Nowingi Solar Power Station

Application Number: **02964** Commencement Date: **20/06/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Nowingi Solar Power Station

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Solar Farm

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

30/09/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

30/09/2076

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Edify Energy Pty Ltd (Edify/the Applicant) proposes to develop a Solar Farm and integrated battery energy storage system, to be known as the Nowingi Solar Power Station ("the Project"). The Project will involve the construction, operation and decommissioning (where applicable) of a photovoltaic (PV) solar farm with a targeted electricity generating capacity of up to 300 MW AC, a utility-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of up to 300 MW / 2,400 MWh, and associated infrastructure.

The proposed Lot 18 //PP3328 is host to an existing 220 kilovolt (kV) transmission line which extends north-south through the central section of the Project Area. The overhead 220kV transmission line runs from Red Cliffs to Horsham, with the line owned and operated by AusNet. The Project intends to connect into the existing transmission line by establishing a new project substation, within the central section of the Project Area. This will require a new T-connection into the existing transmission line, and the construction of a new step-down transformer from 220kV to 33kV.

The Project includes infrastructure such as solar PV arrays, inverters, transformers, overhead lines, underground cabling, an integrated battery storage system (up to 300MW / 2,400MWh), site office and maintenance (O&M) building, turn treatments and access tracks, road and rail easement crossings, perimeter security fencing, and a substation to connect the Project to AusNet's existing 220kV transmission line.

The Project is within the Mildura Rural City Council Local Government Area (LGA) of Victoria (VIC). The Project is approximately 47 kilometres south of the major regional centre of Mildura. The proposed Project comprises of one allotment located at 1 O'Neill Road, Carwarp VIC 3494 with an allotment area of 637.97 hectares (ha). The site is listed within the LGA's farming zone and currently managed for agricultural purposes, including grazing and cropping.

The Project Area is expected to be refined further during detailed design, however twenty-five (25) avoidance areas have been identified to maintain and protect patches of existing vegetation that have been identified throughout the Project Area.

The construction phase is expected to comprise (but not be limited to):

Construction and Temporary Facilities:

- Temporary construction facilities including site office and car parking;
- Fencing and landscaping works;
- Delivery of Project components;
- Installing, maintenance and environmental management Internal access roads;
- Earthworks Installation of overhead and underground cabling; and
- Access to Project site off Caldler Highway, crossing Nowingi Track Line.

Associated Infrastructure:

- Underground electrical layout connecting PV arrays;
- Internal access tracks to connect panels to associated infrastructure;
- O&M facility;
- Project substation; and
- Additional switchyard and transformer.

The existing Planning Permit considers both the temporary and operational Impact areas, noting the temporary impacted areas would be rehabilitated post construction completion. The main potential impacts of the Project (during construction and operation) on biodiversity that have been assessed include:

- Loss of extant native vegetation communities and associated fauna habitat and the subsequent impacts to local population of native species, particularly threatened species;
- Increased habitat fragmentation;
- Mortality and injury from vehicle strike and vegetation clearing.

Refer to Biodiversity Assessment: Nowingi Solar Farm and Battery Storage Facility (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.4, Pp. 21-25) for the assessment of the project's potential impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance.

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? *

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

No matters of National Environmental Significance were recorded within the Project Area (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017).

Potential foraging habitat was present within mapped patches of native vegetation for 10 EPBC Act listed fauna species, Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*, Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*, Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata*, South-eastern Long-eared Bat *Nyctophilus corbeni*, Red-lored Whistler *Pachycephala rufogularis*, Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides*, Murray Mallee Striated Grasswren *Amytornis striatus howei*, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri*, Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*, and Mallee Emu-wren *Stipiturus mallee*.

Four of these species, (Regent Parrot, South-eastern Long-eared Bat, Malleefowl, and Mallee Emu-wren), are captured within the original 2017 ecological assessment (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.4.2, Pp. 21-24), an updated desktop assessment was completed as part of this application and identified the several additional species, and several which had been listed in the time since the previous assessment (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Appendix 3, Pp. 65-68; Att. 6 - SignificantFauna_2025).

No significant flora species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act were recorded within the Project Area.

***Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) (Victoria)**

One FFG Act ‘listed’ flora species (Buloke *Allocasuarina leuhmannii*) was recorded in the Project Area, and the native vegetation mapped within the Project Area provides opportunistic foraging habitat for fauna species listed under the FFG Act.

The Project Area is privately owned and as such a permit under the FFG Act is not required.

***Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Victoria)**

The Project Area is located within the Mildura Rural City municipality. The Project Area is zoned Farming Zone (FZ) (Victorian Department of Transport and Planning, VicPlan[CR1]). A Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) applies to a small part of the Project Area’s northern and eastern edges, with the balance of the land designated as Bushfire Prone. No other zoning and overlays apply.

A planning permit was granted by the Mildura Rural City Council for the project in December 2017. Since this, the proponent has updated the development plan to further avoid native vegetation. An amended permit was submitted in May 2025, based on the updated development plan and reduction of impacts to native vegetation. The new application included impacts to 26 native scattered trees and 1.335 hectares of native vegetation patches (Att. 7 - NativeVegetationRemovalReport_NowingiSF_2025). This is a reduction from the 2017 design which proposed removal of 31.28 hectares of native vegetation and 42 native scattered trees.

***Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) (Victoria)**

One weed species (Horehound *Marrubium vulgare*) listed as noxious under the CaLP Act was recorded within the Project Area during the assessment. Similarly, there is evidence that the Project Area is currently occupied by several pest fauna species listed under the CaLP Act (Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* and European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*). Listed noxious weeds and pests should be controlled appropriately throughout the Project Area.

***Wildlife Act 1975* and Wildlife Regulations 2013 (Victoria)**

The *Wildlife Act 1975* (and associated Wildlife Regulations 2013) is the primary legislation in Victoria providing for protection and management of wildlife. Authorisation for habitat removal may be obtained under the *Wildlife Act 1975* through a licence granted under the *Forests Act 1958*, or under any other Act

such as the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Any persons engaged to remove, salvage, hold or relocate native fauna during construction must hold a current Management Authorisation under *the Wildlife Act 1975*, issued by DEECA.

A number of mature scattered trees are present throughout the site offering roosting and foraging habitat, for a range of arboreal fauna and bird species. A pre-construction inspection of trees containing habitat (e.g. hollows and nests etc.) is recommended prior to any tree removal and pre-construction salvage to relocate any impacted wildlife.

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

Community and stakeholder engagement has been conducted for the Project since 2023. Stakeholders consulted are noted in the Project Community Engagement Plan (Att. 2 - CommunityConsultationandEngagementPlan_NowingiSF_2025).

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	111427920
Organisation name	ECOLOGY AND HERITAGE PARTNERS PTY LTD
Organisation address	292 Mt Alexander Road, Travancore VIC 3032

Referring party details

Name	Braden Callaway
Job title	Botanist
Phone	0484183077
Email	bcallaway@ehpartners.com.au
Address	292 Mt Alexander Rd, Travancore VIC 3032

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	85606684995
Organisation name	EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	Level 4, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Patrick Dale
Job title	Senior Development Manager
Phone	0487177136
Email	Patrick.dale@edifyenergy.com
Address	Level 4, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

Edify Energy Pty Lt has previously referred the following actions under the EPBC Act:

- Gannawarra Solar Farm Development, Vic (2016/7807)
- Solar Farm development, north-west of Collinsville, Qld (2016/7824)
- Stage 2 Solar Farm Development, north-west of Collinsville, Queensland (2017/7904)
- Majors Creek Solar Farm, south of Townsville, Queensland (2017/7963)
- Darlington Point Solar Farm, near Darlington Point, NSW (2018/8218)
- Smoky Creek Solar Farm (2021/9030)
- EGH2 Green Hydrogen Project (2023/09604)
- Callide Solar Power Station, near Biloela, Queensland (2024/09863)
- Muskerry Solar Power Station, near Muskerry, Queensland (2024/09964)
- Pleystowe Battery Energy Storage System, west of Mackay, Queensland (2024/09971)
- Burroway Solar Farm, north of Narromine, NSW (2025/10120)
- Peninsula Solar Farm, south east of Forbes, NSW (2025/10136)
- Brewongle Solar Farm, east of Bathurst, NSW (2025/10143)

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

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Edify Energy Pty Ltd is committed to delivering positive outcomes for the community, the environment and the business by continuously improving environmental performance with the aim of sustainable development.

