Upper Hunter Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Application Number: **03034** Commencement Date: **07/08/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Upper Hunter Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

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1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/09/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2051

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The proposed action will be located in the suburb of Aberdeen in New South Wales (NSW), within the Upper Hunter and Muswellbrook Shire Council Local Government Areas (LGAs) (see Attachment 1 - Figure 1 Project overview).

The proposed action is the construction, operation of and decommissioning of a lithium-ion battery energy storage system (BESS). This proposed action will be capable of providing a power/capacity of 400 megawatts (MW)/800 MW hours, which will provide up to 2 hours of energy storage to power approximately 480,000 homes. The proposed action will include:

- an upgrade of the property entry on Campbell Street,
- fencing installation and landscaping around the property perimeter,
- installation of lithium-ion batteries and supporting civil works such as hardstand and drainage,
- installation of cables to connect the BESS to existing transmission infrastructure to the east of the property,
- installation of a switching station and associated infrastructure, including:
    - cabling,
    - transformers,
    - carpark,
    - storage area,
    - lighting,
    - temporary construction site office and amenities, and
- establishment of internal access roads.

There may need to be road upgrades to two intersections in Aberdeen: New England Highway onto Perth Street, and Perth Street onto Campbell Street. These are likely to be limited to the construction of trafficable area and temporary traffic sign relocation/ removal.

The disturbance footprint currently includes three options for the cable connection to the existing transmission line and three options for the switching station (Option 2, 3 and 4), with the third being located in Lot 27 on Plan DP752485. The first switching station option (Option 1) was considered and abandoned due to biodiversity constraints (see Attachment 1 - Figure 1 Project overview). Design will be finalised over the next few months.

The property where the proposed action will take place is described as the following (see Attachment 1 - Figure 1 Project overview):

- BESS:
    - Lot 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 56 on Plan DP752485 (and a paper road separating lots 35,36,39 and 56 from lots 37 and 38)
- Transmission line easement and switching station (all options):
    - Lot 35 on Plan DP1184486
    - Lot 162 on Plan DP257347
    - Lot 159 on Plan DP712988
    - Lot 111 on Plan DP714211
    - Lot 132 on Plan DP718199
    - Lot 130 on Plan DP752485
    - Lot 75 on Plan DP752485
    - Lot 27 on Plan DP752485

Clearing of native vegetation and habitat for native species will be required for the construction of the project. Ongoing impacts arising from the project are expected to be minimal.

The disturbance footprint for the project is estimated to range from 31.35 ha to 35.62 ha; the total disturbance footprint under consideration is shown on Attachment 2 - Figure 2 Disturbance footprint. The whole project area is approximately 118 ha and includes all the transmission easement and switching

station options as well as retained and avoided areas.

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? *

Commonwealth

***Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)**

Projects which are likely to have a significant residual impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) require referral to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to determine whether assessment and approval is required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). If a project is deemed likely to result in a significant impact to MNES it is deemed a controlled action and will require assessment under the EPBC Act and approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment (or the Minister's delegate).

This referral assesses the potential impacts on MNES and seeks a determination on whether the project is to be deemed a controlled action. If deemed a controlled action, the proponent is seeking assessment under the Assessment Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of NSW.

Native Title Act 1993

Native title recognises the traditional rights and interests to land and waters of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Under the *Native Title Act 1993*, native title claimants can make an application to the Federal Court to have their native title recognised by Australian law.

A search of the National Native Title Register did not identify any determined native titles in the Upper Hunter or Muswellbrook LGA. A search of the register of Native Title Claims identified two active native title claims in both the Upper Hunter and Muswellbrook LGAs:

- NC2018/2017 (Warrabinga-Wiradjuri #7)
- NC2011/006 (Gomeroi People)

Any native title matters will be considered further during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to accompany the NSW State significant development application.

State (New South Wales)

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

The project is classified as State Significant Development (SSD) under Section 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) as it has a capital investment vale greater than $30 million and meets the criteria in Section 20 of Schedule 1 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* (Planning Systems SEPP) for electricity generating works. As such, the project will require development consent from the Minister for Planning (or the Minister's delegate) or the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) under Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act. The development application must be accompanied by an EIS that addresses the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). Revised SEARs were issued on 16 July 2025.

***Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)**

Under Section 7.9 of the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act), a development application for a SSD must be accompanied by a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). The BDAR must be prepared by an assessor accredited to apply the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM). The BDAR assesses, in accordance with the BAM, the terrestrial biodiversity values of the land proposed for development, the impact of the development on these values, sets out measures proposed to avoid or minimise the impacts of development and specifies requirements to offset residual impacts in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS).

Assessment Bilateral Agreement

A bilateral agreement signed between the Commonwealth and the State of NSW streamlines the assessment process for State significant projects, and other projects where the State of NSW is the consent authority. The bilateral agreement accredits the assessment process for a range of projects, including projects assessed under Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act (i.e. SSD projects). The bilateral agreement also endorses the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) for the purposes of condition setting.

The key benefit of assessment under the bilateral agreement is a single assessment process, whereby assessment of impacts to biodiversity values, including threatened species and communities listed under the EPBC Act, is undertaken by a single agency (NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) including a common set of conditions should the project be approved. Under the bilateral agreement process, supplementary SEARs are issued outlining the Commonwealth's requirements for assessment under the EPBC Act.

If the project is deemed a controlled action, the proponent is seeking assessment under the Bilateral Agreement.

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. *

North Harbour Clean Energy (NHCE) has undertaken a series of community and stakeholder engagement activities to inform the design and layout of the project and the issues to be addressed in the EIS. This includes engagement with Council, nearby property owners and the wider community in addition to government agencies.

A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is currently being prepared as part of the EIS and involves targeted interviews with relevant stakeholder groups.

A community briefing session was held in September 2025 where the community was provided with a detailed update on the project design, the preliminary findings of the technical assessment studies and the next steps in the assessment process.

As part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA), cultural heritage knowledge holders were invited to register their interest in participating in the assessment. Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) were provided an opportunity to input to the assessment methodology and accompanied the consultant team on field surveys of the project area over three days to input to the identification of potential cultural heritage values in the study area. The Draft ACHA Report will also be shared with RAPs.

Past consultation activities:

- Stakeholder meetings / presentations:
    - Upper Hunter Shire Council,
    - Muswellbrook Shire Council,
    - Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation,
    - Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council,
    - Aberdeen Community Advisory Committee,
    - Transport for NSW, and
    - ARTC.
- Stakeholder interviews:
    - Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation President,
    - Aberdeen Community Advisory Committee member, and
    - Local residents (x2).
- Community information letter - over 900 letters (including online survey link) distributed to properties surrounding the project site during March 2025.
- Online survey - Survey to collect opinions about the project, open to all stakeholders.
- Project website - Established to share project information and invite feedback.
- Phone email correspondence / consultation:
    - Re-Alliance
    - Yes 2 Renewables
    - Hunter Jobs Alliance
    - Community Power Agency
    - Country Women's Association (CWA) - Scone branch
    - Regional Development Australia - Hunter
    - Scone & Upper Hunter Historical Society
    - Australian Parents for Climate Action
    - Australian Youth Climate Coalition
    - The Knitting Nannas
    - NSW Farmers for Climate Action
    - Wanaruah Aboriginal Land Council
    - Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation
    - NSW LALC
    - Registered Aboriginal Parties (23 identified by Heritage Consultant)
    - Yalagan Registered Training
    - Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) Group Training

- Speaking in Colour
- Indigenous Skills and Employment Program
- Huntlee Academy
- First Nations Clean Energy Network
- Federal Member for New England
- State Member for Upper Hunter
- EnergyCo
- Mayor - Upper Hunter Shire
- Deputy Mayor - Upper Hunter Shire
- Godolphin
- Dartbrook
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Stephen Matthews
- Scone Chamber of Commerce
- Newgate Farm
- McCallum and Co
- Upper Hunter Shire Council
- Muswellbrook Shire Council
- McCallum and Co
- Heritage NSW
- Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD)
- Hunter Central Coast, Biodiversity and Conservation Regional Planning Team
- JTS Realty
- Warburtin Real Estate
- Aberdeen Community Advisory Committee
- Local residents.

