

# Blue Hills Quarry

Application Number: **02712**

Commencement Date:  
**04/12/2024**

Status: **Locked**

## 1. About the project

### 1.1 Project details

#### 1.1.1 Project title \*

Blue Hills Quarry

#### 1.1.2 Project industry type \*

Mining

#### 1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Other

#### 1.1.4 Estimated start date \*

01/07/2025

#### 1.1.4 Estimated end date \*

01/07/2125

## 1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Mawsons propose to develop a hornfels hard-rock quarry (the quarry) in Bradford, within the Mount Alexander Shire Local Government Area (LGA). The quarry would have a peak operating production of 500,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of processed hornfels aggregate and an anticipated lifetime of 70 to 100 years.

The quarry would employ approximately 6 full-time staff and a number of contractors, on an as-needed basis.

The quarry development would occur in three stages. This allows for a staged native clearing approach combined with planting across the broader property to minimise the loss of habitat for impacted species as quarry development proceeds. Quarry development would occur as follows:

- Stage 1 – 0 to 15 years, clearing 10.5 ha of native vegetation prior to extraction and establishing over 30 ha of new vegetation.
- Stage 2 – 15 to 30 years, clearing 8 ha prior to extraction.
- Stage 3 – 30 to 75 years, clearing 16 ha of land prior to extraction.

The proposed operating hours of the quarry would likely to be:

- Quarry extraction and haulage hours 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday and 7am-1pm on Saturdays
- Blasting operations 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday to Friday, which is demand-based and anticipated to be approximately monthly.

The proposed quarry will generate approximately 14,700 truck movements annually (approximately 60 truck-loads per day).

Key construction activities relate to site establishment and construction of fixed infrastructure associated with the quarry area; operations and processing plant; and associated access roads. Site establishment, access and access road construction would involve:

- Establishment of construction environmental controls (exclusion fencing, delineation of quarry site, fauna relocation, sediment controls)
- Staged vegetation grubbing/removal
- Construction of access roads and associated drainage
- Topsoil stripping and stockpiling.

Construction of fixed infrastructure will involve the establishment of:

- Interim processing area and associated mobile plant
- Final fixed processing area and plant
- Stockpile area
- Site office
- Car parking
- Weigh bridge
- Wheel washers
- Vehicle workshop
- Bunded fuel and oil storage

- Drainage infrastructure
- Operational environmental controls (noise, sediment and dust controls).

Site establishment and construction of fixed infrastructure is expected to run for 18 months.

Following the initial site establishment and construction phase, the extraction methodology will involve the removal of the top one-to-three metres of extremely-to-distinctly weathered material (overburden) by either dozer ripping, or drill and blast methodologies. Processing on-site would occur initially by mobile plant, in an interim location, until a fixed processing plant can be established below grade within the quarry footprint.

Shot rock will be loaded from benches using front end loaders or excavators and subsequently hauled by dump truck to the fixed and mobile plant onsite for processing. Material will be transported to a primary bin and feeder and transferred to the primary crusher located within the workings of the proposed quarry. Crushed rock will be transported by rubber conveyors to the downstream crushing and screening operations.

The crushing and screening plant that has been selected for the proposal will be configured to optimise crushing of the rock and environmental controls. It will have the latest technological developments for dust and noise suppression. Material will be processed into a wide range of quarried products and stockpiled adjacent to the processing plant. This overburden material will be suitable for use as fill for site pad construction; for the production of lower quality road bases and engineered fills; or reuse in site rehabilitation. The material between three and eight metres, if scalped, or otherwise beneficiated, may be suitable for the production of most higher quality products (concrete aggregates and higher quality road bases). Below eight metres the material will generally be suitable for the production of most high-quality quarried products. Conventional drill and blast methodologies will be required to break the rock below three metres depth, as the rock is very strong, hard and durable.

The extraction of hard rock would be undertaken using conventional drill and blasting techniques. Blasting is expected to occur up to 12 times per year.

Fixed onsite equipment would consist of conventional hard rock processing equipment including a double toggle primary crusher, primary scalping screen, secondary and tertiary crushers. Product from this fixed plant will be directly discharged into trucks from overhead bins, proceeding to on-site stockpiles or directly despatched off site.

Decommissioning and rehabilitation of the site would occur following the productive life of the quarry. Decommissioning would involve the demobilisation of plant and removal of fixed infrastructure. All plant and fixed infrastructure would be repurposed through application of the waste management hierarchy (re-use, recycle, recovery, disposal).

Future post-closure land use of the site remains fluid and would be finalised through the approvals process and engagement with stakeholders, however Mawsons have already considered the following potential future land uses:

- Wetland creation
- Bench rehabilitation.

