# Peninsula Solar Farm

Application Number: 02744

Commencement Date: 16/01/2025

Status: Locked

# 1. About the project

## 1.1 Project details

### 1.1.1 Project title \*

Peninsula Solar Farm

### 1.1.2 Project industry type \*

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

### 1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Solar Farm

#### 1.1.4 Estimated start date \*

17/08/2026

#### 1.1.4 Estimated end date \*

17/08/2048

## 1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Edify Energy Pty Ltd (Edify) has development approval for the proposed Peninsula Solar Farm (Peninsula SF), located within the Forbes Shire Council local government area in the Forbes region of central-western New South Wales (NSW)

The Peninsula Solar Farm (Peninsula SF) is an 80-megawatt (MW) alternating current (MWac) project with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a discharge capacity of 80 MW and energy storage capacity of 160 megawatt hours (MWh). Project infrastructure will include solar panels, inverters, transformers, underground cabling, an integrated BESS up to 80 MW/160 MWh, site office and maintenance building, access tracks, road and electrical easement crossings, perimeter security fencing, landscaping and a substation to connect the solar farm to the existing overhead transmission line. See Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024. p1 and Table 1.1

The project area will be occupied by project facilities, with approximately 74% of this area covered by solar arrays. The need for any excavation work or use of concrete is low. The area of direct ground disturbance is less than 5% of the area occupied by the arrays.

The project proposal would clear up to 0.23 ha of native vegetation (PCT 267) within the Project area and a further 0.07 ha of PCT 201 within the road reserve at the intersection of Lachlan Valley Way and Payten's Bridge Road. Edify intends to satisfy their Ecosystem and Species credit obligations by buying and retiring the necessary Ecosystem Credits from the open market or, if not available, by paying directly into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund. **See Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024. pdf p460** 

Project Site Approximately 205.6 ha, comprising.

- 157.8 ha Lot 441
- 47.8 ha Lot 9

**Project Footprint** 

Approximately 179.1 ha, comprising:

- 139.0 ha Lot 441
- 40.1 ha Lot 9

See Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024. Table 1.1

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

No

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

Key legislation, regulations and planning instruments of relevance to the determination of the development application for the proposed Peninsula SF project are listed in *Link #1 Peninsula\_SPS\_EIS\_28Sep2022 Table 4.1. p.87* 

Additionally, State and local legislation has been outlined below.

#### Commonwealth legislation

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. This referral addresses the potential impact on matters of national environmental significance and whether the Project is likely or not to be a controlled action requiring environmental approval.
- Native Title Act 1993. A review of the potential for native title will be undertaken for the Project. The Project Area is not located within the boundaries of a native title claim or determination.

#### State (NSW) legislation

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Under Section 4.2, the Project requires land use and development consent in accordance with Clause 2.35 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2007, being a development of "electricity generating works" in a prescribed zone (RU1). Specifically, the Project is a state significant development in accordance with Section 2.6(1) of the Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021 (Planning Systems SEPP).
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Under Section 7.9, a biodiversity development assessment report (BDAR) must be prepared because the Project is a State Significant Development.

#### **Bilateral Arrangements**

The Bilateral Agreement established between the Commonwealth and NSW Governments allows the Federal Minister for the Environment to rely on the NSW environmental impact assessment processes when assessing actions under the EPBC Act. The Bilateral Agreement applies to certain types of major projects under the EPBA Act including projects for State Significant Development that also require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth may elect to issue supplementary assessment requirements to address specific matters not covered by the Bilateral Agreement.

The Bilateral Agreement allows for the use of the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) to address any residual impacts arising from the Project. Offsets are determined by application of the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method and associated Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator to the satisfaction of the NSW Environment Agency head and Minister for Planning

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. \*

#### Community (Host Landowners and Project Neighbours.)

### See Att 3. Community Consultation and Engagement Plan - Peninsula - Jan 2025

Adjacent landholders and those situated within 4kms of the Study Area were initially contacted via registered mail containing Project specific materials including an introductory letter, concept site map, and FAQs, to inform them about the Project and to offer project briefings. Following the registered mailout, various calls and emails were placed with neighbouring landholders.

Edify has provided initial answers to community enquiries, with key areas of discussion including:

- Visual amenity changes to the site.
- Fragmentation and isolation of agricultural land.
- Site access roads and their usage.
- The viability of grazing sheep within the solar farm ('Agri-solar').
- Implications for neighbouring landholders regarding insurance or property values; and
- Alternative sites and other potential projects occurring in the area.

## **Government Agencies**

Since the exhibition period of the EIS ended on 26 October 2022, Edify has consulted with a number of parties with an interest in the proposed project. The details of these engagement activities are noted in **Att 2. PeninsulaSF\_Amendment report Table 5.1 p 28** 

## Aboriginal Community

See Att 4 Edify First Nations Engagement and Communications Plan - Peninsula 2025

# 1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

#### **Privacy Notice:**

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

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

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

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

See our Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, email us at privacy@awe.gov.au.

#### Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice \*

#### 1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? \*

Yes

Referring party organisation details		
ABN/ACN	85606684995	
Organisation name	EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.	
Organisation address	Level 4, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095	
Referring party details		
Name	adam smith	
Job title	Senior Development Manager	
Phone	0424256951	
Email	adam.smith@edifyenergy.com	
Address	Level 4, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095	

# 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	85606684995	
Organisation name	EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.	
Organisation address	Level 4, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095	
Person proposing to take	e the action details	
Name	adam smith	
Job title	Senior Development Manager	
Phone	0424256951	
Email	adam.smith@edifyenergy.com	
Address	Level 4, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095	

#### 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. \*

- Edify Energy Pty Lt has previously referred the following actions under the EPBC Act:
- Gannawarra Solar Farm Development, Vic (2016/7807)
- Solar Farm development, north-west of Collinsville, Qld (2016/7824)
- Stage 2 Solar Farm Development, north-west of Collinsville, Queensland (2017/7904)
- Majors Creek Solar Farm, south of Townsville, Queensland (2017/7963)
- Darlington Point Solar Farm, near Darlington Point, NSW (2018/8218)
- Smoky Creek Solar Farm (2021/9030)
- EGH2 Green Hydrogen Project (2023/09604)
- Callide Solar Power Station, near Biloela, Queensland (2024/09863)
- Muskerry Solar Power Station, near Muskerry, Queensland (2024/09964)
- Pleystowe Battery Energy Storage System, west of Mackay, Queensland (2024/09971

Edify Energy has a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management in Australia. There are currently no proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against Edify Energy.

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

Edify Energy commits to undertake all activities in accordance with the Edify Energy Best Practice Charter. See Att 5- Edify Energy Best Practice Charter. The Proponent is deemed to have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management and will act in accordance with any state and federal requirements for the Project. The Proponent has previously referred the following actions under the EPBC Act:

- Gannawarra Solar Farm Development, Vic (2016/7807)
- Solar Farm development, north-west of Collinsville, Qld (2016/7824)
- Stage 2 Solar Farm Development, north-west of Collinsville, Queensland (2017/7904)
- Majors Creek Solar Farm, south of Townsville, Queensland (2017/7963)
- Darlington Point Solar Farm, near Darlington Point, NSW (2018/8218)
- Smoky Creek Solar Farm, north of Biloela, Queensland (2021/9030)
- EGH2 Green Hydrogen Project, south of Townsville, Queensland (2023/09604)
- Callide Solar Power Station, near Biloela, Queensland (2024/09863)
- Muskerry Solar Power Station, near Muskerry, Queensland (2024/09964)
- Pleystowe Battery Energy Storage System, west of Mackay, Queensland (2024/09971)

## 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	85606684995
Organisation name	EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	Level 4, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095
Proposed designated pro	oponent details
Name	adam smith
Job title	Senior Development Manager
Phone	0424256951
Email	adam.smith@edifyenergy.com
Address	Level 4, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095

## 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	85606684995
Organisation name	EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	Level 4, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095
Representative's name	adam smith
Representative's job title	Senior Development Manager
Phone	0424256951
Email	adam.smith@edifyenergy.com
Address	Level 4, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095

### 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

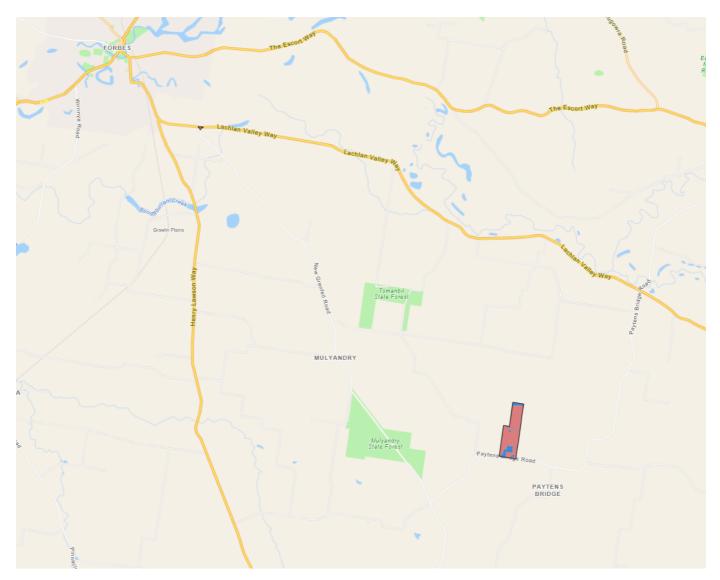
## 1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Proposed designated proponent

# 2. Location

# 2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 205.64 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 177.32 Ha Avoidance Area: 28.33 Ha

## 2.2 Footprint details

#### 2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? \*

Payten's Bridge Road, Mulyandry NSW 2871

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

New South Wales

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

No

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

Edify has executed an option to lease and option to purchase contract with the two respective Landowners of the project site. The project land is freehold.

# 3. Existing environment

# 3.1 Physical description

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

The project area consists of three separate lots in the Forbes Local Government Area (LGA):

#### Solar Farm Site

The development footprint of the proposed solar farm spans up to 179.1 hectares (ha) over two lots (Lot 441 DP1124885 and Lot 9 DP752938). A small section of Lot 441 DP1124885 has also been earmarked for use as an access point. The solar farm site is located approximately 28 km southeast of Forbes, New South Wales (NSW). The land is zoned RU1 – Primary Production and there will be no changes to zoning for this activity.

The solar farm site has been subjected to extensive historical clearing. Consequently, vegetation within the subject land consists of small wooded remnants, isolated paddock trees, derived grassland, and non-native vegetation. At present, the solar farm site operates as both grazing and cropping land.

The initial assessment recorded three Plant Community Types (PCTs) on the solar farm site:

- PCT 76 Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils in the NSW South Western Slopes and Riverina Bioregions,
- PCT 267 White Box White Cypress Pine Western Grey Box shrub/grass/forb woodland in the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion, and
- PCT 282 Blakely's Red Gum White Box Yellow Box Black Cypress Pine box grass/shrub woodland on clay loam soils on undulating hills of central NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion.