Future consultation activities:

- Ongoing email / telephone consultation
- Additional stakeholder meetings
- Online survey maintained
- Project website maintained
- Community information session advertisement via local media and letterbox drop

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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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	12680708025
Organisation name	NATURE POSITIVE ADVISORY PTY LTD
Organisation address	2280 NSW

Referring party details

Name	Nature Positive Advisory
Job title	Director
Phone	0477717010
Email	info@naturepositiveadvisory.au
Address	PO Box 3006, Valentine, NSW 2280

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	45640912036
Organisation name	MAIZEWOOD PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 16/55 Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Daniel Walsh
Job title	Director - Delivery
Phone	+61 424 883 770
Email	daniel.walsh@northharbourpl.com
Address	Level 16/55 Clarence St, 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. *

The proponent for the Proposed Action is Maizewood Pty Ltd, which forms part of the North Harbour Clean Energy Group, 'North Harbour Clean Energy Pty Limited' (North Harbour Clean Energy).

Established in 2020, North Harbour Clean Energy (NHCE) is an Australian renewable energy company building a clean energy business dedicated to owning and operating a portfolio of energy assets with storage at its core, coupled with the technology and capability to deliver on-demand clean energy. We are developing a portfolio of energy storage assets using technology that is operationally proven to assist decarbonisation, supported by the systems and software to deliver energy solutions to consumers and market participants. Our team is passionate about contributing to Australia's renewable energy future and our industry leading expertise and insights is pivotal in supporting the transition.

NHCE maintains a strong track record of responsible environmental management. The company has not been subject to any proceedings under Commonwealth, State, or Territory environmental laws. It operates under a robust corporate governance framework that ensures compliance with relevant environmental legislation and sustainable resource use principles.

Oversight and governance of the company are provided by a highly experienced Board, chaired by Grant King (former Managing Director of Origin Energy and current Chair of Transgrid) and including Allison Warburton (former Commissioner at the Australian Energy Market Commission). The leadership team, led by Managing Director Tony Schultz, brings deep capability in energy project development and delivery. Together, the Board and executive leadership provide the governance and experience necessary to ensure the project is delivered in accordance with environmental requirements.

To support accountability and transparency, the Project Steering Committee (SteerCo) in relation to the Upper Hunter BESS Project has implemented stringent reporting requirements to the Board, ensuring continuous oversight and alignment with project objectives.

NHCE has developed a comprehensive matrix of safeguards and policies to ensure we comply with all environmental regulations and industry standards. NHCE's leadership team have spent their careers in large organisations and have implemented best practice systems, processes and governance arrangements.

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

North Harbour Clean Energy Environment Policy

1. POLICY AND PROCEDURES: NHCE has an overarching environment policy (Policy) which sets out our approach for implementing project and office environmental management systems, implementing environmental management programs and reviews and audits of NHCE's environmental performance. The key principles are to:
    1. protect the environment,
    2. comply with legislative and regulatory requirements,
    3. continuously improve our systems, and
    4. openly communicate progress and performance. For environmental work on our projects, NHCE engages tier 1 environmental consultants to identify and advise on planning requirements and conduct our Environmental Impact Statement studies.
2. SUPPLY CHAIN: NHCE engages top-tier consultants to ensure it manages supply chain to both industry standards and community expectations. NHCE is in the process of rolling out a pre-qualification system for contractors, which requires responses regarding regulatory and environmental compliance, sustainability practice and modern slavery. This demonstrates NHCE's dedication to managing compliance with environmental regulations and industry standards across its supply chain and procurement practices.

The environmental policy and planning framework document is provided as Attachment 3 - North Harbour Clean Energy Environment Policy.

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	45640912036
Organisation name	MAIZEWOOD PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 16/55 Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Daniel Walsh
Job title	Director - Delivery
Phone	+61 424 883 770
Email	daniel.walsh@northharbourpl.com
Address	Level 16/55 Clarence St, 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	12680708025
Organisation name	NATURE POSITIVE ADVISORY PTY LTD
Organisation address	2280 NSW
Representative's name	Nature Positive Advisory
Representative's job title	Director
Phone	0477717010
Email	info@naturepositiveadvisory.au
Address	PO Box 3006, Valentine, NSW 2280

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

ABN/ACN	45640912036
Organisation name	MAIZEWOOD PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 16/55 Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000
Representative's name	Daniel Walsh
Representative's job title	Director - Delivery
Phone	+61 424 883 770
Email	daniel.walsh@northharbourpl.com
Address	Level 16/55 Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000