### 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? \***

## Victoria

### *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (MRSD Act) – Work Authority

A Work Authority will be prepared under the MRSD Act, including Work Plan and associated Community Engagement Plan and Rehabilitation Plan.

### *Environment Effects Act 1978* – Environment Effects Statement referral

Projects that potentially have significant environmental effects should be referred to the Minister for Planning for a decision on whether an environment effects statement (EES) is required. An Environment Effect Statement referral will be submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). Submission of EES and EPBC referrals are submitted concurrently, with Victorian DTP advised of concurrent EPBC referral.

If the project is assessed to be a 'controlled action', and if an assessment under the Victorian EES Act is required, there is possibility to rely on a single assessment process under bilateral agreement between Commonwealth and Victorian governments. Single assessment process is requested in this scenario, to avoid duplication and align environmental decision-making. Vic EES referral reference is 39502.

### *Planning and Environment Act 1987* – Planning Permit

Extractive industry land uses are an exempt activity from a Planning Permit in the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme, subject to compliance with Section 77T of the MRSD Act. However, a Planning Permit would be required for the removal of native vegetation and the development of a building or office within the Bushfire Management Overlay, which would be required for the quarry.

### *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (AH Act) – Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP)

A CHMP is being prepared for the proposed quarry under the AH Act. The CHMP identified two Aboriginal places within the activity area. The development of the CHMP has been paused at the Standard Assessment phase until further confidence in project approvals is known.

### *Water Act 1989* – Works on Waterways Permit/Take and Use Licence

Under the Water Act, a Works on Waterway Permit is required from the relevant Catchment Management Authority (CMA), where works occur within the bed and/or bank of a waterway. The proposed quarry has sought waterway determinations from North Central CMA. The quarry site avoids interaction with designated waterways, however the access road crosses a designated waterway, and will require approval from North Central CMA.

A Take and Use Licence under the Water Act is required for the proposed quarry to take and use water that would otherwise be diverted to a waterway or for any intersected groundwater during quarry operations. The Licence would be issued by Goulburn Murray Water.

### *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) – Permit to Take

The permit requirement under Section 47 of the FFG Act does not apply to most of FFG Act listed biodiversity values recorded within the project area, as they occur on private land or are listed as 'Restricted use protected flora' (which do not require a 'permit to take').

The exception is two Late-flower Flax-lily that occur within the access road alignment along Stones Road. A Permit under Section 47 of the FFG Act will be required for their removal. A Permit under Section 47 of the FFG Act will also apply to removal of Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community on Bridgwater-Maldon

Road and Stones Road.

*Wildlife Act 1975* – Accredited wildlife handler

Any works requiring the removal of wildlife must be undertaken by a qualified wildlife handler, accredited under the Wildlife Act.

Commonwealth

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

This EPBC Act referral, concurrent with State processes, is being prepared for referral of the proposed quarry to the Commonwealth for determination on whether the project is assessed as a 'controlled action', requiring approval under the EPBC Act.

**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. \***

Four information days have been held by Mawsons to engage with the local community on the proposed quarry development. Information days have been advertised in local newspapers, with active interest from Government and local community stakeholders.

Ongoing consultation has been undertaken with community and stakeholder groups. A list of the stakeholder groups and organisations consulted is detailed below:

- Earth Resources Regulation (ERR)
- Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)/Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) (former DELWP)
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DDWCAC)
- North Central CMA
- Goulburn Murray Water
- Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA)
- Heritage Victoria
- Baringhup Landcare Group
- Neighbouring landholders

## 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](mailto: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

<b>ABN/ACN</b>	80078004798
<b>Organisation name</b>	WSP AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
<b>Organisation address</b>	2000 NSW

## Referring party details

<b>Name</b>	Patrick Dunne
<b>Job title</b>	Associate Environmental Consultant
<b>Phone</b>	0408933497
<b>Email</b>	patrick.dunne1@wsp.com
<b>Address</b>	Level 11, 567 Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000

## 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** 14004519617

**Organisation name** E.B. MAWSON & SONS PROPRIETARY LIMITED

**Organisation address** 3568 VIC

## Person proposing to take the action details

**Name** Richard Toll

**Job title** Manager, Resource Development & Regulatory Compliance

**Phone** 0447 747 696

**Email** rtoll@mawsons.com.au

**Address** 7/53 McMillan Road Echuca, VIC 3564

**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. \***

Mawsons has a strong history of responsible environmental management, with no prior legal proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Working alongside the natural beauty of the Murray River for more than 110 years, Mawsons understands the critical importance of environmental sustainability to securing the future of regional Victoria and our newer locations in NSW.