Subsequently, areas of PCT 76 and PCT 282 were excised from the impact footprint and only PCT 267 now occurs within the solar farm site. Two distinct condition classes were recognised, designated 267\_Good and 267\_Moderate. In total, 0.23 ha of PCT 267 remain within the footprint, comprising 0.21 ha of 267\_Moderate and 0.02 ha of 267\_Good. Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024 p.31 of Appendix I (BDAR) (pdf p391 of entire document)

No watercourses are mapped as occurring within the solar farm site. However, nine minor, non-perennial watercourses are mapped within the solar farm study area, comprising six Strahler 1st order streams, two Strahler 2nd order streams, and one Strahler 4th order stream (Mulyandry Creek). Mulyandry Creek (500 m north of the site) contains both Key Fish Habitat (KFH), as recognised by the Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries (DPI), and Protected Riparian Land (PRL), as recognised by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW). No impacts to these waterways as a result of this proposal are anticipated.

#### Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024 p 31 of Appendix I

#### New Grenfell Rd and Lachlan Valley Way Intersection

The development footprint of the proposed intersection upgrade at New Grenfell Rd and Lachlan Valley Way is 0.61 ha in size. The intersection is located approximately 6 km southeast of Forbes, NSW. The land is zoned SP2 – Classified Road and there will be no changes to zoning for this activity.

The surrounding landscape has been subjected to extensive historical clearing for agricultural purposes. Therefore, remnant vegetation is now largely restricted to isolated paddock trees, riparian zones, fence boundaries, and road corridors.

Assessment of the intersection site identified areas of Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*)-dominated woodland outside the final impact footprint. Historical aerial imagery shows that the site appeared to host substantially more woody vegetation in 1993. However, vegetation within the site now consists entirely of a poor-quality derived grassland in which native species comprise only c. 7.6% of total cover.

Considering the adjacent areas of Grey Box dominated woodland, vegetation within the site was assigned to PCT 76 - Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils in the NSW South Western Slopes and Riverina Bioregions. In accordance with the BAM, this PCT was further stratified into vegetation zones. Only vegetation zone 76\_Poor occurs within the site, accounting for 0.21 ha of the disturbance footprint. **Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025 p 137 Appendix E** 

No watercourses are mapped as occurring within New Grenfell Rd and Lachlan Valley Way intersection site. However, two natural watercourses occur within the intersection study area, comprising one Strahler 1st order minor, non-perennial watercourses, and one Strahler 1st order major, non-perennial watercourse (Bundaburrah Creek). Of these, Bundaburrah Creek (980 m east of the site) contains both KFH and PRL. No impacts to these waterways as a result of this proposal are anticipated. Refer **Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025 p 130 Appendix E** 

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

The project site is highly modified due to its history of agriculture and grazing and is currently comprised of both crops and grazing land. The site is generally flat, with undulating rises towards the southern section of the site.

The project will alter the current land use from agriculture to energy generation and storage, thereby reducing the availability of land for agriculture during project operation. During the construction period, agricultural land use on the project site (i.e. the secured land) will be interrupted. Following construction and a resting period of approximately one year, Edify anticipates that approximately 1,000 merino sheep will be introduced to graze within the project boundary.

Once the project has been decommissioned at the end of its operational life, all above-ground infrastructure will be removed, underground infrastructure (e.g. electrical cabling) will be removed to a depth of 1000 mm, and the land rehabilitated to a safe, stable and non-polluting state. It is anticipated that the pre-existing land use will be re-established following rehabilitation, unless otherwise agreed with the landowner and/or regulatory authorities.

See link #1 section 6.5.4 p 155

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

The site does not contain any currently listed Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value or outstanding natural features

The project site has been subjected to extensive historical clearing, and non-development zones have been designated by Edify within the project site to exclude most of the remaining native vegetation from project-related disturbance. Consequently, biodiversity impacts have been substantially reduced due to site selection and design. Vegetation to be disturbed consists primarily of isolated paddock trees, derived grassland and non-native vegetation

#### Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024 Section 3.6 and 3.7 pdf p. 383

# 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 project area is generally flat terrain that has been cultivated for cropping, the slope is on average 2.5% North to South and 2% East to West

## 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.

Detailed field investigations have been undertaken by OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) across the project area to inform this referral. The results of these investigations are provided in two Biodiversity Development Assessment Reports (BDARs), Att 2.Peninsula Solar Farm Amendment Report 2024, Appendix I (BDAR) and Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025 which include detailed assessments against the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (EPBC Act).

#### Solar Farm Site

The proposed solar farm site has undergone extensive historical clearing for agriculture, leaving only small patches of native vegetation, mainly along road corridors and as isolated paddock trees. Native vegetation cover across the site is estimated at 10-30%, including some intermittent native grassland and woody remnants. Key connectivity features in the surrounding landscape include Paytens Bridge Road and small remnants that may support fauna movement between larger forested areas and national parks, although their narrow and fragmented nature limits effectiveness.

No wetlands are present on-site, and the closest mapped wetlands are over 3.5 km away. Nine minor, nonperennial watercourses and one major perennial watercourse (Lachlan River) occur within the study area, with the Lachlan River and Mulyandry Creek designated as Key Fish Habitat and Protected Riparian Land. These waterways are not expected to be impacted, as the nearest mapped watercourse is approximately 170 m away, and standard sediment control measures will be implemented to mitigate runoff risks. **See Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024 appendix I (BDAR) pdf p. 384-390** 

A total of 10 flora species listed as threatened under the EPBC Act were identified by the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) search conducted for the project area with a 10 km buffer. No threatened flora species were identified during field surveys. Furthermore, targeted searches were undertaken for one threatened flora species with potentially suitable habitat (*Swainsona recta*), though no plants of this species were recorded.

A likelihood of occurrence assessment was conducted for the flora species identified by the PMST. This assessment considered the species known ranges, preferred habitat, project site characteristics, and results of the field surveys. The assessment determined that all flora species identified by the PMST are considered unlikely to occur within the solar farm site.