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

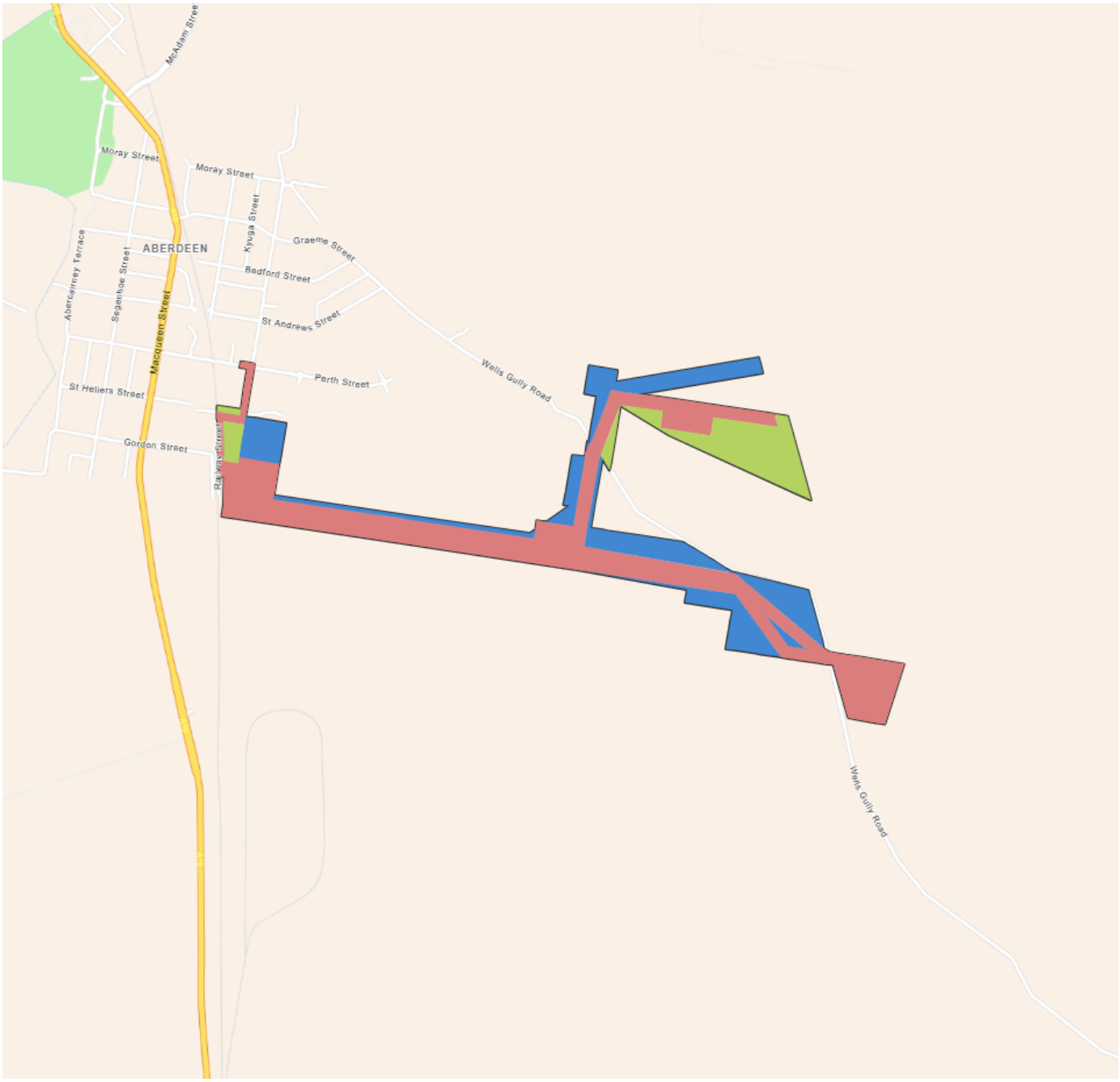
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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: 117.70 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 166.35 Ha **Avoidance Area:** 35.64 Ha **Retention Area:** 16.79 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Property address is Campbell Street, Aberdeen NSW 2236

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

New South Wales

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

No

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

The majority of lots are freehold land, with one lot being non-freehold land (Crown Land).

- Lot 162 in DP257347 is Crown Land. This land will be subject to a proposed 88B easement with agreement in principle received from Crown Land.
- The proponent has a lease registered on land title for Lots 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 56 in DP752485.
- The proponent has an easement call option registered on land title over Lot 35 in DP1184486.
- Lots 27, 75 and 130 in DP752485 will be subject to a proposed 88B easement; negotiations are ongoing with the landowner.
- Lot 159 in DP712988 will be subject to a proposed 88B easement; negotiations are ongoing with the landowner.
- Lot 111 in DP714211 will be subject to a proposed 88B easement; negotiations are ongoing with the landowner.
- Lot 132 in DP718199 will be subject to a proposed 88B easement; negotiations are ongoing with the landowner.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

Condition

Review of historical aerial imagery from 1930 to 2021 suggests that the majority of the development footprint has been subject to some occasional livestock grazing but has predominantly remained unoccupied. The project area and surrounding properties were semi-cleared since the 1950s for grazing (based on historical aerials). Despite changes in land zoning since that time, the project area continues to be characterised by native pasture and pasture-improved grasslands as part of a broader rural landscape. These cleared areas are in poor condition, with grasslands dominated by non-native species. In some areas, scattered trees persist.

Remnant areas of eucalypt open forest and woodland persist in the central eastern portion of the project area where the elevation is highest; the project area is largely cleared of woody vegetation in the western and eastern extremities of the proposed transmission corridor and in the BESS site itself.

Agricultural improvements such as stockyards, stock fences, dams and access tracks are widespread throughout the locality, reflecting the historical and ongoing use of the local lands for grazing and cultivation. No sensitive agricultural activities, such as intensive plant or livestock operations, were observed within the development footprint or its immediate surrounds. Historical aerial imagery from 1930 to 2021 indicates that the majority of the development footprint has experienced occasional livestock grazing but has predominantly remained unoccupied.

Within the Aberdeen region, there have been very few historical fires. There is no recorded fire history within 5km of the project area, and only four fires have been recorded within a 15km radius:

- 2023/24 – the Barton Street Scone bushfire (1157ha of forest and grassland burnt - arson)
- 2008/09 – the Needles bushfire (182ha of forest and grassland burnt – cause unknown)
- 2008/09 – the Nandowra Grassfire (161ha of grassland burnt - lightning)
- 1990/91 – the Glenbawn State Recreation Area bushfire (101ha of forest and grassland burnt - arson).

Flood prone land is identified to the west of the BESS site associated with the Hunter River. The BESS site itself does not sit within the 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) or Probably Maximum Flood (PMF) for the Hunter River, however, given its proximity to minor drainage lines may be subject to localised flooding. An assessment of potential flood risk is underway for the eastern section of project area (refer Section 3.4.1).

Distance from project to nearest town

The project is predominantly located within the Upper Hunter Shire Local Government Area (LGA), approximately 130 km northwest of Newcastle in in New South Wales (NSW). It is approximately 2 km south of the township of Aberdeen and approximately 10 km north of Muswellbrook.

Site zoning

The BESS site is located on land zoned E4 – General Industrial under the Upper Hunter Local Environmental Plan 2013 (Upper Hunter LEP). The transmission easement (Options 1 and 2) crosses several different land use zones: from west to east, it traverses land zoned R1 – General Residential and RU4 – Primary Production Small Lots; for the Option 1 easement, the transmission corridor crosses a small area of land zoned SP2 – Infrastructure to the north of Wells Gully Road, whilst Option 2 crosses land zoned C3 – Environmental Management before ending at the existing transmission corridor in RU1 – Primary Production zoned land in the east. The Option 3 easement occurs mostly within land zoned C3 – Environmental Management before ending within RU1 – Primary Production zoned land in the east.

Adjoining zoning

The surrounding land use zones around the BESS site include:

- SP2 - Rail Infrastructure Facilities immediately to the west

- MU1 – Mixed Use and SP2 – Infrastructure further to the west,
- E1 – Local Centre to the northwest,
- R1 - General Residential and E4 – General Industrial to the north,
- R1 - General Residential to the east,
- C3 – Environmental Management to the south, and
- RU1 – Primary Production to the southwest.

The transmission easement options occur on land that is part of larger areas of R1 and RU4-zoned land, with C3-zoned land to the south and RU1-zoned land to the south-east.

No zoning changes are required to facilitate the construction and operation of the project.

Use of existing road infrastructure for access

The project area will be accessible at its north-western boundary via Campbell Street, which is located to the south of Perth Street and a short distance (approximately 0.5 km) from New England Highway. Campbell Street joins an existing gravel road which occurs along the west of the BESS site between the project area boundary and the rail corridor. An upgrade of the property entry will be required on Campbell Street including upgrades to the gravel road.