The Edify Energy and Clean Energy Council Best Practice Charter Report (Att. 10 - EdifyEnergy_CleanEnergyCouncil _BestPracticeCharterReport_2025) outlines the 10 commitments to ensure that activities are carried out in a manner which minimises impacts to and enhances the environment, the agricultural productivity of the land, and engages and supports the local community. The 10 commitments are:

1. Engage respectfully with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before submitting a development application and finalising the design of the project;
2. Provide timeline information and be accessible and responsive in addressing local communities feedback and concerns throughout the life of the project;
3. Be sensitive to areas of high biodiversity, including cultural and landscape value in the design and operation of projects;
4. Minimise impacts on highly productive agricultural land and explore opportunities to integrate agricultural production
5. Consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts of the project and on the mitigation options;
6. Support the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities;
7. Offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the project, and consult them on the options available, including the relevant governance arrangements;
8. Using the project to support educational and tourism opportunities where appropriate;
9. Demonstrate responsible land stewardship over the life of the project and welcome opportunities to enhance the ecological, cultural, and/or agricultural value of the land; and,
10. During the life of the project, we will recycle waste materials where feasible and commit to responsible decommissioning or refurbishing/repowering of the site at the end of the project’s life.

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	85606684995
Organisation name	EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	Level 4, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Patrick Dale
Job title	Senior Development Manager
Phone	0487177136
Email	Patrick.dale@edifyenergy.com
Address	Level 4, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

ABN/ACN	111427920
Organisation name	ECOLOGY AND HERITAGE PARTNERS PTY LTD
Organisation address	292 Mt Alexander Road, Travancore VIC 3032
Representative's name	Braden Callaway
Representative's job title	Botanist
Phone	0484183077
Email	bcallaway@ehpartners.com.au
Address	292 Mt Alexander Rd, Travancore VIC 3032

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	85606684995
Organisation name	EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	Level 4, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095
Representative's name	Patrick Dale
Representative's job title	Senior Development Manager
Phone	0487177136
Email	Patrick.dale@edifyenergy.com
Address	Level 4, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