PCT 267 is associated with the following EPBC Act-listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs):

- Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC): White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland, and
- Endangered Ecological Community (EEC): Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-Eastern Australia.

No vegetation zones met the criteria to be considered an example of an EPBC Act-listed TEC. Reasons for excluding each zone included the scarcity of native non-grass species in the understorey (267\_Mod), the absence of a listed "important" species for this CEEC (267\_Good and 267\_Mod), the scarcity of mature trees, and the absence of natural regeneration. See Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024 appendix I (BDAR) pdf p. 395

A total of 42 threatened fauna species and 11 migratory listed bird species were identified by the PMST database search.

A likelihood of occurrence assessment for the remaining threatened and/or migratory species determined that all other fauna species identified by the PMST are considered unlikely to occur within the solar farm site

**New Grenfell Road and Lachlan Valley Way Intersection (Traffic and Transport Modification)** A total of seven flora species listed as threatened under the EPBC Act were identified by the EPBC PMST search conducted for the project area with a 10 km buffer. No threatened flora species were identified during field surveys. Furthermore, targeted searches were undertaken for one threatened flora species with potentially suitable habitat (Swainsona murrayana), though no plants of this species were recorded.

A likelihood of occurrence assessment was conducted for the flora species identified by the PMST (refer to BDAR). The assessment determined that a spear-grass species (Austrostipa wakoolica - Endangered) and Spiny Peppercress (Lepidium aschersonii - Vulnerable) have the potential to occur within the Grenfell Road and Lachlan Valley Way Intersection. All other flora species identified by the PMST are considered unlikely to occur within the intersection.

PCT 76 is associated with the following EPBC Act-listed TEC:

• EEC: Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-Eastern Australia.

Zone 76\_Poor does not meet the more stringent conditions imposed by the EPBC Act listing, owing to the depauperate condition of the vegetation (See Att 6 Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025 Appendix E p175)

In total, 25 species credit species were generated by the BAM-C. After consideration of geographical and habitat constraints, 17 species could be discounted due to the absence of features necessary for breeding. A further four species were eliminated by targeted survey. Four remaining species – the Sloane's Froglet (Crinia sloanei), A Spear-grass (Austrostipa wakoolica), Spike-rush (Eleocharis obicis), and Spiny Peppercress (Lepidium aschersonii) – could not be ruled out by constraints or surveys and have been assumed present, generating a total of five (5) species credits (**See Att 6 Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025 Appendix E p175**)

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

#### Solar Farm Site

The solar farm site is mapped as occurring within a kurosol, chromosol and kandosol soil area (eSPADE 2025). The Australian Soil Classification (CSIRO 2021) describes these soil groups as follows (Att. 7 Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR Table 3.2 p.29)

- Kurosols are soils with a clear or abrupt textural B horizon and in which the major part of the upper 0.2 m of the B2t horizon (or the major part of the entire B2t horizon if it is less than 0.2 m thick) is strongly acid.
- Chromosols are soils that:
  - are either calcareous throughout the solum or calcareous at least directly below the A1 or Ap horizon, or within a depth of 0.2 m (whichever is shallower). Carbonate accumulations must be judged to be pedogenic i.e. they are a result of soil forming processes in situ (either current or relict). Soils dominated by non pedogenic calcareous materials such as particles of limestone or shells are excluded
  - do not have deep sandy profiles that have a field texture of sand, loamy sand or clayey sand in 80% or more of the upper 1.0 m
- Kandosols are soils that have, within the upper 1.0 m of the soil profile:
  - a sandy field texture (i.e. a field texture of sand, loamy sand or clayey sand) in one or more layers or horizons with a combined thickness of at least 0.8 m
  - no layer with a clay content that exceeds 15% (i.e. heavy sandy loam [SL+] or heavier) excluding argic horizon/s
  - ≤10% (by visual abundance and weighted average) of coarse fragments and/or hard segregations >2 mm in size
  - no hard layers (cemented pans, other cemented materials, rock or saprock that do not soften when moist).

The site has been subjected to extensive historical clearing. Consequently, native vegetation within the subject land consists of small wooded remnants, isolated paddock trees, and derived grassland.

Areas of PCT 267\_Good within the solar farm site were characterised by: (Att. 7 Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR p.36)

- Woodland featuring a canopy of White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*), Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), and Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*).
- Midstorey sparse but featuring the associated species Wingless Bluebush (*Maireana enchylaenoides*).
- Groundcover similarly sparse but featuring the associated grass species *Rytidosperma caespitosum* (syn. *Austrodanthonia caespitosa*), *Enteropogon acicularis*, and *Austrostipa scabra*, as well as the associated forbs *Einadia nutans* and *Vittadinia cuneata*.

Areas of PCT 267\_Moderate within the solar farm site were characterised by:

- Canopy cover 10 30% (mean 19%), dominated by White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*) or Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*).
- Midstorey sparse or absent but in places featuring the associated species Wingless Bluebush (*Maireana enchylaenoides*).
- Groundcover sparse and frequently invaded by weeds but possessing a similar spectrum of grass and forb species to the good condition PCT, including the associated species *Einadia nutans* and *Enteropogon acicularis*.

#### New Grenfell Rd and Lachlan Valley Way Intersection

(Att. 6 Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025 S7.4.3 p.29)

The New Grenfell Rd and Lachlan Valley Way intersection is mapped as occurring within a chromosol soil area (eSPADE 2025). This soil group is described above.

The surrounding landscape has been subjected to extensive historical clearing for agricultural purposes. Therefore, remnant vegetation is now largely restricted to isolated paddock trees, riparian zones, fence boundaries, and road corridors.

