect on a population of a marine species or cetacean (including the Southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*)) including its life cycle (for example, breeding, feeding, migration behaviour, life expectancy) and spatial distribution as there are no known significant breeding areas known within the survey area for commonwealth marine species and potential impacts would be temporary and localised
- unlikely to result in a substantial change in air quality or water quality (including temperature) that may adversely impact on biodiversity, ecological integrity; social amenity or human health as discharges, litter and accidental spills would be managed by standard regulations and marine industry and vessel requirements
- unlikely to result in persistent organic chemicals, heavy metals, or other potentially harmful chemicals accumulating in the marine environment such that biodiversity, ecological integrity, social amenity or human health may be adversely affected as discharges, litter and accidental spills would be managed by standard regulations and marine industry and vessel requirements
- unlikely to have a substantial adverse impact on heritage values of the Commonwealth marine area, including damage or destruction of an historic shipwreck as the proposed activities would identify the exact location of the known shipwreck and identify unknown wreck sites to inform project design.

With the recommended mitigation measures, the proposed activities are unlikely to have a significant on the Commonwealth marine area. As such, the proposed activities would not be considered a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

The potential for additive impacts on the Commonwealth Marine Area with future actions of the project with the proposed activities are expected to be unlikely due to the implementation of mitigation measures and temporary short-term nature of the proposed activities.

For further information refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Chapter 5, pp 21-40** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.4, pp 25-43**.

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

No

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

The survey vessel would abide by the ballast water exchange guidelines in the Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements (DAWE, 2020), with no discharge of ballast water within 12 nautical miles of land, and adhere to the requirements of the National Biofouling Management Guidance (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009) regarding the management biofouling risks.

The proposed activities are unlikely to substantially affect habitat for marine MNES or ecosystem functioning and integrity and with the recommended mitigation measures, the proposed activities are unlikely to have a significant impact that would have a substantial adverse effect on a population of marine species or cetacean including its life cycle and spatial distribution.

Discharges, litter and accidental spills would be managed by standard regulations and marine industry and vessel requirements. The risk of persistent organic chemicals, heavy metals, or other potentially harmful chemicals accumulating in the marine environment is considered unlikely. The impacts from discharges would be localised to the vessel and the discharge would mix rapidly into the immediate waters.

Based on the above, the minor level of physical disturbance from the non-intrusive and short-term nature of the proposed activities and the implementation of mitigation measures (refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Chapter 7, pp 43** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Chapter 4, pp 49**), it is not anticipated that the proposed activities would result in a significant impact on the Commonwealth Marine Area or other protected matters, and therefore is not considered a controlled action.

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

Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Section 6.2, pp 41-42 and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.5, pp 44-48** outline the key mitigation measures and environmental mitigation measures that would be implemented for the proposed activities.

Recommended mitigation measures include:

- standard industry and marine vessel management in accordance with statutory and international maritime regulations to minimise emissions, comply with waste treatment and disposal requirements, prevent and minimise impacts from potential spills, reduce lighting impacts and reduce unnecessary noise.
- survey vessels will maintain a slow speed during use of equipment for the proposed activities (four to five knots)
- survey vessels will abide by all relevant marine biosecurity guidelines and requirements to minimise the potential for introducing invasive marine species and diseases to the survey area and marine species populations including, the ballast water exchange guidelines, National Biofouling Management Guidance, international quarantine requirements (where applicable), anti-fouling system certification in accordance with AMSA Marine Order Part 98 (Anti-fouling systems) and National Biofouling Management Guidance.
- proposed activities will be completed in accordance with the measures outlined in EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1 – Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales and managed in alignment with the Part 8 of the EPBC Regulations.
- measures to minimise and mitigate the impact of potential interactions between marine species or the marine environment with vessels and survey equipment, including (and not limited to)

maintenance of vessels and equipment, constant slow vessel speed and turning off equipment when not in use to reduce unnecessary noise and inclusion of two Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) onboard.
- MMOs will be trained and experienced in whale identification and behaviour, distance estimation, and be capable of making accurate identifications and observations of whales, turtles and sharks in Australian waters. The MMOs will assist other observers (e.g. trained crew) and be available to provide advice, should whales, turtles and sharks be encountered.
- during the period 31 May to 1 September, Sparkers/Boomers, mini-airguns or DP systems will not be operated within three kilometres of the Southern Right Whale Reproduction BIA and will not result in impulsive underwater noise exceeding 160 dB SPL LF, (RMS), or non-impulsive underwater noise exceeding 120 dB SPL LF (RMS), being received within the Southern Right Whale Reproduction BIA.
- during the period 1 April to 1 October, Sparkers/Boomers, mini-airguns or DP systems will not result in impulsive and non-impulsive underwater noise exceeding 160 dB SPL LF (RMS) within the Southern Right Whale Migration BIA.