Mawsons has experience in approaching environmentally sensitive areas and projects with the patience and diligence required to ensure their protection.

**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**

Mawsons operate under a Social Responsibility Policy. Mawsons source, process and deliver scarce natural resources as building products. In doing this we must respect our Environment and Communities and earn the License to use valuable materials in a responsible manner.

The Social Responsibility Policy embraces commitments to:

- Environmental Protection and Sustainability
- Social Procurement and Local Community Support and
- Modern Slavery.

Mawsons also hold a Renewable Energy Policy where mains electricity supplied to Mawsons-owned sites is offset by an equivalent amount of electricity sourced from renewable generators.

Working alongside the natural beauty of the Murray River for more than 110 years, Mawsons understands the critical importance of environmental sustainability to securing the future of regional Victoria and our newer locations in NSW.

Mawsons has experience in approaching environmentally sensitive areas and projects with the patience and diligence required to ensure their protection.

### 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

<b>ABN/ACN</b>	14004519617
<b>Organisation name</b>	E.B. MAWSON & SONS PROPRIETARY LIMITED
<b>Organisation address</b>	3568 VIC

##### Proposed designated proponent details

<b>Name</b>	Richard Toll
<b>Job title</b>	Manager, Resource Development & Regulatory Compliance
<b>Phone</b>	0447 747 696
<b>Email</b>	rtoll@mawsons.com.au
<b>Address</b>	7/53 McMillan Road Echuca, VIC 3564

## 1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

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### ✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

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ABN/ACN	80078004798
Organisation name	WSP AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Patrick Dunne
Representative's job title	Associate Environmental Consultant
Phone	0408933497
Email	patrick.dunne1@wsp.com
Address	Level 11, 567 Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000

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### ✔ 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.

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ABN/ACN	14004519617
Organisation name	E.B. MAWSON & SONS PROPRIETARY LIMITED
Organisation address	3568 VIC
Representative's name	Richard Toll
Representative's job title	Manager, Resource Development & Regulatory Compliance
Phone	0447 747 696
Email	rtoll@mawsons.com.au
Address	7/53 McMillan Road Echuca, VIC 3564

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### ✔ 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? \*

Yes

### 1.4.10 Enter purchase order number \*

PO 217598

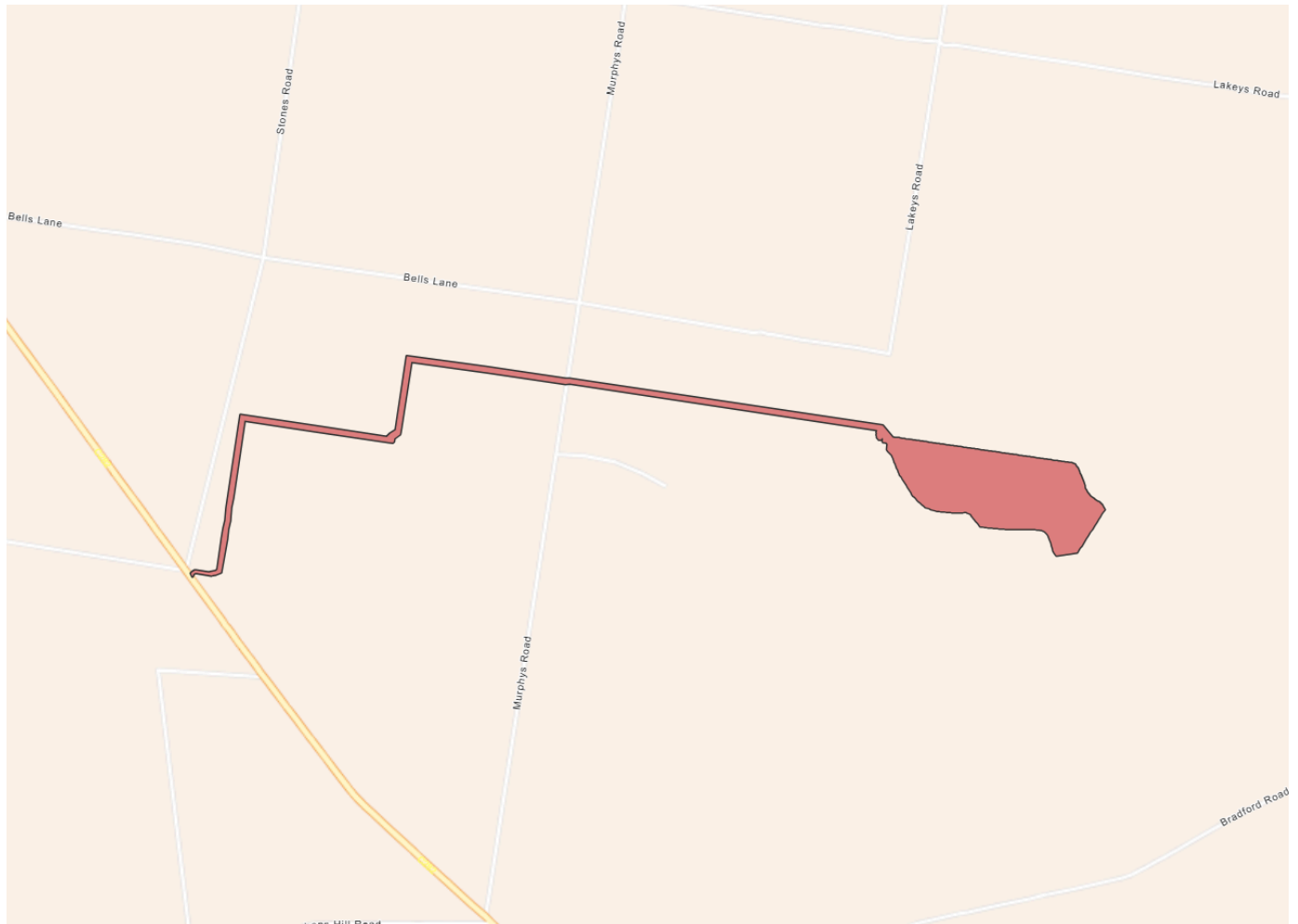
## 1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