Assessment of the intersection site identified areas of Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*)-dominated woodland outside the final impact footprint. Historical aerial imagery shows that the site appeared to host substantially more woody vegetation in 1993. However, vegetation within the site now consists entirely of a poor-quality derived grassland in which native species comprise only c. 7.6% of total cover.

Areas of PCT 76\_Poor within the intersection were characterised by:

- A grassland presumed to have been derived from a former Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) woodland. The grassland has been intensively colonised by non-native species, chiefly grasses in the genera *Lolium* and *Avena*, but also a range of invasive forbs, among them Prickly Lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*) and Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*).
- Native species within the grassland are typically confined to wet depressions and table drains and are therefore predominantly wet-area species, including rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Knob Sedge (*Carex inversa*), Poison Pratia (*Lobelia concolor*), Ferny Buttercup (*Ranunculus pumilio*), Hyssop Loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*), and Native Millet (*Panicum decompositum*).

# 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.

No Commonwealth, National or World Heritage places were identified in or within 5 km of the Project Area or through the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST).

See Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024 appendix K (Historic Heritage) pdf p.687

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

The project is in the Forbes region, within the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri People, who have a deep cultural connection to the land, waterways, and environment. Their ancestral lands span from the Blue Mountains in the east to the Bogan River in the west, and from the Lachlan River in the north to the Murrumbidgee River in the south.

#### Cultural Heritage of the Wiradjuri People

The Wiradjuri's cultural heritage is deeply tied to the landscape, including:

- Sacred Sites: Natural features such as rock formations, waterholes, and scar trees mark significant spiritual places used for ceremonies and Dreamtime connections. Within a 20km radius of the Peninsula SPS, 76 sites have been identified.
- Traditional Practices: Hunting, fishing, gathering, and fire management remain integral to their way of life.
- Storylines and Lore: Dreaming tracks and songlines crisscross the land, guiding spiritual understanding and linking sacred sites.

#### **Connection to Land and Environment**

Wiradjuri knowledge systems have been passed down for generations, incorporating sustainable land management, fire-stick farming, and seasonal harvesting. These practices maintain ecological balance and are central to their cultural identity.

#### **Historical and Current Impacts**

Land development has historically displaced the Wiradjuri and disrupted their cultural practices. However, the community continues to advocate for heritage protection, land preservation, and the revitalisation of traditional knowledge.

Preliminary desktop searches of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) conducted at the outset of the Project did not identify any Aboriginal sites within the Project area or the intersection upgrade area. One Aboriginal cultural heritage site, Peninsula IF-1 (an isolated find), was recorded during the survey of the Project area. **Att 8. Peninsula Solar Power Station\_ACHAR p. 53** 

#### **Site Selection Process**

During site selection, Edify conducted early and meaningful consultation with the Wiradjuri Traditional Owners to identify areas of cultural significance. This included on-Country visits and assessments to gather input. As a result, one artefact was identified and recorded in the project EIS, no other artefacts were identified

The land's suitability for renewable energy was assessed based on First Nations preferences, prioritising areas with minimal disruption to cultural / social and environmental values. The project ACHAR was issued to RAPs in October 2021, no feedback was received relating to the social or cultural value of the project site or artefact found.

#### **Project Layout Development**

The project concept layout was shown to the RAPs during the ACHA process and site walk for comment, no comments where received that required an amendment to the concept layout. Key considerations included

- Cultural Heritage Surveys, Conducted with First Nations representatives to identify and protect cultural heritage assets, informing infrastructure placement.
- Integration of Traditional Knowledge, Ecological knowledge guided land and environmental management decisions to align the layout with the natural landscape.

#### **Outcomes and Benefits**

As a result of this collaborative process, the selected site was shown to not include any culturally sensitive areas, with exception to the identified artefacts which will be collect by a RAP/s and reflects Traditional Owner preferences.

#### **Ongoing Engagement**

On September 9, 2024, a project update letter was sent to the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for the project to inform them of the proposed modification. The RAPs include the Cowra Local Aboriginal Land Council, Wiradjuri Council of Elders, Wiradjuri Cultural and Environmental Rangers, Russell Dunn, Ralph Smith, Monica Ingram, Yoorana Gunya, and two additional stakeholders.

No comments or cultural values concerning the modification area were provided in response. However, Rob Clegg, representing the

Wiradjuri Council of Elders, participated in the site survey conducted on September 24, 2024.

No Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or landforms considered to have subsurface potential were identified in the survey. Additionally, no cultural values were identified by the Wiradjuri Council of Elders representative. The lack of Aboriginal sites is unsurprising given the landscape context, the levels of previous disturbance, and the limited, linear nature of the assessed area (See Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report S7.4.4 p. 32)

The Aboriginal heritage values of the project Area are further detailed and delineated as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) under preparation for the Project EIS **See Att 8 Peninsula Solar Power Station ACHAR** 

# 3.4 Hydrology

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

The project area is located within the Lachlan River catchment. The Lachlan River is a major tributary of the Murrumbidgee River, which in turn flows into the Murray River which reaches the coast at Murray Mouth in South Australia, approximately 880 km southwest of the site.

The Lachlan River and its tributaries also form part of an EEC - The natural drainage system of the lowland catchment of the Lachlan River. This EEC includes all native fish and aquatic invertebrates within all natural rivers, creeks, streams and associated lagoons, billabongs, lakes, wetlands, paleo-channels, flood-runners, floodplains and effluent streams of the Lachlan River

The project area occurs >500 km upstream from the nearest Ramsar wetland (Hattah-kulkyne Lakes).