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

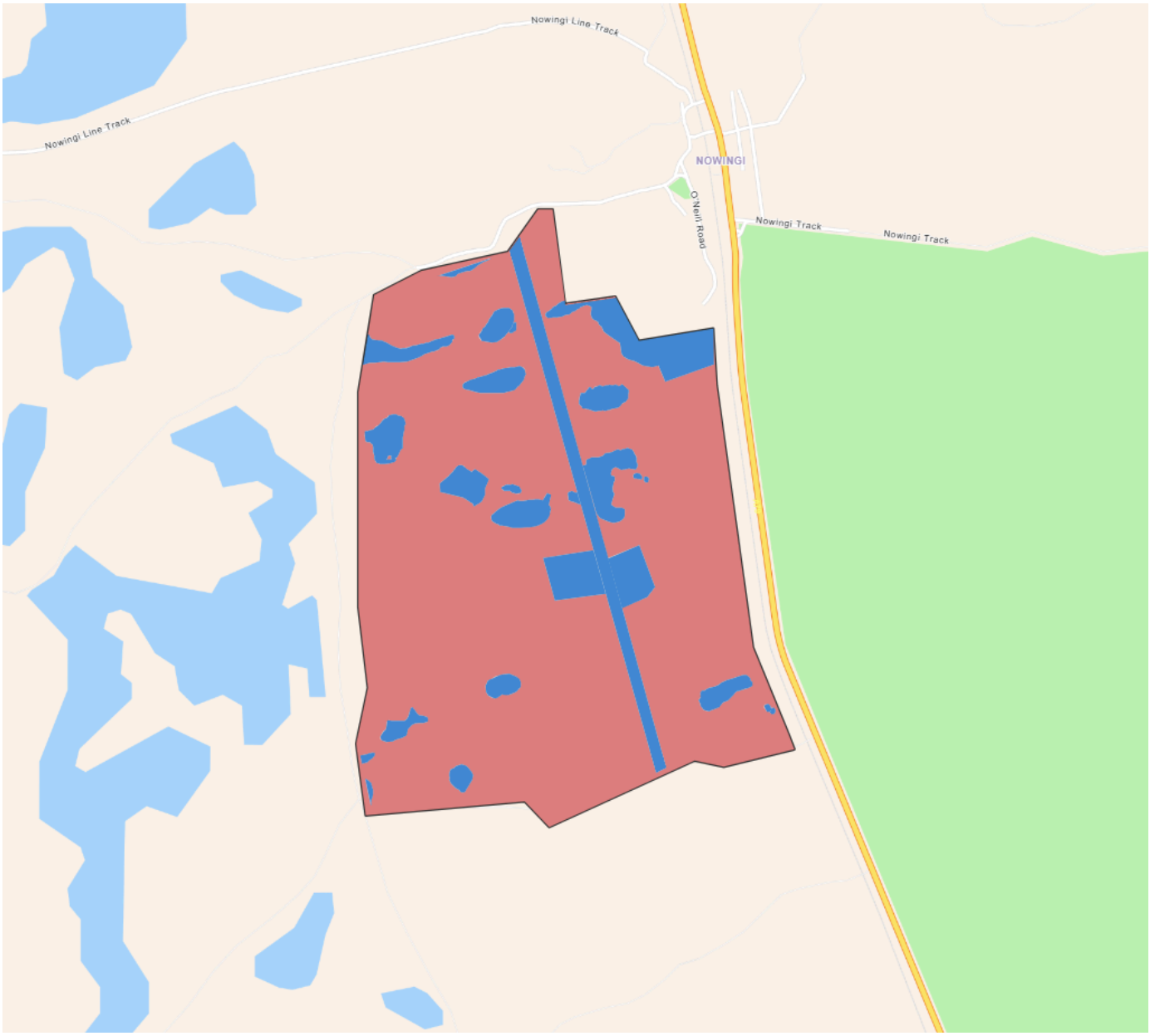
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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: 637.97 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 542.29 Ha **Avoidance Area:** 95.71 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

1 O’Neill Road, Carwarp, 3494

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? *

Edify currently has a lease agreement with the freehold landowner for the anticipated life of the Project.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Project Area is located at 1 O'Neill Road Carwarp, part of the Crown Allotment 18 in the Parish of Nowingi (Att. 3 – ProjectArea_2025). According to the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) NatureKit Map, the Project Area occurs within the Murray Mallee bioregion. This bioregion is characterised by undulating sandy plains often forming low sand dunes, with generally few surface water bodies due to the highly permeable soils. The vegetation is typically East/West Dune Mallee, Chenopod Mallee, and Shallow-sand Mallee. The Project Area is located within the jurisdiction of the Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and the Mildura Rural City municipality. The Project Area is covered by a Farming Zone (FZ) which is consistent with the known uses of the property.

It is located adjacent to the Calder Highway, Nowingi, approximately 37 kilometres south of Mildura in Victoria's far north-west. The site covers approximately 637.97 hectares and is bound by agricultural land to the north, west and south, and the Calder Highway to the east. In the broader landscape, to the north-east is the Nowingi Bushland Reserve, and the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park abuts the Calder Highway to the Project Areas East.

The Project Area is gently undulating, with no major ridges, crests or waterways within or immediately adjacent to the site and has undergone a recent period of drought, experiencing a rainfall deficiency for the five months since January 2025 (Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology). The majority of the Project Area has been subject to cropping activities and is highly disturbed. While no residences or buildings are within, an electricity easement dissects the Project Area from north to south, supporting existing 220,00-volt power lines. The majority of the Project Area consists of exotic grasses direct seeded for cropping, and incidental occurrences of environmental weeds (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.1.3, Page 17). Only discrete areas within the site have not been cleared of native vegetation and cropped, and are generally confined to low-lying areas containing evaporative basins between sandy rises, or woodland-type vegetation on the sandy rises themselves. The native vegetation is scattered throughout the Project Area in discrete patches ranging from approximately 75 square meters, to almost eight hectares in size, with most patches within the northern and central portions (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Figure 2, Pp. 41-45). No recent major events have occurred within the Project Area that have affected the condition on the environment present.