### 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: 47.77 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 47.77 Ha**



## 2.2 Footprint details

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

910 and 912 Lakeys Road Bradford, Victoria 3463

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

Victoria

### 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? \*

Privately owned

## 3. Existing environment

## 3.1 Physical description

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

Under the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme Blue Hills' is zoned for farming, however the steep terrain and vegetated nature restrict the agricultural productivity of the site. Historically the land has been utilised for forestry activities. Land uses surrounding the site include various primary production enterprises, conservation reserves and rural residential uses.

The proposed quarry is located on a roughly east to west trending ridge that rises to about 320 m (metres relative to Australian Height Datum (mAHD)) on the eastern side of the quarry, while the Bridgewater-Maldon Road to the west is at an approximate elevation of 220 mAHD. The western slopes are typically gently sloping and approximately planar before the terrain becomes generally flat, toward the main road.

Vegetation on Blue Hills primarily consists of Hillcrest Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 70) in relatively good condition. The westerly slopes of the site consist of Plains Woodland (EVC 803) in good condition. Portions of this EVC also meet the criteria for the Commonwealth listed Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-Eastern Australia threatened community.

The proposed quarry site is located between two ridge lines providing line of sight protection to residential receivers to the north, east and south of the proposed quarry. Property to the west is extensively agricultural.

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

Catchment scale land use and management (CLUM) mapping classify the Mawsons' property as Production Native Forests, which aligns to historic timber harvesting practices that have taken place. Since Mawsons' acquisition of the property, no active timber harvesting land uses activities have occurred. Development on the property is limited to fencing, a dam and informal tracks.

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

The Project sits within a larger 560 ha private property owned by Mawsons. The larger property is predominantly covered by remnant native vegetation (Hillcrest Herb-rich and Plains Woodland Ecological Vegetation Classes). The site is not afforded any formal environmental or landscape significance overlays.

Refer to the attached Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment for details of affected flora and fauna.

### 3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The proposed quarry is located on a roughly east to west trending ridge that rises to approximately 320 m (metres relative to Australian Height Datum (mAHD)) on the eastern side of the pit, while the Bridgewater-Maldon Road to the west is at an approximate elevation of 220 mAHD. The western slopes are typically gently sloping and approximately planar before the terrain becomes generally flat, toward the main road.

## 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.**

## Flora

A total of 79 vascular plant species were recorded across the project area by WSP ecologists during site assessments conducted throughout 2023. This included 65 indigenous species (82%) 13 introduced species (17%) and one nonindigenous native (1%).

Based on the results of current and previous assessments, no EPBC Act listed flora species have been recorded within the action area. Furthermore, WSP determined that no EPBC Act listed flora species are likely to occur within the proposed action area.

A total of five FFG Act listed threatened flora species have been recorded. within the proposed action area:

- Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii*, critically endangered
- Glaucous Flax-lily *Dianella longifolia* var. *grandis*, critically endangered
- Small-flower Wallaby-grass *Rytidosperma monticola*, endangered
- Golden Cowslips *Diuris behrii*, endangered
- Late-flower Flax-lily *Dianella tarda*, critically endangered.