#### Solar Farm Site

Surface water within the solar farm site drains towards Mulyandry Creek (approximately 520 m to the north) which flows northwest into the Lachlan River approximately 8 km from the site.

The Bureau of Meteorology Atlas of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems identified areas of low potential for interaction with terrestrial GDEs within the solar farm site and surrounding study area. No high- or moderate-potential terrestrial GDEs occur within this area and no aquatic GDEs are mapped within the study area (See Att 7. Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR p.32/330

#### New Grenfell Rd and Lachlan Valley Way Intersection

Surface water within the New Grenfell Rd and Lachlan Valley Way intersection flows north into the Lachlan River, located approximately 1.6 km from the site. There are no mapped watercourses within the modification area.

The probable vegetation GDE mapping for the Lachlan region (NSW DCCEEW 2022) identified small areas of low and moderate potential terrestrial GDEs within the intersection site (See Att 6. Peninsula SF Modification Report Appendix E p.130)

# 4. Impacts and mitigation

# 4.1 Impact details

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

EPBC Act			<b>D</b> . 1 1
section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	No	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

## 4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

\*

There are no World Heritage properties within or adjacent to the Project Area.

The closest World Heritage property, Greater Blue Mountains Area, occurs approximately 170 km east of the Project Area. As such, it is highly unlikely that the proposed action will have a direct and/or indirect impact on a World Heritage property.

See Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024 Appendix I Table 3-1 pdf p.380

## 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 properties within or adjacent to the Project Area.

The closest National Heritage property, the Parkes Observatory, occurs approximately 50 km north of the Project Area. As such, it is highly unlikely that the proposed action will have a direct and/or indirect impact on a National Heritage property.

See Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024 appendix K, s2.1.1.1 pdf p. 687

## 4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

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

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

No

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

\*

There are no Ramsar Wetlands within or adjacent to the Project Area.

The closest Ramsar Wetland, Hattah-kulkyne Lakes, occurs 500 - 600 km downstream of the Project Area. As such, it is highly unlikely that the proposed action will have a direct and/or indirect impact on a Ramsar Wetland.

See Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report 2024 appendix I (BDAR) Table 3-1 pdf p. 380

## 4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

#### **Threatened species**

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Anthochaera phrygia	Regent Honeyeater
No	No	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
No	No	Aprasia parapulchella	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	Austrostipa metatoris	
No	No	Austrostipa wakoolica	
No	No	Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
No	No	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
Yes	Yes	Crinia sloanei	Sloane's Froglet
No	No	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Leipoa ocellata	Malleefowl
Yes	Yes	Lepidium aschersonii	Spiny Peppercress
No	No	Lepidium monoplocoides	Winged Pepper-cress

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (eastern), Eastern Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
No	No	Macquaria australasica	Macquarie Perch
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Nyctophilus corbeni	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
No	No	Pedionomus torquatus	Plains-wanderer
No	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
Yes	Yes	Polytelis swainsonii	Superb Parrot
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Swainsona murrayana	Slender Darling-pea, Slender Swainson, Murray Swainson-pea
No	No	Vincetoxicum forsteri	

## **Ecological communities**

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia
No	No	Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains
No	No	Weeping Myall Woodlands
Yes	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

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

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

#### **Direct Impact**

The proposed action will result in the clearing of 0.51 ha of native vegetation which is potential habitat for the above and below listed MNES (Sloanes Froglet, Spiny Peppercress, Suburb Parrot).

#### **Indirect Impacts**

The main impacts of the proposal are expected to be contained within the subject land, provided there is adequate demarcation between operational and non-operational areas. Possible indirect impacts are outlined in **Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report Table 6-4 p447** Disturbance from machinery and operational activities will occur, such as noise and dust. However, these impacts will be minimised by following the environmental safeguards proposed in **Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report Table 6-4 p447 Disturbance from Table 6-2 p446** 

#### **Relevant MNES**

#### Crinia sloanei - Sloane's Froglet

No records of this species occur within 60 km of the intersection. However, the field survey identified up to 0.21 ha of potential Sloane's Froglet habitat (wetland or wet grassland habitat) within the New Grenfell Rd and Lachlan Valley Way intersection (PCT 76), chiefly in table drains and small depressions. As targeted surveys were unable to be conducted during the appropriate survey window, this species has been assumed present at the intersection.

#### Polytelis swainsoni – Superb Parrot

The field survey identified up to 0.30 ha of potential Superb Parrot habitat (PCTs 201 and 267). Furthermore, male and female Superb Parrots were detected on the solar farm site during their breeding season. Although no fledglings were observed and no breeding pairs were observed entering or exiting hollows, the species is assumed to breed on the site as there are suitable hollows present and the birds were present on site during the breeding season.

#### Austrostipa wakoolica - A Spear-grass (intersections)

Considering the small scale of the proposed impact (0.28 ha), the highly modified and managed nature of the relevant vegetation (roadside verge), and the availability of superior habitat immediately adjacent to the sites, no long-term decrease in the size of any population should be anticipated. As such, the proposed action is unlikely to significantly impact this species.

#### Lepidium aschersonii – Spiny peppercress

This species has not been recorded within 10 km of the project area. However, the field survey identified up to 0.21 ha of potential *Lepidium aschersonii* habitat (PCT 76) within the New Grenfell Rd and Lachlan Valley Way intersection. As targeted surveys were unable to be conducted during the appropriate survey window, this species has been assumed present at the intersection.

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

## 4.1.4.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. $^{\star}$

Full tests of significance have been completed in accordance with the EPBC Guidelines within the BDARs. The tests are summarised below.