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

Existing Uses:

The Project Area covers approximately 639 hectares with a proposed access track in the north-eastern corner (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Figure 2, Page 41). It is currently used for agricultural practices (cropping) and supports an electrical easement with existing 220,000 volt power lines running north to south down the centre. The land was historically cleared for agriculture and contains a high cover of exotic grass species which have been direct seeded for crop. Approximately 51.19 hectares of low to moderate condition native vegetation was present throughout, primarily occupying the low-lying ephemeral basins.

Proposed Uses:

A Solar Farm is proposed to replace the current agricultural land use at the Project Area. Approximately 538.11 hectares of the Project Area falls within the proposed impact area for the Solar Farm, which includes the substation, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and inverters, electrical reticulation network, access tracks, associated infrastructure, and construction and temporary facilities. Most of the impact area coincides with the most degraded lands present within the Project Area, with large portions of the vegetated ephemeral basins marked as avoidance areas where no works are proposed. The remainder of the Project Area is not expected to result in any land use change.

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 was generally highly degraded from extensive historic and current cropping throughout almost the entire site. The Project Area includes scattered areas of native vegetation and one FFG Act listed species (Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii*). However, the native vegetation patches were generally degraded through the historic modification of the Project Area as use as cropping and in construction of the existing power lines.

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 predominantly flat and largely cleared, with gently undulating terrain. There are no significant ridges, crests, or waterways within or immediately adjacent to the site. Low-lying areas containing evaporative basins are dispersed throughout the area.

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.

A field assessment was undertaken on the 6 and 7 of July 2017 to obtain information on terrestrial flora and fauna values within the Project Area, with an updated desktop review of the likelihood of presence of significant species and communities undertaken on 11 June 2025. Most of the Project Area comprised of exotic vegetation direct seeded for cropping. Approximately 51.19 hectares of low to moderate condition native vegetation was present throughout, primarily occupying low-lying evaporative basins. Seventy-one (71) flora species (49 indigenous and 22 non-indigenous or introduced) were recorded within the Project Area during the field assessment. The relevant Biodiversity Assessment provides a consolidated list of flora species recorded (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Appendix 2.1, Pp. 55-57), and the results of the habitat hectare assessment (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Appendix 2.3, Page 62).

Ecological Communities

Three nationally listed ecological communities are predicted to occur within 10 kilometres of the Project Area according to DCCEEW's Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) (http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/pmst/index.html) (Att. 9 – PMST_2025).

1. Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions;
2. Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion; and
3. Plains mallee box woodlands of the Murray Darling Depression, Riverina and Naracoorte Coastal Plain Bioregions.

Vegetation within the Project Area did not meet the condition thresholds that define these Nationally-significant or State-significant communities due to the highly modified nature, the low diversity of native species, the high cover of weed species, and the absence of key indicator species.

Significant Flora

The Project Area supports one FFG Act 'listed' flora species (Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii*), which is listed as Critically Endangered under FFG Act. Twenty-six scattered individuals occur within the Study Area, and several additional individuals recorded within a patch of Semi-arid Woodland (Ecological Vegetation Class 97) within the Project Area (Att. 4 - EcologicalFeatures_2025, Page 1, SaW2). From the scattered individuals, 17 are proposed to be removed and nine are to be retained within Avoidance Areas. All individuals in patches of native vegetation will also be retained within the Avoidance Areas.

The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas contains no records of flora species listed under the EPBC Act (Att. 5 - SignificantFlora_2025). The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Waters Protected Matters Search Tool nominated seven nationally significant species which have not been previously recorded but had the potential to occur in the locality. The Project Area was considered unlikely to support any nationally significant flora species. This was due to the Project Area being highly modified and degraded due to the historic and ongoing use as agricultural land.