The majority of transportation to and from the project area will occur during construction, with minor traffic movements during operational stages of the project. An assessment of potential road upgrade requirements to accommodate oversize – overmass (OSOM) truck movements from the Port of Newcastle and Port Botany to the site has been undertaken. This assessment identified the need for road upgrades at four locations. Three of these are proposed to be undertaken by Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) as a part of the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Road upgrades may be required at Perth Street onto Campbell Street in Aberdeen, but are likely to be limited to the construction of trafficable area and temporary traffic sign relocation/ removal. None of the road upgrades are likely to involve impacts to native vegetation.

Internal access roads will be established as part of the project.

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

Existing uses

The BESS site is currently vacant while the remaining parts of the project area are currently used for grazing.

Recent changes in land use

There are no known recent changes to land use where the project area will be located.

Proposed future uses

Approximately 6 hectares (ha) of industrial-zoned land are proposed to be used to construct and operate the BESS. Approximately 4 ha of grazing land is proposed to be used for a switching station. Approximately 19 ha of grazing land will be managed as a transmission easement for overhead transmission cables.

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

The project area features derived grassland, scattered native eucalypt trees and open eucalypt forests. There are no known notable values associated with the project area.

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 relatively flat with a general gradient not exceeding 4%. The highest point of the project area is 240 m above sea level (ASL) along the north-south section of the transmission easement, to the south of Wells Gully Road, in the central eastern part of the project area. From this hill, the topography of the project area gently slopes to the east to 210 m ASL at the Transgrid 330 kV transmission corridor and to the west to 180 m ASL at the rail corridor.

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.

Survey methods and effort

Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd (Niche) is undertaking the ecological assessment of the project and has undertaken site investigations in accordance with the BAM and supporting survey guidelines. A BDAR is being prepared.

Niche has completed vegetation validation surveys using a combination of rapid assessment and vegetation integrity plot surveys to map and stratify plant community types (PCTs) and identify threatened ecological communities (TECs) across the project area. Targeted seasonal threatened species surveys undertaken to date include:

- February 2025
    - Parallel flora survey transects: 6-7 February 2025
- June 2025:
    - Remote camera surveys: 6 June – 8 July 2025, 576 trap nights,
    - Nocturnal stag watch surveys: 16-21 June 2025, 6 trees,
    - Call playback: 16-21 June 2025, 9.6 person hours,
    - Spotlight surveys: 16-21 June 2025, five meander transects, approximately 260 person minutes per night,
    - Pitfall trap surveys: 16-21 June 2025, 54 trap nights.
    - Koala scat surveys (Spot Assessment Technique): 16-22 June 2025, five SAT locations,
- July 2025:
    - Diurnal bird survey (2 ha census): 8-9 July 2025, two locations at 40 mins per location, and
    - Parallel flora survey transects: 8-9 July 2025.

Targeted spring surveys have commenced and include:

- 2 ha bird surveys and stag-watches,
- Reptile tile surveys for Hunter Valley Delma (*Delma vescolineata*),
- Active searches and ultrasonic recorder surveys,
- Additional Koala scat surveys,
- Aural-visual frog surveys targeting Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*), and
- Parallel flora transect surveys, targeting:
    - *Prasophyllum* sp. Wybong,
    - Pine Donkey Orchid (*Diuris tricolor*),
    - *Ozothamnus tesselatus*,
    - Slaty Red Gum (*Eucalyptus glaucina*).

Locations of surveys completed to date are provided at Attachment 4 - Figure 3 Targeted survey effort

Recorded species

No threatened species have been identified during surveys to date.

The following fauna species were recorded incidentally during targeted surveys. None are threatened species listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act.

- Amphibians:
    - Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*)
    - Eastern Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastesdumerilii dumerilii*)
- Bats:
    - Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropuspoliocephalus*)
- Birds:
    - Australia Owlet-nightjar (*Aegothelescristatus*)
    - Australia King-Parrot (*Alisterusscapularis*)
    - Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquilaaudax*)

    - Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*)
    - Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracinanovaehollandiae*)
    - White-faced Heron (*Egrettanovaehollandiae*)
    - Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanusaxillaris*)
    - Brown Falcon (*Falco berigora*)
    - Superb Fairy-wren (*Maluruscyaneus*)
    - Southern Boobook Owl (*Ninoxnovaeseelandiae*)
    - Eastern Rosella (*Platycercuseximius*)
    - Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargusstrigoides*)
    - Eastern Barn Owl (*Tyto javanica*)
- Mammals:
    - Brown Antechinus (*Antechinusstuartii*)
    - Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropusgiganteus*)
    - Common Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurusvulpecula*)
- Reptiles:
    - Yellow-faced Whip Snake (*Demansiapsammophis*)
- Pest species:
    - Field Mouse (Mus *musculus*)
    - European Rabbit (*Oryctolaguscuniculus*)

Likelihood of occurrence of threatened and migratory species

The results of a desktop assessment indicate that 52 threatened species (33 fauna, 14 flora and 5 migratory species) are predicted to occur within the project area (see Attachment 5 - Table 1 Likelihood of occurrence of threatened and migratory species).

The project area is approximately 118 ha and supports a mix of remnant and modified box-ironbark grassy woodland/open forest, derived native grassland in low condition, and predominantly pasture-improved grassland habitats. Small areas of wet soaks associated with first- and second-order watercourses are present in the project area. Based on this, and considering survey findings to date, 42 of the predicted species are considered to have a low to negligible likelihood of occurring in the project area, with the following 10 species conservatively considered to have potential to occur:

- Marginal wetland habitat:
    - Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*)
- Open forest and open woodland habitat (approximately 23 ha):
    - Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*)
    - Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleuraguttata*)
    - South-eastern Hooded Robin (*Melanodryascucullata cucullata*)
    - Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella* picta)
    - *Ozothamnus tesselatus*.
- Open forest/open woodland/native grassland habitats (approximately 89 ha):
    - Austral Toadflax (*Thesium australe*)
    - Tarengo Leek Orchid (*Prasophyllum petilum*)
    - *Prasophyllum* sp. Wybong (is treated as synonymous with *P. petilum* in NSW), and
- Grassland and sparsely wooded habitats including improved pasture areas (approximately 101 ha):
    - Hunter Valley Delma (*Delma vescolineata*). At the time of writing, no individuals have been detected by reptile tile surveys.

No migratory species are predicted to occur or rely on the habitats within the project area; the White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) and Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) are predicted to occur as overfly species only.

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

Plant Community Types

One Plant Community Type (PCT), 3431 - Central Hunter Ironbark Grassy Woodland, has been identified within the project area and occurs in several different condition states (Moderate, Low, Very Low and Other). PCT 3431 is a dry sclerophyll open forest to woodland with a eucalypt canopy dominated by Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) with Coastal Grey Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*). It has an open understorey with a sparse shrub layer of dry and soft shrub species, including Native Olive (*Notelaea microcarpa*) or Small-leaf Bluebush (*Maireana microphylla*) and Ruby Saltbush (*Enchylaena tomentosa*), with the rare occurrence of Hickory Wattle (*Acacia falcata*). The ground layer contains a relatively dense, diverse cover of grasses and forbs with some graminoids, twiners, hardy ferns, low-growing shrubs and sedges. Associated species recorded include Purple Wiregrass (*Aristida ramosa*), *Glycine tabacina*, Barbed Wire Grass (*Cymbopogon refractus*), Poison Rock Fern (*Cheilanthessieberi*), Kidney Weed (*Dichondra repens*) and the prostrate shrub, Winter Apple (*Eremophila debilis*). Other common grasses include Paddock Lovegrass (*Eragrostis leptostachya*), Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*), Speargrass (*Austrostipa scabra*) and Redleg Grass (*Bothriochloa decipiens* var. *decipiens*) dominated by grasses and forbs. PCT 3431 occurs on gentle gradients on brown clays and loam soils derived from Permian sandstone and shale bedrock.