Refer to **Attachment 1: Marine Ecology Report, Section 6.2, pp 41-42** and **Attachment 2: Underwater Noise Report, Section 3.5, pp 44-48** for full suite of mitigation measures for the proposed activities.

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

There are no proposed offsets as the residual impacts considered to be minor once relevant controls are in place.

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 proposed activities would not have a direct and/or indirect impact on the Great Barrier Reef due to the nature of the proposed activities and the distance to the reef. The Great Barrier Reef is not located within 10 kilometres of the survey area.

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

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

No

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

The proposed activities are not a large coal mining development or coal seam gas project.

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.

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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. *

Iberdrola Australia is not a Commonwealth agency and a preliminary assessment of the proposed activities indicates no Commonwealth land would be affected.

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.

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

No

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

The Commonwealth Heritage List contains places owned or controlled by the Australia Government that have been declared by the Minister as a place that has Commonwealth Indigenous, historic or natural heritage significance. There are no Commonwealth Heritage listed places within the proposed lease area (DCCEEW, 2023).

The nearest Commonwealth Heritage listed place to the project is the Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse located on the southernmost point of the promontory, approximately 73 kilometres west of the survey area. Two other Commonwealth heritage listed items were identified within the Gippsland region; Gabo Island Lighthouse in Mallacoota, and Leongatha Post & Telegraph Office in Leongatha, however these are not within close proximity to the survey area.

The proposed activities are unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact on Commonwealth heritage places overseas due to the nature of the action and the distance to the closest listing.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

The purpose of the proposed activities is to collect geophysical, benthic, archaeological, contamination and geotechnical information from the survey area as a basis for:

1. where required, providing ‘As Low As Reasonably Practicable’ (ALARP) unexploded UXO sign-off certificates for the geotechnical locations, following the strategy from the provided UXO desktop study
2. selecting and providing benthic, ecological and archaeological ground truthing and identification of contaminants to support the Environmental Impact Assessment
3. sediment process modelling
4. constraint analysis of all seabed features, obstructions, infrastructure and hazards (including UXO)
5. ground model development for use in engineering analysis
6. geotechnical interpretative reporting
7. export and inter-array cable preliminary design, layout optimisation and routing considering the soil profile down to a depth of 10 metres below seafloor.

A range of survey methods were considered for the proposed activities. Selection of the survey methods for the proposed activities focused on minimising any potential impacts to the marine environment. This was combined with the development of a suite of mitigation measures avoid any residual impacts from the proposed activities.

The proposed activities are required for the feasibility studies in accordance with the Feasibility Licence (FL-012) for the project. The proposed activities are critical to collect information to inform feasibility decisions and provide better environmental outcome for the ‘whole of project’ development.

The survey area is consistent with the Feasibility Licence (FL-012) and was selected after considering the potential environmental and social considerations, grid connection opportunities and constructability of the ‘whole of project’ development.

Timing for the proposed activities has been developed to support the wider program of works required to develop the project within the term of the Feasibility Licence.

The potential for additive impacts with future actions of the project with the proposed activities are expected to be unlikely due to the implementation of mitigation measures and temporary short-term nature of the proposed activities.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	12/09/2024	No	High

#2.	Link	An ecological risk assessment for the impacts of offshore wind farms on birds in Australia https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111..	High
#3.	Link	AODN Portal https://portal.aodn.org.au/	High
#4.	Link	Assessment of the Values of Victorias Marine Environment https://www.veac.vic.gov.au/investigations-asses..	High
#5.	Link	Atlas of Living Australia https://www.ala.org.au/	High
#6.	Link	Beagle Marine Park https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/south..	High
#7.	Link	Beagle Marine Park Post Survey Report: South-east Marine Parks Network https://www.nespmarine.edu.au/document/beagle-ma..	High
#8.	Link	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Impact Assessment https://www.jsia.net/6_assessment/fastips/SP3_Bi..	High
#9.	Link	Biologically Important Areas for protected marine species (BIAs) https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/marine/bias	High
#10.	Link	BirdLife International http://www.birdlife.org/	High
#11.	Link	Burrunan dolphin Tursiops australis https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-th..	High
#12.	Link	CoastKit Victoria https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/coastkit/	High
#13.	Link	data.gov.au https://data.gov.au	High
#14.	Link	Effects of Offshore Wind Farms on Suspended Particulate Matter Derived from Satellite Remote	High