#### Crinia sloanei - Sloane's Froglet (intersection)

No records of this species occur within 60 km of the intersection. Furthermore, habitat within the subject land is of marginal suitability for this species, given its overwhelmingly non-native composition and its proximity to a sealed road. While some wetland or wet grassland habitat does occur within the site, chiefly in table drains and small depressions, this has been colonised by invasive plant species. Impacts associated with vehicle strike and contaminated runoff also present significant threats to any amphibian species and suggest that Sloane's Froglet is unlikely to occupy the site. As such, the proposed action is unlikely to significantly impact this species. **(See Att. 6 Peninsula Modification Report** Appendix E BDAR, Appendix D: EPBC Act Habitat Assessment and Matters of National Environmental Significance, pdf p. 237)

#### Polytelis swainsoni – Superb Parrot (solar farm site)

Although male and female Superb Parrots were detected on the solar farm site during their breeding season, no fledglings were observed, and no breeding pairs were observed entering or exiting hollows. Furthermore, the site is neither at the limit of the species' range nor within a core breeding area for the species. As such, the population recorded on site does not fit the definition of an important population under the EPBC Act.

As the species was recorded in both the disturbed (including the agricultural crop) and the better-quality remnants assessed during the site surveys, it is likely that the parrot will continue to use the disturbed understorey for foraging, once construction has concluded. Further, the woodland has been excluded from the development footprint. As such, the proposed action is unlikely to significantly impact this species. (See Att. 6 Peninsula Modification Report Appendix E BDAR, Appendix D: EPBC Act Habitat Assessment and Matters of National Environmental Significance, pdf p. 234)

#### Austrostipa metatoris - A Spear-grass (intersection)

As the species has not been recorded within c. 114 km of the subject land, any local population would be considered important by virtue of representing a substantial range extension for the species. However, considering the extreme distance between the site and any known population, it is extremely unlikely that any population does occur within the site.

None of the associated canopy species were recorded within PCT 201 and the site does not conform to descriptions of typical habitat for this species, namely sandhills and ridges, undulating plains, and mallee communities. Instead, the occurrence of PCT 201 is situated on a flat alluvial plain. Additionally, the disturbance footprint is confined to a small area of highly modified grassland on a road verge, and it is highly unlikely that this would support a population of this species. As such, the proposed action is unlikely to significantly impact this species. (See Att. 6 Peninsula Modification Report Appendix E BDAR, Appendix D: EPBC Act Habitat Assessment and Matters of National Environmental Significance, pdf p. 240)

#### Austrostipa wakoolica - A Spear-grass (intersection)

Considering the small scale of the proposed impact (0.28 ha), the highly modified and managed nature of the relevant vegetation (roadside verge), and the availability of superior habitat immediately adjacent to the sites, no long-term decrease in the size of any population should be anticipated. As such, the proposed action is unlikely to significantly impact this species. (See Att. 6 Peninsula Modification Report Appendix E BDAR, Appendix D: EPBC Act Habitat Assessment and Matters of National Environmental Significance, pdf p. 240)

### Lepidium aschersonii – Spiny peppercress (intersection)

As the species has not been recorded within c. 78 km of the subject land, any local population would be considered important by virtue of representing a substantial range extension for the species. However, considering the extreme distance between the site and any known population, it is extremely unlikely that any population does occur within the site.

This species is usually found on ridges of gilgai clays dominated by Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*), Belah (*Casuarina cristata*), Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmanii*) and Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*). Often the understorey is dominated by introduced plants. While an associated species (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) occurs nearby and the understorey is dominated by introduced species, no gilgais occur within the site. (See Att. 6 Peninsula Modification Report Appendix E BDAR, Appendix D: EPBC Act Habitat Assessment and Matters of National Environmental Significance, pdf p. 241)

Considering the small scale of the proposed impact (0.21 ha), the highly modified and managed nature of the relevant vegetation (roadside verge), and the availability of superior habitat immediately adjacent to the site, no long-term decrease in the size of any population should be anticipated. As such, the proposed action is unlikely to significantly impact this species.

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

No

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

\*

Significant impacts to threatened species and ecological communities as a result of direct disturbance are unlikely, and any potential indirect impacts will be appropriately managed through implementation of mitigation measures. The proposed action is not expected to be a controlled action for listed threatened species or ecological communities.

Att 2 Peninsula SF Amendment Report S6.9 pdf p. 450

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. \*

An overview of avoidance and mitigation measures for the proposed action are provided below. Refer to both BDARs for significant impact assessments for MNES, including details of avoidance and mitigation.

### Avoidance

The footprint of the solar farm site has been reduced in the planning phase to minimise impact to native vegetation. Many of the highest-quality woodlands, including all of PCT 282, have been excluded from the impact footprint. This includes all areas that were found to meet the threshold criteria for the EPBC Act-listed CEEC White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland and derived native grassland.

PCT 76 – Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils in the NSW South Western Slopes and Riverina Bioregions was present in the north-eastern corner of the solar farm site, just outside of the subject land, and has been excluded from the development footprint.

The footprint of the New Grenfell Rd and Lachlan Valley Way intersection upgrade was refined to avoid all areas dominated by native vegetation. Furthermore, an exclusion zone was added within the optional laydown area to avoid any impacts to native overstorey vegetation.

Proposed Mitigation measures are outlined in Att 2 Peninsula SF amendment report 2024 Table 6.1, p 441, Table 6.2 of Att 7 Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR and Appendix B of Att 6 Edify Peninsula Modification Report

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

Offsetting required for the proposed action includes six Ecosystem Credits and 23 Species Credits. Edify will either purchase and retire the necessary number of credits on the open market or, if not available, offset credits through a direct payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF).

### 4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

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

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

No

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

\*

Field surveys conducted by Ozark did not record any migratory species or habitat for these species within the Project Area. All migratory species identified by the PMST are considered unlikely to occur within the Project Area. Direct or indirect impacts on migratory species are therefore considered to be highly unlikely.