Areas of PCT 3431 within the project area contain Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*) which may have been established through planting activities. These areas are still being investigated by Niche as part of the ongoing BAM assessment.

The condition states (i.e. vegetation zones) are presented in Attachment 6 - Figure 4 Vegetation mapping and are described below:

- Moderate – approximately 14 ha of remnant PCT 3431 that occurs in open forest form with a native canopy and understorey present. PCT 3431 in Moderate condition is located generally in the central eastern portion of the project area in the highest elevations of the site. In this area it forms part of a larger patch extending to the north-west beyond the project area. PCT 3431 in Moderate condition also occurs to the south of the BESS site extending beyond the project area, and in the eastern section of the project area. It is moderately to highly affected by exotic species, notably localised occurrences of Mother-of-Millions (*Bryophyllum delagoense*) in proximity of access tracks.
- Low – approximately 9 ha of open woodland with a sparse canopy of scattered trees and a predominantly native ground layer consisting of grasses, forbs, and soft/dry shrubs. It is moderately affected by exotic species, and contains relatively more litter cover and hollow resources than PCT 3431 in Moderate condition. PCT 3431 in Low condition is located in the south-east of the project area, with two small patches located to the north of the BESS site outside of the disturbance footprint, and along the southern boundary of the project area extending offsite onto adjacent land.
- Very Low – approximately 66 ha of PCT 3431 that occurs as a derived native grassland. The derived native grassland lacks a canopy and represents a modified grassy understorey affected by tree clearing, historical grazing and pasture improvement activities. Notwithstanding, PCT 3431 in Very Low condition retains a relatively high cover and abundance of native grasses, forbs, and soft/dry shrubs although like other vegetation zones, it is affected by a high abundance of exotic species. PCT 3431 in Very Low condition is the predominant vegetation in the BESS site and along the transmission easement.
- Other – approximately 27 ha of pasture-improved and cultivated grassland dominated almost entirely by exotic grassland species with very few native species present. The degraded state of this vegetation zone is likely to be an effect of historical clearing of remnant PCT 3431 in combination with ongoing and intense pasture-improvement activities and grazing. This condition state was identified in the project area in the eastern portion of the proposed transmission easement, adjacent to the existing 330 kV easement.

All areas of PCT 3431 were assessed against the key diagnostic characteristics set and condition thresholds set out in the *Conservation Advice - Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland ecological community* (Department of Environment 2015, http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/130-conservation-advice.pdf. PCT 3431 in Moderate and Low conditions conforms to the critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland. Areas of PCT 3431 in Very Low and Other condition do not meet the condition thresholds to be included in the threatened ecological community.

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.

There are no heritage places registered on the Commonwealth Heritage List or the National Heritage List that apply to the project area.

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

The project area is located on Wonnarua/ Wanaruah country. A total of 12 isolated artefacts, four artefact scatters, one scarred tree (subject to arborist inspection) and one scatter with potential archaeological deposit (PAD) were identified during survey within and near the project area. The artefacts predominantly consisted of silcrete artefacts, with some basalt, mudstone and chert also present, which is consistent with the artefact material identified in the wider region. The artefacts identified consisted entirely of flakes, and no cores were identified within the project area. This indicates that the project area was not an area of Aboriginal long-term occupation, and the presence of the artefacts is most likely an indication of discard due to breakage or loss.

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 drains to the Hunter River via two sub-catchments: ephemeral watercourses in the western portion of the project area (BESS site and western portion of the transmission easement) drain generally west towards the railway embankment, under the New England Highway and south-west to the Hunter River, while the eastern portion of the project area (eastern portion of the transmission easement) drain north and north-west to the Hunter River. These streams are not classified as permanent waterways.

The western portion of the transmission easement intersects one first-order and one second-order tributary that converge into a third-order watercourse. This third-order watercourse runs to the north of the BESS site but does not run through the BESS facility. The watercourse is conveyed underneath the railway embankment by a culvert and then continues west to the Hunter River.

The eastern portion of the transmission easement is located at the headwaters of a separate catchment and is intersected by two first-order tributaries which flow north then turns north-west to the Hunter River.

The project area is approximately 100 km upstream from the Hunter Estuary Wetlands and is unlikely to be hydrologically connected to the Ramsar wetland.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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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 matters predicted to occur within or near the project area that could be directly or indirectly impacted by the project.

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.

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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 matters predicted to occur within or near the project area that could be directly or indirectly impacted by the project.

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
Yes		Hunter Estuary Wetlands

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 Wetlands of International Importance predicted to occur within or near the project area that could be directly or indirectly impacted by the project. The nearest RAMSAR wetland are the Hunter Estuary Wetlands, which are approximately 100 – 150 km downstream from the project area. Given the distance from this wetland, there is a negligible risk of indirect impacts occurring. To ensure this, suitable erosion and sediment controls will be put in place during construction of the project.

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	Androcalva procumbens	
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	Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo
No	No	Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
No	No	Chalinolobus dwyeri	Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat
Yes	Yes	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	Cynanchum elegans	White-flowered Wax Plant
No	No	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
Yes	Yes	Delma vescolineata	Hunter Valley Delma
No	No	Dichanthium setosum	bluegrass
No	No	Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk
No	No	Eucalyptus glaucina	Slaty Red Gum
No	No	Euphrasia arguta	
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Lepidium aschersonii	Spiny Peppercress
No	No	Litoria booroolongensis	Booroolong Frog
Yes	Yes	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Notamacropus parma	Parma Wallaby
No	No	Nyctophilus corbeni	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
Yes	Yes	Ozothamnus tesselatus	
No	No	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
No	No	Petrogale penicillata	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
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)
No	No	Picris evae	Hawkweed
No	No	Polytelis swainsonii	Superb Parrot
No	No	Pomaderris brunnea	Rufous Pomaderris, Brown Pomaderris
No	No	Potorous tridactylus tridactylus	Long-nosed Potoroo (northern)
Yes	Yes	Prasophyllum sp. Wybong (C.Phelps ORG 5269)	a leek-orchid
No	No	Pseudomys novaehollandiae	New Holland Mouse, Pookila
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
Yes	Yes	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Swainsona murrayana	Slender Darling-pea, Slender Swainson, Murray Swainson-pea
Yes	Yes	Thesium australe	Austral Toadflax, Toadflax

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes	Yes	Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland
No	No	Coastal Swamp Sclerophyll Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland
No	No	Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (Acacia pendula) Woodland
No	No	Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia
No	No	River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria
No	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? *

Yes

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

Threatened ecological communities (TEC)

Six threatened ecological communities (TECs) are predicted to have potential to occur within the project area. Surveys have been undertaken identifying a single TEC approximately 23 ha within the project area.

The project is likely to have unavoidable residual impacts on Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland CEEC. The current estimated area of impact is an over-estimation as it includes all transmission easement and switching station options, but is indicatively 13 ha comprising:

- 7 ha of TEC in moderate condition, and
- 6 ha of TEC in low condition.