		Sensing https://elsevier-ssrn-document-store-prod.s3.ama..	
#15.	Link	Facts about New Zealand Fur Seals https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/ma..	High
#16.	Link	FFG Act Threatened List https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-th..	High
#17.	Link	IUCN Red List of Threatened Species https://www.iucnredlist.org/	High
#18.	Link	Kent Group National Park https://parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/kent-..	High
#19.	Link	Listing Advice Seriolella brama blue warehou https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..	High
#20.	Link	Ministerial guidelines for assessment of environmental effects under the Environment Effects Act 1 https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pd..	High
#21.	Link	Movements and behaviour of blue whales satellite tagged in an Australian upwelling system https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-78143-2	High
#22.	Link	National Recovery Plan for the Orange-bellied Parrot, Neophema chrysogaster https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversi..	High
#23.	Link	National Recovery Plan for the Swift Parrot Lathamus discolor https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/fil..	High
#24.	Link	NationalMap https://www.ga.gov.au/scientific-topics/national..	High
#25.	Link	Ninety Mile Beach Marine National Park https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks..	High
#26.	Link	OSIG Guidance Notes https://sut.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/OSIG-..	High
#27.	Link		

		Pelican Marine Habitat Siesmic Survey report prepared by Advisian for CarbonNet EPBC Referral http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/_entity/an..	High
#28.	Link	Seamap Australia https://seamapaustralia.org/	High
#29.	Link	Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publi..	High
#30.	Link	Species Profile and Threats Database https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/pub..	High
#31.	Link	Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service https://parks.tas.gov.au/	High
#32.	Link	The Protected Matters Search Tool https://pmst.awe.gov.au/	High
#33.	Link	Trophic niches of a seabird assemblage in Bass Strait, south-eastern Australia https://peerj.com/articles/8700/	High
#34.	Link	Wilsons Promontory National Park https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks..	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	12/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	12/08/2024	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3_Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy.pdf Iberdrola Australia's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy	27/04/2023	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	Att 4_Environment Policy.pdf Iberdrola Australia's Environment Policy	02/10/2024	No	High
#2.	Link	2023 Sustainability Report https://www.iberdrola.com.au/assets/2023-Sustain..			High
#3.	Link	Iberdrola Biodiversity Policy https://www.iberdrola.com/corporate-governance/g..			High
#4.	Link	Iberdrola Environmental Policy https://www.iberdrola.com/corporate-governance/g..			High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS) https://achris.vic.gov.au/#/dashboard			High
#2.	Link	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation https://gunaikurnai.org/			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	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024	No	High

4.1.4.6 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024		High

4.1.5.2 (Migratory Species) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024	No	High

4.1.5.6 (Migratory Species) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024	No	High

4.1.5.9 (Migratory Species) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024	No	High

4.1.5.10 (Migratory Species) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitive	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024	No	High

4.1.7.6 (Commonwealth Marine Area) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitive	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024	No	High

4.1.7.9 (Commonwealth Marine Area) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitive	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology	11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024	No	High
#3.	Link	Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements Version 8 https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/fil..			High
#4.	Link	National biofouling management guidelines for commercial vessels https://www.marinepests.gov.au/sites/default/fil..			High

4.1.7.10 (Commonwealth Marine Area) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitive	Confidence
#1.	Document				

	Att 1_Marine Ecology Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Marine Ecology		11/08/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Underwater Noise Report.pdf Desktop Significant Impact Assessment of Underwater Noise	11/08/2024	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	667065689
Organisation name	IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA OW 2 PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Claire Single
Representative's job title	Executive Manager ESG & Approvals
Phone	0459896174
Email	claire.single@iberdrola.com.au
Address	Level 22 Governor Phillip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000

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

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

☑ By checking this box, I, **Claire Single of IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA OW 2 PTY LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

Same as Referring party information.

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

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

☑ I, **Claire Single of IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA OW 2 PTY 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. *

☑ I, **Claire Single of IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA OW 2 PTY LIMITED**, the Person proposing the action, consent to the designation of **Claire Single of IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA OW 2 PTY LIMITED** as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☑ I, **Claire Single of IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA OW 2 PTY 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. *

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