Exotic weedy species Regionally Controlled under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* within the proposed action area include: Golden Thistle *\*Scolymus hispanicus*, Horehound *\*Marrubium vulgare*, Wheel Cactus *\*Opuntia robusta*, as well as two Restricted weeds, Saffron Thistle *\*Carthamus lanatus* and Spear Thistle *\*Cirsium vulgare*. No Weeds of National Significance were observed onsite.

## Fauna

A total of 19 fauna species were recorded within the proposed action area by WSP ecologists during site assessments conducted throughout 2023, comprising 17 birds and two mammals.

A total of four EPBC Act significant fauna species have been recorded within the action area:

- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*, critically endangered, marine
- Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus (victoriae)*, vulnerable
- Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*, vulnerable
- Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*, endangered.

An additional two species listed as Marine under the EPBC Act were also recorded:

- Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*, Marine
- Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*, Marine.

A further six EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species were considered to have a moderate or high likelihood of occurrence based on suitable habitat features within the proposed action area. This included:

- Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma*, Vulnerable, Marine
- Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Marine
- Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*, Migratory, Marine
- Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*, Vulnerable
- Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*, Vulnerable
- White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*, Vulnerable, Migratory, Marine

According to the findings of WSP surveys, and the results of previous assessments, seven FFG Act listed fauna species have been recorded within the proposed action area. This includes:

- Brush-tailed Phascogale *Phascogale tapoatafa*, Vulnerable
- Lace Monitor *Varanus varius*, Endangered
- Diamond Firetail *Staganopleura guttata*, Vulnerable
- Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*, Vulnerable
- Speckled Warbler *Pyrrholeamus sagittatus*, Endangered
- Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*, Vulnerable
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*, Critically Endangered.

In addition, eight FFG Act listed fauna species are considered to have a moderate or higher likelihood of occurrence based on the presence of high-quality suitable habitat, nearby records and/or the results and timing of previous surveys. This includes:

- Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata*, vulnerable
- Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*, critically endangered
- Black Falcon *Falco subniger*, critically endangered
- Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*, endangered
- Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*, vulnerable
- Little Eagle *Hieraateus morphnoides*, vulnerable
- Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*, vulnerable
- Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*, vulnerable

For details of flora and fauna present at the site, please refer to the results in Section 3 of the attached Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment.

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

The proposed action area supports one patch of Hillcrest Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 70), which extends to the eastern boundary of the quarry, and a smaller patch of Plains Woodland (EVC 803) along the north-western boundary of the action area.

One Threatened Ecological Community, Grey Box Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland of South-eastern Australia, was also recorded within the proposed quarry site. Grey Box Grassy Woodland (GBGW) is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act.

One FFG Act listed ecological community, Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community (VTWBC), was recorded within the action area. This FFG Act listed ecological community is considered to occur across all native vegetation patches within the action area, equating to a total area of approximately 36.9 ha.

The site sits on an outcropping of metasedimentary bedrock of the Castlemaine Group and consists of metasedimentary hornfels of Early Ordovician Age. These hornfels range from cordierite to biotite hornfels rocks, and also include rarer calc silicate units. Within the proposed action area, the variably weathered in-situ hornfels are a prominent feature of drainage lines, where surface water has eroded away the topsoil and rock profile over millennia.

Bedding and remnant sedimentary structures, such as fluting and lode casts, are still evident in much of the hornfels. The bedding, whilst variable, is commonly recognised as dipping very steeply to the south, with dip directions ranging between 170 and 250 degrees. Soils on the site are relatively shallow (200-400mm) and sit on top of the weathered in situ hornfels.

For details of vegetation present at the site, please refer to the site assessment results in Section 3.2.6, Page 36, of the attached Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment.

## 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 Heritage places or other places recognised as having heritage values present within the Project area. The closest Commonwealth Heritage Place is the Castlemaine Post Office, approximately 23 km southeast of the proposed Project. The closest State listed heritage value is the Nuggety Flat Tailings, registered on the Victorian Heritage Inventory, approximately 6 km southeast of the proposed Project.

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

A total of four Aboriginal cultural places on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register have been reported on during the development of the Project's Cultural Heritage Management Plan. Two were previously recorded and located in the geographical region. Two additional places were identified and registered during site walkovers associated with the development of the CHMP. The location and description of these places has been withheld from this referral, however the Project has undergone re-design to ensure these places are not directly impacted.

Six additional areas of Aboriginal heritage potential were identified, which will undergo subsurface survey, once there is confidence the Project will proceed.