The northern switching station is the current preferred option and does not contain any CEEC. If this option is adopted the impacts to this CEEC will be further reduced.

Threatened species

The project also has a potential to impact on:

- approximately 57 ha of approximately 101 ha of grassland and sparsely wooded habitat for Hunter Valley Delma (*Delmavescolineata*), including derived grasslands dominated by exotic species,
- approximately 13 ha of approximately 23 ha of open forest and open woodland habitat for:
    - Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies) (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*)
    - Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleuraguttata*)
    - South-eastern Hooded Robin (*Melanodryascucullata cucullata*)
    - Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella* picta)
    - *Ozothamnus tesselatus*.
- approximately 56 ha of approximately 89 ha of woodland and grassland habitat for:
    - Austral Toadflax (*Thesium australe*)
    - Tarengo Leek Orchid (*Prasophyllum petilum*)
    - *Prasophyllum* sp. Wybong (is treated as synonymous with *P. petilum* in NSW), and
- marginal wetland habitat for Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*).

The current estimated areas of impact for the above species are over-estimated as they include all transmission easement and switching station options.

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

Yes

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

Whilst the project may result in direct impacts to a number of species listed under the EPBC Act, the project is unlikely to result in a significant impact in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance (Department of the Environment 2013, https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/nes-guidelines_1.pdf) given the quality of habitat for these species and/or the extent of habitat impacted. Painted Honeyeater, Diamond Firetail, Brown Treecreeper and South-eastern Hooded Robin are small birds associated with open forest and grassy woodland habitats. Painted Honeyeater is a mistletoe specialist and as such, it prefers mature woodland with a higher density of mature trees that would support mistletoes (https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/470-conservation-advice.pdf). South-eastern Hooded Robin and Brown Treecreeper both depend on understorey complexity and abundant fallen timber (https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/profile?id=10519, (https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/67062-conservation-advice-31032023.pdf). Diamond Firetails feed predominantly on the ground on grass and forb seeds, green leaves and insects and are vulnerable to grazing impacts, which degrades understorey habitat (https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/59398-conservation-advice-31032023.pdf). Painted Honeyeater and South-eastern Hooded Robin have not been recorded within 5 km of the project area, and whilst there are numerous records in the locality for Brown Treecreeper and Diamond Firetail, the nearest records are over 5 km from the project area. These species are conservatively assessed as having potential to occur, but it is noted that the woodland habitats are likely to be marginal, due to a long history of land clearing and grazing use. Woodland habitats are largely located along a section of the transmission easement south of Wells Gully Road, which will experience clearing for the transmission line installation but only partial clearing between the transmission lines. Habitat in this section is connected to a broader area of suitable habitat adjacent to the transmission easement that will not be cleared for the project. Most impacted areas are along transmission lines, where only partial clearing is needed except for tower sites and access tracks. This is not expected to cause long-term population declines, fragmentation, or significant loss of suitable habitat for these species.

Austral Toadflax, Tarengo Leek-orchid and *Prasophyllum* sp. Wybong, are species associated with grassy woodland and natural grassland habitats. Tarengo Leek-orchid has been recorded in grassy woodland and grassland habitats of the southern tablelands and western slopes, with its stronghold population recorded in Boorowa within the Tarengo Travelling Stock Route (TSR); its modelled distribution does not overlap with the project site (https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/55144-conservation-advice-29092021.pdf). *Prasophyllum* sp. Wybong, which is treated as a synonym of *P. petilum* for assessment purposes in NSW, has not been recorded north of Muswellbrook; the largest population recorded is in Wybong (https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/profile?id=20257). Austral Toadflax is a root parasite that is most often associated with Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) and is vulnerable to grazing impacts (https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/15202-conservation-advice.pdf). Neither of the *Prasophyllum* species have been recorded within 5 km of the project area, and the closest known occurrences of Austral Toadflax were recorded at Dartbrook Mine in 2011, which is over 7 km to the west of the BESS site. These species have been conservatively assessed as having potential to occur within the project area. It is noted that most of the grassy understorey that occurs along the transmission line, in the BESS site, and within switching station option 3 are highly modified by vegetation clearing and grazing; grassy understorey habitats persist within the project area in very low condition. The best habitat for these species within the project area is likely to be along a section of the transmission easement south of Wells Gully Road, which will experience clearing for the transmission line installation but only partial clearing between the transmission lines. Habitat in this section is connected to a broader area of suitable habitat adjacent to the transmission easement that will not be cleared for the project. The project is considered unlikely to fragment or reduce the extent of suitable habitat such that it would lead to the long-term decrease in the size of a population, nor is it likely that the project would modify or decrease the availability or quality of available habitat to the extent that these species are likely to decline. *Ozothamnus tesselatus* has a restricted distribution and is only known from about eight locations to the north of Rylstone, NSW; it is conserved within the Goulburn River National Park and Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve

(https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/56203-conservation-advice.pdf). This species has been conservatively assessed as having potential to occur because it is known to be associated broadly with eucalypt woodland habitats; however, considering its restricted distribution and the lack of records within 5 km of the project area (the nearest records are over 20 km to the east of the BESS site, around Manobalai and Mangoola Coal Mine) in combination with a long grazing land use history, the potential to occur could be considered to be low. Notwithstanding, the best habitat for this species within the project area is likely to be along a section of the transmission easement south of Wells Gully Road, which will experience clearing for the transmission line installation but only partial clearing between the transmission lines. Habitat in this section is connected to a broader area of suitable habitat adjacent to the transmission easement that will not be cleared for the project. The project is considered unlikely to fragment or reduce the extent of suitable habitat such that it would lead to the long-term decrease in the size of a population, nor is it likely that the project would modify or decrease the availability or quality of available habitat to the extent that this species is likely to decline.

Green and Golden Bell Frog has not been recorded in the upper reaches of the Hunter catchment for a long time and no key population or subpopulation is identified for the Upper Hunter region (https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/litoria-aurea-policy.pdf). The species prefers wetland habitat for breeding that is shallow, contains a complex of emergent and submerged aquatic plants, and which is free of introduced predators including Plague Minnow (*Gambusia holbrooki*) and Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Potential breeding habitat within the project area in the form of permanent water bodies like farm dams, is considered to be marginal to unsuitable; ephemeral sites such as shallow ponds and wet soaks are also likely to be marginal habitat, and their suitability would depend on rainfall recharge and suitable conditions being present during the breeding season. As such, the project is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the Green and Golden Bell Frog as it is unlikely to reduce the extent of suitable habitat leading to the long-term decrease in the size of a population, nor is it likely to modify or decrease the availability or quality of available habitat to the extent that would cause further decline. A residual significant impact is considered likely for the Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland CEEC and possibly for the Hunter Valley Delma (subject to the results of further targeted surveys).

Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland

The project is likely to have a significant impact on Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland TEC, which is critically endangered as it is highly fragmented with a very restricted distribution. The TEC has also experienced a severe decline in its geographic extent (i.e. >70%). It continues to be at threat primarily from:

- vegetation clearing and fragmentation for a range of land uses including mining, industrial, rural and residential land uses,
- ongoing degradation caused by grazing, mowing and slashing activities,
- invasive weed and animal pest species, and
- removal of stags and timber debris.