The Project Area was highly modified and a low diversity of native species was recorded within patches, noting that this is likely contributed to by both the historic and current use as agricultural land, and the sub-optimal timing of the field assessment (i.e., in winter) (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 2.4, Page 12). Given the historic and current agricultural land uses and distance to recent records (Att. 5 - SignificantFlora_2025), additional significant flora species other than those recorded during the biodiversity assessment (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Appendix 2.2, Pp. 58-61), are considered unlikely to occur within the Project Area. This result was confirmed during the recent (June 2025) desktop assessment of significant species within 10km of the Project Area and the results of the flora assessment of the original Biodiversity Assessment (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.4.1, Page 21) are considered appropriate.

Significant Fauna

There are no records for EPBC Act-listed species within the Project Area (Att. 6 - SignificantFauna_2025). Based on the availability of suitable habitat and historical records, the native vegetation within and immediately adjacent to the Project Area provides potential low quality foraging habitat for ten fauna species listed under the EPBC Act (Southern Whiteface, Brown Treecreeper, Malleefowl, South-eastern Long-eared, Bat Red-lored Whistler, Regent Parrot, Murray Mallee Striated Grasswren, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Hooded Robin, and Mallee Emu-wren). While four of these are captured within the original 2017 ecological assessment (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.4.2, Pp. 21-24), an updated desktop assessment was completed as part of this application and identified the additional species (Att. 6 - SignificantFauna_2025).

All previous significant fauna records within 10 kilometres of the Project Area are associated with the surrounding expansive high quality habitat (e.g., Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and surrounding bush land vegetation) (Att. 6 - SignificantFauna_2025).

The Project Area is not considered to provide limiting or important habitat for the above species due to the highly modified nature of the vegetation within. Most of the Project Area contained degraded open areas subject to cropping, with suitable habitat constrained to generally small, discrete patches primarily within the Project Areas north. Mobile species may use the vegetation within the Project Area opportunistically for foraging but are likely to nest and reside primarily in the expansive nearby areas of higher quality habitat such as the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park.

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

Remnant native vegetation in the Project Area is representative of five Ecological Vegetation Classes for a total of 0.799 hectares of Woorinen Sands Mallee, 6.319 hectares of Loamy Sands Mallee, 1.303 hectares of Semi-arid Woodland, 28.421 hectares of Samphire Shrubland, and 7.833 hectares of Woorinen Mallee (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3, Pp. 13-17). A total of 51 scattered trees were recorded in the Project Area within the cropped land (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.1.2, Pp. 17; Att. 4 - EcologicalFeatures_2025). These comprised of 12 small and 39 large scattered trees, primarily of various Eucalypt species, Buloke, Belah, and Slender Cypress-Pine (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Appendix 2.4, Pp. 63-64).

Woorinen Sands Mallee (EVC 86)

Woorinen Sands Mallee was recorded in several small, discrete patches located in the western portion of the Project Area. Variations in quality (species diversity and cover, weed cover, litter and recruitment) were represented by four habitat zones (WSM1 – WSM4) of remnant native vegetation (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.1.1.1, Page 13).

In all patches, the overstorey comprised one or more eucalypts, including Dumosa Mallee *Eucalyptus dumosa*, Slender-leaf Mallee *Eucalyptus leptophylla* and Yellow Mallee *Eucalyptus incrassata*. The understory was highly modified, with the shrub layer absent, and diversity and species composition variable in the ground layer. Of the grasses, Porcupine Grass *Triodia scariosa* was dominant, with Bristly Wallaby-grass *Rytidosperma setaceum* and Rough Spear-grass *Austrostipa scabra* also common, and Sieber's Crassula *Crassula sieberiana*, Pale Twin-leaf *Roepera glauca*, and Dissected New Holland Daisy *Vittadinia dissecta* common herbs observed.

Weed cover was high with Fescue *Vulpia* sp., and Perennial Veldt-grass *Ehrharta calycina* dominant throughout the understory. Scattered occurrences of Wild Turnip *Brassica* sp, Paddy Melon *Cucumis myriocarpus* and Black Nightshade *Solanum nigrum* were also observed in these patches.