## 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 Site is located on the north-western side of a small range, 6 km to the northwest of the higher Mount Tarrangower (564 mAHD), on the edge of the town of Maldon. The hills at the Site peak at a maximum elevation of 366 mAHD based on the 10 m Digital Elevation Model (DEM) available from the Victorian government. More accurate LIDAR elevation data, with 50 cm resolution, over the Site itself was acquired by Groundwork Plus. The Site ranges in elevation from 256 to 333 mAHD, sloping up to the eastern end, and is bounded to the north and south by two smaller, unnamed watercourses. The flatter land to the west away from the hills has a lower elevation around 160 mAHD. The defined watercourses across the region drain to the northwest towards Blind Creek, Bradford Creek, and the Loddon River.

The site is situated on outcropping metasedimentary bedrock of the Castlemaine Group, metasedimentary hornfels of Early Ordovician Age. Igneous rocks of the Baringhup Granodiorite make up outcropping basement to the east and south. The fluvial Upper Tertiary Shepparton Formation Aquifer is present 3 km west of the Site. Colluvium is present along watercourses with some quartz veins and dykes also mapped in the area. Primary porosity of the bedrock is expected to be low, with any groundwater likely to be found in fractures and faults in the rock matrix.

There is no significant hydrological connectivity to any Ramsar Wetland; the closest Ramsar Wetland is the Gunbower Forest, approximately 110 km north of the proposed action area.

Waterway determinations have been undertaken by Goulburn Murray Water across the proposed quarry site and access road. The quarry footprint has been designed to avoid determined waterways and include buffers of 120m to determined waterway centrelines.

The preferred access road crosses three determined waterways, within agricultural land. Ecological assessments did not identify any flora or fauna values within these waterway crossings.

Direct rainfall and runoff over the Quarry operations will be collected in sumps/settlement ponds and reused for dust suppression purposes. Outside of the quarry rainfall and runoff will be retained into the existing system of the surrounding catchments with water quality being unaffected. Measures and mitigation have been assessed for risk of sedimentation, runoff and erosion to avoid risk to any extensive impact to the environmental value of the waterways.

Works on waterway permissions will still be required to complete the proposed cross over road construction works over the three determined waterways. No terrestrial and aquatic Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems will be affected.

Drilling tests and emplacement (November 2023) of four (4) groundwater monitoring bores setting to depths of the base elevation of the quarry pit (170m AHD). This provided baseline measurements and data for groundwater assessments of the Project footprint and relationship with the regional groundwater system. Hydraulic characterisation and any was achieved for permeability and porosity was determined during drilling with slug tests and drilling bore water yield rates. Assessments for groundwater bearing hydrogeological formations were achieved from logging of the drilling from 3 metre intervals with drill chip representative samples collected in chip trays and photographed.

Hydrogeological drilling conducted bore development tests with air lifting from the base of the bores and this including development of the bores until clean water discharge was achieved and the field water test chemistry results were stabilised.

Assessments from these tests are that any groundwater bearing formations were shallow and where intersected were of a limited nature in extent and connectivity and were only of a localised perched aquifer nature. This is further supported where these shallow perched zones correlate with surface drainage lines. In effect the project deposit footprint exists in low to very low permeability to very limited/low porous hydrogeological formations. The regional groundwater level profile exists at greater depths and related to the broader Valley Trunk and tributary palaeochannel systems. These sedimentary formations that are not

directly connected and are low lying compared to the higher set hard rock quarry and hill setting. Water chemistry quality had laboratory analysis for common ions and selected metals and in summary water quality is considered fresh and good quality.

A series of water levels were measured from the monitoring bores and from selected available quarry resource drill test holes and these have been assessed to provide a piezometric surface water level for the proposed quarry footprint. This shows a subdued reflection of the surface topography though also indicates a shallow western hydraulic gradient towards the main surface drainage system.

The Project would require approximately 36 ML of water per year for the Stage 1 operational phase, increasing to approximately 44 ML per year during the Final pit operational phase. Surface water would be harvested in an onsite quarry sump to meet these water needs.

For Stage 1 operations, water harvested would need to be supplemented through water carting (in the order of 5.6 ML per year), and in the Final stage operations, surplus water would need to be treated and discharged offsite (in the order of 4 ML per year).

Please refer to the attached Blue Hills Quarry Groundwater Assessment ("Attachment 3 - Groundwater Assessment") for further details.

## 4. Impacts and mitigation

## 4.1 Impact details

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

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

### 4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

\*

Closest World Heritage Property is the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, over 120 km southeast from 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.