See Att 7 Peninsula Solar Farm BDAR, Appendix E, p199 and Att 6 Edify Modification Report Feb 2025, Appendix E, p224

### 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 Action does not constitute a nuclear action under section 22 of the EPBC Act.

### 4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_

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

No

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

\*

There are no Commonwealth Marine Areas within or adjacent to the Project Area. The Project Area occurs approximately 280 km inland.

### 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 Project Area does not occur within the Great Barrier Reef Catchment.

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 Action does not constitute a coal seam gas or large coal mining development.

### 4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

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

No

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

There is no Commonwealth Land within or adjacent to the project area.

### 4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

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

No

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

\*

There are no Commonwealth heritage places within or adjacent to the project area.

## 4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

## 4.2 Impact summary

### Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

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. \*

Edify has undertaken a process of constraints and opportunities analysis to identify potential project sites in NSW and other states. This has been undertaken using a combination of computer modelling and analysis, and on-the-ground surveying and observation, together with Edify's experience in successfully developing projects in NSW and across Australia. This process has included consideration of factors such as:

- regulatory settings for renewable energy projects
- solar irradiation levels
- · access to and capacity of existing energy grids
- potential for land acquisition
- land suitability (e.g. topography, existing land-use, flood risk, zoning)

• need to minimise environmental and social impacts (e.g. avoiding sensitive environments or areas of cultural heritage value).

The Peninsula site was chosen because it provides the optimal combination of:

• access to existing transmission network connecting to the national grid, specifically the

132 kV Forbes-Cowra Transmission Line

- high levels of available capacity on the grid transmission system
- high quality solar resource
- low environmental sensitivity and absence of locational constraints due to:
- the project site comprising predominantly cleared cropping land, with little remaining native vegetation
- the flat terrain of the site, for cost effective construction
- an acceptably low flood risk
- the low density of the surrounding population and limited number of neighbouring properties

- the suitable planning context of the site including an absence of zoning issues or restrictive planning overlays

- the access of the site to a suitable road network.

The site is of a scale that allows for flexibility in design, allowing Edify to avoid ecological and other constraints that may be identified during the EIS process

### See Link#1 Peninsula SPS EIS, p66

# 5. Lodgement

## 5.1 Attachments

Ту	уре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1. D		Att 2. PeninsulaSF_Amendment report 2024.pdf Peninsula SF Amendment Report	13/03/2024	No	High

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

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity Confidence
#1.	Link	Major Projects Portal Peninsula		High
		Solar Farm		
		https://majorprojects.planningportal	l.nsw.gov.au	<i>.</i>

#### 1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2. PeninsulaSF_Amendment report 2024.pdf Peninsula SF Amendment Report	14/03/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 3. Community Consultation and Engagement Plan - Peninsula - Jan 2025.pdf Peninsula SF Community Engagement Plan	16/01/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 4 Edify First Nations Engagement and Communications Plan - Peninsula 2025.pdf Peninsula SF First Nations Engagement Plan	17/01/2025	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

Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1. Document	Att 5 Edify Energy - Best Practice Charter-combined.pdf Edify Energy CEC Best Practice Charter Report	05/11/2024	No	High

#### 3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2. PeninsulaSF_Amendment report 2024.pdf	13/03/2024	No	High
		Peninsula SF Amendment Report			

#### 3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity Confidence
#1.	Link	Major Projects Portal Peninsula		High
		Solar Farm		
		https://majorprojects.planningportal	.nsw.gov.au/	·

#### 3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2. PeninsulaSF_Amendment report 2024.pdf Peninsula SF Amendment Report	13/03/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025.pdf Peninsula SF Modification Report	13/02/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 7.Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR.pdf Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR	25/08/2022	No	High

#### 3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025.pdf Peninsula SF Modification Report	13/02/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 7.Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR.pdf Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR	24/08/2022	No	High

#### 3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025.pdf Peninsula SF Modification Report	13/02/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 8. Peninsula Solar Power Station_ACHAR.pdf Peninsula SF ACHAR	07/11/2021	No	Medium

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025.pdf Peninsula SF Modification Report	13/02/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 7.Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR.pdf Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR	24/08/2022	No	High

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

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2. PeninsulaSF_Amendment report 2024.pdf Peninsula SF Amendment Report	13/03/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025.pdf Peninsula SF Modification Report	13/02/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 7.Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR.pdf Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR	24/08/2022	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

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025.pdf Peninsula SF Modification Report	13/02/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 7.Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR.pdf Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR	24/08/2022	No	High

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

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2. PeninsulaSF_Amendment report 2024.pdf Peninsula SF Amendment Report	13/03/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025.pdf Peninsula SF Modification Report	13/02/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 7.Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR.pdf Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR	24/08/2022	No	High

4.1.5.3 (Migratory Species) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 6. Edify Peninsula Modification Report Feb 2025.pdf Peninsula SF Modification Report	13/02/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 7.Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR.pdf Peninsula Solar Farm EIS BDAR	24/08/2022	No	High

#### 4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Туре	Name	Date	Sensitivity Confidence
#1.	Link	Major Projects Portal Peninsula		High
		Solar Farm		
		https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/		

## 5.2 Declarations

## Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	85606684995
Organisation name	EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	Level 4, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095
Representative's name	adam smith
Representative's job title	Senior Development Manager
Phone	0424256951
Email	adam.smith@edifyenergy.com
Address	Level 4, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095

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, **adam smith of EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. \*

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, adam smith of EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD., 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, adam smith of EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD., the Person proposing the action, consent to the designation of adam smith of EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD. 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, adam smith of EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD., 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. \*