Loamy Sands Mallee (EVC 91)

Loamy Sands Mallee was recorded in three discrete patches in the south-east of the Project Area. Variations in quality (species diversity and cover, weed cover, litter and recruitment) were represented by three habitat zones (LSM1-LSM3) of remnant native vegetation (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.1.1.2, Pp. 13-14).

All patches of Loamy Sands Mallee comprised an intact overstorey of Slender-leaf Mallee, Dumosa Mallee and/or Grey Mallee *Eucalyptus socialis*, with Scrub Cypress-pine *Callitris verrucosa*, Dark Turpentine Bush *Beyeria opaca*, Nitre Bush *Nitraria billardierei* and Ruby Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa* were usually present through the shrub layer.

The ground layer was variable between habitat zones, with LSM1 and LSM3 containing Porcupine Grass, Sieber's Crassula, Woolly Mat-rush *Lomandra leucocephala* subsp. *robusta*, and Dissected New Holland Daisy *Vittadinia dissecta*. The ground layer of LSM2 was in poor condition and dominated by the environmental weed Ice Plant *Mesembryanthemum* spp., with only scattered occurrences of Ruby Saltbush present.

Semi-arid Woodland (EVC 97)

Semi-arid Woodland was recorded in three discreet patches close to the centre (SaW2), with two small patches in the south-east (SaW1). Habitat zone SaW2 contained an overstorey comprised of both Buloke and Belah *Casuarina pauper*, while SaW1 supported Cypress-pine *Callitris* spp., only. The understory of both habitat zones was in poor condition, with Cattle-bush *Alectryon oleifolius* subsp. *canescens* present in low abundance. The ground layer contained scattered native grasses including Common Wallaby-grass *Rytidosperma caespitosum*, and Rough Spear-grass, however, weed cover was high, with Fescue, Perennial Veldt-grass, Red Brome *Bromus rubens* and Arabian Grass *Schismus barbatus* being particularly dominant (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.1.1.3, Pp. 14-15).

Samphire Shrubland (EVC 101)

Samphire Shrubland was found throughout the Project Area in low-lying depressions within the undulating landscape. Variations in quality (weed cover and recruitment) were represented by three habitat zones (SS1 – SS3) of remnant native vegetation.

All patches of Samphire Shrubland comprise a similar species composition, with Bluish Glasswort *Tecticornia pruinosa*, Grey Glasswort *Tecticornia halocnemoides* subsp. *halocnemoides*, and Blackseed Glasswort *Tecticornia pergranulata* common throughout all patches. Less common chenopods included Rosy Bluebush *Maireana erioclada*, Short-wing Saltbush *Sclerolaena brachyptera*, Cottony Saltbush *Chenopodium curvispicatum*, and the State significant Pearl Bluebush *Maireana sedifolia* and Wiry Glasswort *Tecticornia lylei*. Occasional specimens of Rounded Noon-flower *Disphyma crassifolium* subsp. *clavellatum* and Water Ribbons *Triglochin* sp., were also observed (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.1.1.4, Pp. 15-16).

Weed cover was variable, with Ice Plant particularly prevalent in habitat zone SS2. Other weeds present included Arabian Grass, False Hair-grass *Pentameris airoides* subsp. *airoides*, Red Sand-spurrey Spergularia rubra, and Common Sow-thistle Sonchus oleraceus.

Woorinen Mallee (EVC 824)

Woorinen Mallee was recorded in five patches in the north-east of the Project Area, with variations in quality (species diversity, canopy cover, litter and recruitment) were represented by three habitat zones (WM1 – WM3) of remnant native vegetation.

All habitat zones comprised a good quality overstorey of one or more of Dumosa Mallee, Grey Mallee, Red Mallee *Eucalyptus calycogona*, Yorrell *Eucalyptus gracilis* and Slender-leaf Mallee. The understory was variable, with commonly observed shrubs including Sweet Quandong *Santalum acuminatum*, Dwarf Nealie *Acacia wilhelmiana*, Ruby Saltbush, Cottony Goosefoot and Dark Turpentine Bush. Herbs and grasses included Pale Twin-leaf, Dissected New Holland Daisy, Rounded Noon-flower, Porcupine Grass, and Rough Spear-grass (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.1.1.5, Pp. 16-17).