The project is predicted to further reduce the occurrence of the TEC by up to 13 ha and increase fragmentation of the ecological community. In accordance with the *Conservation Advice - Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland ecological community* (Department of Environment 2015, http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/130-conservation-advice.pdf), all areas of PCT 3431 that meet the condition thresholds to be included as part of the TEC are considered critical to the survival of the critically endangered ecological community. Considering these, the project is likely to have a significant impact on the Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland ecological community.

Hunter Valley Delma

The project has potential to have a significant impact on the endangered Hunter Delma (*Delma vescolineata*), which has a restricted distribution, is known from less than 5 locations and continues to be at threat from habitat loss and degradation.

Targeted surveys for this species are underway and has not been detected to date. If found, the project has potential to reduce the area of suitable habitat by approximately 57 ha, which may also represent habitat considered critical to the survival of the species.

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

Yes

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

The project is likely to have a significant residual impact on up to 13 ha of Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland and has potential to have a significant residual impact on approximately 57 ha of habitat for Hunter Valley Delma. Under the EPBC Act, projects which have a significant residual impact on MNES are deemed controlled actions.

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. *

The project design has undergone a number of design iterations which have resulted in a reduction in impacts to biodiversity values identified on the site:

- March 2024: Initial design, including indicative easement, subject to land negotiations and avoidance of receptors. Consideration of biodiversity values was based on desktop assessment.
- February 2025: Two easement and one switching station options were identified, subject to land negotiations and survey results. The easement option identified included an easement extending further to the east. Consideration of biodiversity values was based on desktop assessment.
- March 2025: Biodiversity surveys commenced looking at two easement and switching station options, subject to land negotiations and consideration of any constraints. These options resulted in avoidance of watercourses and sensitive receptors.
    - Initial biodiversity surveys identified that switching station Option 1, located in the middle of the north-south section of the transmission easement (see Attachment 1 - Figure 1 Project overview), would have resulted in impacts to remnant areas of Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forests and woodland and associated habitat for threatened species.
    - At this time, the BESS site was also reduced in area, with exclusion of the northern part of the BESS site, resulting in avoidance of impacts to two patches of Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forests and woodland totalling 0.34 ha.

There are currently three switching station options under assessment, with further detailed design over the next few months. Option 3 is the preferred option (see Attachment 1 - Figure 1 Project overview). This design change would result in further avoidance of 0.41 ha of Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland CEEC.

Whilst the BESS site and switching yards will require full clearing of native vegetation and habitat, the proponent is investigating options for partial clearing of the transmission easement. Under a partial clearing framework, full clearing would be required for the installation of transmission towers and access tracks but only partial clearing of trees and some shrubs would be required for areas between transmission towers. The *Conservation Advice - Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland ecological community* (Department of Environment 2015, http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/130-conservation-advice.pdf) outlines that derived grassland are not considered part of the CEEC; so partial clearing is still assumed to result in loss of the community. However, this is anticipated to result in less fragmentation than full clearing.

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

Proposed offsets will be assessed in accordance with the BAM and discharged in accordance with the BOS.

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		Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes		Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes		Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
Yes		Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes		Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
Yes		Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
Yes		Pandion haliaetus	Osprey

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. *

There are no migratory species that have been identified as being likely to occur within and utilise the habitats within the project area. Fork-tailed Swift and White-throated Needletail are likely to be overfly species only – they may be seen flying over the project area from time to time but are unlikely to utilise the habitats within the project area.

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 project does not involve 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? *

No

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

The project will not take place in or near a Commonwealth Marine Area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The project will not be undertaken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

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 project is not a large coal mining development or coal seam gas 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.

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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. *

The project will not be undertaken on Commonwealth Land.

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 predicted to occur within or near the project area that could be directly or indirectly impacted by the project.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

Alternative Options

Option 1 - Do Nothing

Do not proceed with the Project on the Site or an alternative Site.

Option 5 is preferred over option 1 on the grounds that option 1 would not deliver the potential benefits of the Project and is inconsistent with the following:

- Directions and policies in the Hunter Regional Plan 2041 (HRP) including:
    - Objective 1: Diversify the Hunter's mining, energy, and industrial capacity
    - Objective 7: Reach net zero and increase resilience and sustainable infrastructure
- Objectives of the Upper Hunter LEP including:
    - To encourage employment opportunities
    - To minimise any adverse effect of industry on other land uses
    - To support and protect industrial land for industrial uses
- Five foundational pillars and objectives set out in the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap:
    - Driving investment in regional NSW: supporting our regions as the State's economic and energy powerhouse
    - Delivering energy storage infrastructure: supporting stable, long-term energy storage in NSW
    - Delivering Renewable Energy Zones: coordinating regional transmission and renewable generation in the right places for local communities
    - Keeping the grid secure and reliable: backing the system with gas, batteries or other reliable sources as needed
    - Harnessing opportunities for industry: empowering new and revitalised industries with cheap, reliable, and low emissions electricity
- Policies and objectives set out in the Energy Security Safeguard (NSW Government 2020) and NSW Electricity Strategy (NSW Government 2019), being:
    - Saving energy, especially at times of peak demand via the Energy Security Safeguard
    - Supporting the development of new electricity generators
    - Setting a target to bolster the state's energy resilience
    - Making it easier to do energy business in NSW

Option 1 is also inconsistent with the main objectives of the Project, which have been developed with consideration to the above-mentioned policies:

- "Increase the potential for additional renewable energy assets to be built in NSW." – Option 1 does not align with or contribute to the objective.
- "Improve the security, resilience and sustainability of the NSW electricity grid." Option 1 does not align with or contribute to the objective.

"Help reduce the direct carbon emission of the NSW's electricity grid by reducing reliance on traditional fossil fuel firming assets." Option 1 does not align with or contribute to the objective.

Option 2 - Alternative Site

Proceed with the Project on an alternative site.

Option 5 is preferred over Option 2 as the selected site offers significant advantages in minimising environmental and community impacts while optimising Project feasibility. The key benefits of the site include:

- Biodiversity Considerations: Preliminary assessments indicate some native vegetation on-site; however, impacts can largely be mitigated through careful Project design.
- Heritage Protection: No known heritage items are present on the site, minimising potential cultural or archaeological constraints.

- Transport Access: Located just 1 km from the New England Highway, with efficient access to the Port of Newcastle (130 km) and Port Botany (280 km), reducing transport and construction disruptions.
- Optimised Land Use: Currently underutilised, the site presents an opportunity for a sustainable energy infrastructure project, supporting NSW's renewable energy goals.
- Grid Connection Advantage: The existing 330 kV TransGrid overhead cable provides a direct connection point, reducing the need for additional infrastructure, minimising visual impacts, and eliminating landholder easements.

This site selection ensures the Project is strategically positioned to deliver renewable energy storage with minimal environmental and community impact.

Option 3 - Alternative Renewable Energy Technology

Install an alternative technology on the Site.