—

#### 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.

\*

The closest location with National Heritage values is the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, approximately 20 km southeast of the proposed 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
No	No	Banrock Station Wetland Complex
No	No	Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes
No	No	Kerang Wetlands
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.**  
\*

The closest Ramsar Wetland is the Gunbower Forest (Riverland), approximately 110 km north of the proposed 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	Amphibromus fluitans	River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass
No	No	Anthochaera phrygia	Regent Honeyeater
Yes	Yes	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
No	No	Aprasia parapulchella	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern
No	No	Caladenia audasii	Mclvor Spider-orchid, Audas' Spider-orchid
No	No	Caladenia concolor	Crimson Spider-orchid, Maroon Spider-orchid
No	No	Caladenia ornata	Ornate Pink Fingers
No	No	Caladenia tensa	Greencomb Spider-orchid, Rigid Spider-orchid
No	No	Caladenia versicolor	Candy Spider-orchid
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo
Yes	Yes	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	Crinia sloanei	Sloane's Froglet
No	No	Delma impar	Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard
No	No	Dodonaea procumbens	Trailing Hop-bush
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Galaxias rostratus	Flathead Galaxias, Beaked Minnow, Flat-headed Galaxias, Flat-headed Jollytail, Flat-headed Minnow

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	Clover Glycine, Purple Clover
No	No	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Lachnagrostis adamsonii</i>	Adamson's Blown-grass, Adamson's Blowngrass
Yes	Yes	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot
No	No	<i>Lepidium aschersonii</i>	Spiny Peppercross
No	No	<i>Lepidium monoplocoides</i>	Winged Pepper-cross
No	No	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Southern Bell Frog,, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
Yes	Yes	<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Myriophyllum porcatum</i>	Ridged Water-milfoil
No	No	<i>Nannoperca australis</i> Murray-Darling Basin lineage	Southern Pygmy Perch (Murray-Darling Basin lineage)
Yes	Yes	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	Plains-wanderer
No	No	<i>Pimelea spinescens</i> subsp. <i>spinescens</i>	Plains Rice-flower, Spiny Rice-flower, Prickly Pimelea
No	No	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	Superb Parrot
No	No	<i>Prasophyllum validum</i>	Sturdy Leek-orchid, Mount Remarkable Leek-orchid
No	No	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	<i>Pterostylis chlorogramma</i>	Green-striped Greenhood
No	No	<i>Pterostylis valida</i>	Robust Greenhood
No	No	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	<i>Senecio behrianus</i>	Stiff Groundsel, Behr's Groundsel
No	No	<i>Senecio macrocarpus</i>	Large-fruit Fireweed, Large-fruit Groundsel



Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	Yes	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Swainsona murrayana	Slender Darling-pea, Slender Swainson, Murray Swainson-pea
No	No	Synemon plana	Golden Sun Moth

### Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes	Yes	Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia
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. \***

**Potential impact:**

Following desktop and site assessments, there were 15 MNES considered for potential significant impacts as per the Matters of National Environmental Significance Significant. These assessments are detailed in Section 4.1 of the attached Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment.

In summary, one Threatened Ecological Community (i.e. 2.60 ha of GBGW) and six significant fauna species listed under the EPBC Act are considered to have a moderate or higher likelihood of occurrence based on the presence of high quality suitable habitat, nearby records and/or the results of previous surveys. This includes:

- Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma*, vulnerable, marine
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*, critically endangered, marine
- Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus (victoriae)*, vulnerable
- Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttate*, vulnerable
- Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*, endangered
- Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*, vulnerable

The proposed project is likely to result in the loss of approximately 36.9 ha of native vegetation. The loss of this vegetation is expected to have a direct impact on the occupancy of these species and the availability of habitat critical to the survival of these species.

Indirect impacts on significant fauna species and the TEC are also likely, as a result of noise, traffic and lighting.

These impacts are detailed in Section 4.1, Page 42, of the attached Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment.

**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. \***

Assessment under the relevant significant impact criteria were completed for each MNES considered to have a moderate or higher likelihood of occurrence. The Significant Impact Assessments determined that the Threatened Ecological Community and five of the six EPBC Act listed fauna species were at risk of being significantly impacted by the proposed project:

- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*, critically endangered, marine
- Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus (victoriae)*, vulnerable
- Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*, vulnerable
- Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*, endangered
- Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*, vulnerable

The loss of this vegetation is expected to have a direct impact on the occupancy of these species and the availability of habitat critical to the survival of these species.

The assessment determined that there is a low risk of a significant impact on Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*, vulnerable, marine), predominately due to the species' varied habitat preferences, migratory nature and the amount of habitat available in the local area.

Assessment of significance of impact is detailed in Section 4.1, Page 42, and Appendix E of the attached Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment.

#### 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. \*

Due to the potential significant impacts to the Matters of National Environmental Significance, we expect the action to be controlled to ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures can be applied to the proposed quarry development.