Option 5 is preferred over Option 3 on the grounds that the proposed energy storage technology - Lithium-ion batteries - is relatively dense compared to other proven storage technologies and is well suited for installation at the Site for the following reasons:

- Solar farms – The Site is approximately 12 hectares, with the proposed development (400 MW / 800 MWh) utilising about 9 hectares and providing an annual storage capacity of approximately 250,000 MWh. By contrast, 9 hectares of solar panels would have a maximum capacity of about 5 MW, producing roughly 12,000 MWh annually. A solar farm would also require larger areas of land clearing, increasing biodiversity impacts, and would introduce additional visual and glare impacts.
    - Similarly, technologies such as pumped hydro and vanadium redox flow batteries occupy a larger footprint per MWh, with subsequently greater land disturbance and potentially higher environmental and social impacts.
- Wind farms and coal-fired power plants – Given the proximity of the Site to sensitive receptors in Aberdeen, Lithium-ion batteries are more appropriate for noise, visual and amenity considerations. Wind turbines and coal-fired plant infrastructure would have significantly higher visual presence and operational noise.

Based on the above, the Project will make efficient use of the Site while delivering a greater positive impact on the electricity grid compared with alternative technologies.

Option 4 - Alternative Layouts and Design within Site

Explore internal design options to reduce environmental, noise, bushfire and community impacts. This option has been incorporated into the preferred option through iterative refinement.

Option 5 is preferred over Option 4 as the selected layout offers significant advantages in minimising environmental and community impacts while optimising Project feasibility. The Project has considered a range of alternative layouts and internal design refinements to avoid and minimise impacts in accordance with the avoid and minimise hierarchy. These alternatives were informed by site constraints, field investigations, and landowner negotiations.

Consideration: *Biodiversity Protection*

BESS - Although the Proponent holds a lease over Lots 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 56 on Plan DP752485, the BESS has been confined to Lots 37 and 38. This avoids areas of Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland identified within Lots 36 and 39 during early biodiversity investigations.

Easement - Easement and switching station alignments were refined through multiple design iterations to avoid mapped biodiversity values. Several switching station locations were investigated to avoid areas of Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland and Central Hunter Ironbark Grassy Woodland. The selected footprint and disturbance footprint, minimises impacts to these areas and their associated fauna habitats.

Consideration: *Avoidance of Watercourses and Vegetation*

BESS - Although the Proponent holds lease rights over northern Lots 35, 36, and 39, these areas were excluded from the BESS footprint to avoid mapped watercourses and associated riparian vegetation.

Easement - The easement and switching station alignment was revised to avoid direct impacts to mapped watercourses and riparian vegetation along the easement corridor.

Consideration: *Noise*

BESS - The BESS layout was designed to maintain separation from nearby sensitive residential receptors in Aberdeen. Noise walls have been incorporated into the layout to mitigate potential operational noise impacts.

Easement - The easement was positioned to avoid proximity to residential receptors, with alignment options assessed to reduce construction and operational noise impacts.

Consideration: *Bushfire Risk Management*

BESS - The BESS was relocated from areas identified as BAL-40 and Flame Zone to a location within BAL-29 or lower, reducing bushfire risk. The layout also avoids mapped Category 1 vegetation (highest bushfire risk) to the south of the Site. Several BESS units were removed from the southern end of the Site in response to initial bushfire risk assessment findings.

Easement - The easement alignment avoids areas of high bushfire potential and mapped Category 1 vegetation south of the easement corridor. Fire access and maintenance requirements have also informed the final alignment.

Consideration: *Landowner and Infrastructure Constraints*

BESS - The BESS footprint has been confined to Lots 37 and 38, consistent with areas of agreed tenure and landowner negotiations. The layout avoids encroachment into lots with unresolved access or constraints.

Easement - The easement alignment has been adjusted through ongoing negotiations with affected landholders, ensuring infrastructure placement aligns with agreed access arrangements and constructability constraints.

Through this refinement process, the Project has achieved a layout that reduces environmental impact, aligns with landowner expectations, and mitigates community and safety risks, while maintaining project viability and grid connection efficiency.

Option 5 - Project (Preferred Option)

Proceed with the Project on the Site.

The preferred option is to proceed with the Project. Option 5 provides the following benefits:

- Enhances energy storage capacity and grid reliability, supporting the transition to renewable energy sources
- Optimises existing infrastructure without requiring new land development, making use of the site's strategic location and transmission connectivity
- Aligns with the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and the AEMO ISP, ensuring the integration of renewable energy while maintaining grid stability
- Supports the broader decarbonisation goals of NSW and Australia, facilitating the reduction of reliance on fossil fuel-based firming assets
- Provides a critical energy storage solution close to major electricity demand centres, ensuring efficient energy dispatch and grid resilience

The Project represents a balanced, sustainable, and future-focused solution to meeting the region's immediate and long-term energy needs.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - Figure 1 Project overview.pdf Overview of the Project	04/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 2 - Figure 2 Disturbance footprint.pdf Project Area and Disturbance Footprint	04/11/2025	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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 3 - North Harbour Clean Energy Environment Policy.pdf Environmental policy and planning framework	04/11/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 4 - Figure 3 Targeted survey effort.pdf Locations of surveys completed to date	04/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 5 - Table 1 Likelihood of occurrence of threatened and migratory species.pdf Likelihood of occurrence of threatened and migratory species	04/11/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 6 - Figure 4 Vegetation mapping.pdf Condition states (i.e. vegetation zones)	04/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Link	Conservation Advice - Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland ecological community http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threa..			High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Link	Approved Conservation Advice for Ozothamnus tesselatus https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..	High
#2.	Link	Approved Conservation Advice for the Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland EC http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threa..	High
#3.	Link	Approved Conservation Advice for Thesium australe (austral toadflax) https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..	High
#4.	Link	Conservation Advice - Grantiella picta https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..	High
#5.	Link	Conservation Advice for Climacteris picumnus victoriae (brown treecreeper (south-eastern)) https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..	High
#6.	Link	Conservation Advice for Prasophyllum petilum (Tarengo Leek Orchid) https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..	High
#7.	Link	Conservation Advice for Stagonopleura guttata (diamond firetail) https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/thre..	High
#8.	Link	Matters of National Environmental Significance https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/do..	High
#9.	Link	Prasophyllum sp. Wybong - profile https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/prof..	High
#10.	Link	Significant impact guidelines for the vulnerable green and golden bell frog (Litoria aurea) https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/do..	High

#11.	Link	South-eastern Hooded Robin - profile https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/prof..	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	Attachment 1 - Figure 1 Project overview.pdf Overview of the Project	04/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Link	Approved Conservation Advice for the Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland EC http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threa..			High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	12680708025
Organisation name	NATURE POSITIVE ADVISORY PTY LTD
Organisation address	2280 NSW
Representative's name	Nature Positive Advisory
Representative's job title	Director
Phone	0477717010
Email	info@naturepositiveadvisory.au
Address	PO Box 3006, Valentine, NSW 2280

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

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

☑ By checking this box, I, **Nature Positive Advisory of NATURE POSITIVE ADVISORY PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	45640912036
Organisation name	MAIZEWOOD PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 16/55 Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000
Representative's name	Daniel Walsh

Representative's job title	Director - Delivery
Phone	+61 424 883 770
Email	daniel.walsh@northharbourpl.com
Address	Level 16/55 Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000

- [x] Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

- [x] Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

- [x] I, **Daniel Walsh of MAIZEWOOD 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. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

- [x] Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

- [x] Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

- [x] I, **Daniel Walsh of MAIZEWOOD 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. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.