#### 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. \*

Refer to attached 'avoidance and mitigation measures response' attachment.

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

A working draft Offset Strategy has been prepared to set out the anticipated offset requirements, and map out a likely pathway to achieve these offsets. A separate Offset Management Plan (OMP) will be prepared should there be requirements to do under the EPBC Act and any state approval process. [Attachment 2 – Offset Strategy working draft]

A number of efforts have been made to avoid losses of native vegetation and scattered trees, and where unavoidable, to minimise losses through early assessment and mapping of ecological values within the Project Area. Consideration of quarry design and access road alignment has been made to avoid these values, and the development of retention options and conservation measures are aimed at protecting these values.

If approved, all unavoidable losses to native vegetation and habitat would be required to be offset prior to commencement of works and in accordance with policy and legislative obligations including offsets (if required) under the EPBC Act, and offsets under the Guidelines 2017 policy. The figures reported in this OS are based on impacts and offset target calculations associated with the proposed action area.

These figures and the associated offset targets may vary during the approvals process. As such, offset targets should be recalculated and figures revised if required in the event of approval of the action to ensure that there is no net loss of biodiversity values associated with these projects.

Preliminary calculations under the EPBC Act indicate that all offsets can be met across land contiguous to the proposed action as first party offsets, with the caveat of using the current assumptions and inputs detailed in the Offset Strategy working draft. Similarly, preliminary testing using the Gain Calculator Results indicate approximately 200% of the likely required species offsets, to satisfy State offset requirements as per Victorian Guidelines, available across the proposed first party offset area.

The Draft Offset Strategy is the version intended for submission with the EPBC Referral, and may be made publicly available.

A working draft Offset Strategy has been prepared to set out the anticipated offset requirements and map out a likely pathway to achieve these offsets. A separate Offset Management Plan (OMP) will be prepared should there be requirements to do under the EPBC Act and any state approval process.

#### 4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

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

\*

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* (EPBC Act listed Migratory and Marine) and White-throated *Needletail* *Hirundapus caudacutus* (EPBC Act listed Vulnerable, Migratory and Marine) are predominately aerial species. While the project area supports suitable foraging habitat which may be occasionally utilised, both species are unlikely to be impacted as a result of the project.

Refer to the attached Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment for details.

#### 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 is not a nuclear action

**4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area**

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

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

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

—

**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 closest Commonwealth Marine area is Bass Strait, located 160 km south of the proposed Project.

**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 closest section of Great Barrier Reef is 1,580 km northeast of the proposed Project.

**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 related to a large coal mining development or coal seam gas.

**4.1.10 Commonwealth Land**

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

\*

The proposed Project is not located on Commonwealth land. The closest Commonwealth land is Longlea Commonwealth Area, approximately 34 km northeast of the proposed Project.

**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.**

\*

The proposed Project is located in Australia.

**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. \***

The resource demand justifies the Project progressing on the proposed timelines.

## 5. Lodgement

## 5.1 Attachments

## 3.1.3 Natural features, important or unique values that applies to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment.pdf Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment	07/03/2025	No	High

## 3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment.pdf Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment	06/03/2025	No	High

## 3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment.pdf Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment	06/03/2025	No	High

## 3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 3 - Groundwater Assessment.pdf Blue Hills Quarry Groundwater Assessment		No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment.pdf Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment	06/03/2025		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.	Document	Attachment 1 - Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment.pdf Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment	06/03/2025		High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
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#1.	Document	Avoidance and mitigation measures response.docx Avoidance and Mitigation response - with formatted table	07/03/2025	No	High
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## 4.1.4.11 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Proposed offsets relevant to avoidance or mitigation measures

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 2 - Draft Offset Strategy.pdf Draft Offset Strategy			High

## 5.2 Declarations

## ✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	80078004798
Organisation name	WSP AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Patrick Dunne
Representative's job title	Associate Environmental Consultant
Phone	0408933497
Email	patrick.dunne1@wsp.com
Address	Level 11, 567 Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000

☒ 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, **Patrick Dunne of WSP AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. \*

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

## ✔ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	14004519617
Organisation name	E.B. MAWSON & SONS PROPRIETARY LIMITED
Organisation address	3568 VIC
Representative's name	Richard Toll

Representative's job title	Manager, Resource Development & Regulatory Compliance
Phone	0447 747 696
Email	rtoll@mawsons.com.au
Address	7/53 McMillan Road Echuca, VIC 3564

☒ 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, **Richard Toll of E.B. MAWSON & SONS PROPRIETARY LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. \*

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

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### ☒ 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.

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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, **Richard Toll of E.B. MAWSON & SONS PROPRIETARY LIMITED**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. \*

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