Bare ground cover was high, and weed cover was relatively low, with scattered occurrences of Red Brome, Arabian Grass, Wheat *Triticum aestivum*, and the noxious weed Horehound *Marrubium vulgare*.

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 known Commonwealth heritage places within the Project Area.

There are no cultural heritage places listed on the Victorian Heritage Database/Register or the Archaeological Inventory under the Heritage Act 1995 within the Project Area (https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/) (Att. 8 - CulturalHeritageManagementPlan_20239_NowingiSF_2025). The associated Cultural Heritage Management Plan document is not publicly available due to indigenous and cultural heritage sensitivity reasons.

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

The activity area intersects numerous areas of cultural heritage sensitivity defined under Regulation 67 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018* (Vic), being the Project Area's general proximity to an ancient lake, dune or source bordering dune.

In accordance with section 54 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic) (the Act), a formal Notice of Intention to Prepare a CHMP (NOI) (Appendix A) was submitted to the following parties by Edify Energy's Heritage Advisor (HA), Eco Logical Australia, on 26 July 2024:

- Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- First Peoples Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (FPMMAC); and
- Mildura Rural City Council.

A standard assessment archaeological ground survey was conducted across the Project Area, from 21-30 October 2024, with survey participants from the First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (FPMMAC), Edify Energy and Edify's HH. Ground surface visibility across the activity area was very good due to sparse cropping.

No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during the standard assessment. After consultation with the FPMMAC, it was determined that a CHMP complex assessment of the activity area was not required based on the outcomes of the desktop and standard assessments, which identified a low potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage to be present in the activity area.

No Aboriginal cultural heritage places were identified in the activity area during the preparation of CHMP 20239 (Att. 8 - CulturalHeritageManagementPlan_20239_NowingiSF_2025). The associated Cultural Heritage Management Plan document is not publicly available due to indigenous and cultural heritage sensitivity reasons.

3.4 Hydrology

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

The Project Area is located in the Murray Darling Basin, with the site being generally flat with undulating ridges splitting the site from the north to the south-west.

The Project Area contains areas of flat land which may be subject to inundation causing pooling during significant wet conditions. However, local overland flow will be primarily shallow and slow moving outside of definable drainage lines.

The project will have very limited impact on natural water flows. With the exception of the built infrastructure, such as the battery energy storage systems, substation and site O&M building, the natural topography of the site will generally be maintained. Access tracks will be constructed at or close to natural grade, and trenches will be backfilled to natural surface level. Specific stormwater management considerations will also be undertaken during detailed-design, prior to construction commencing.

Groundwater:

The project is within the Murray Basin which is a shallow sedimentary basin extending across over 300,000km2 of south-eastern Australia. The major aquifers within the region are the Renmark Group, Murray Group, Loxton (Pliocene Sands) and Shepparton Formation.

Depth to groundwater at the site is mapped at approximately 5-10m (Visualising Victoria's Groundwater (VVG), 2025), with the western side of the site generally less than 5 metres depth, gradually increasing in depth moving in an easterly direction. The closest observation well to the site has standing water level of 4.21m with a recorded salinity greater than 35,000 mg/L (VVG 2017).

There are two groundwater monitoring wells 1km to the north-east of the site boundary. Additionally, a series of three exploration wells were drilled in the late 1980's, likely associated with the Nowingi train station, and are approximately 1.2km to the north of the Project Area (VVG 2017). Groundwater use in the area is very limited, due to the salinity and accessibility of water from the Murray River.

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 Properties within 10 kilometres of the Project Area.

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 Places within 10 kilometres of the Project Area.

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.

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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 Project Area is not within an area listed under the Ramsar Convention or in ‘A Dictionary of Important Wetlands in Australia’. The nearest Ramsar site from the Project Area is the Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes, approximately 13 kilometres south-west of the Project Area. The site is considered hydrologically isolated from the Ramsar site. As such, the project is will not have an impact on any Ramsar sites.

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	Yes	Amytornis striatus howei	Murray Mallee Striated Grasswren, Striated Grasswren (sandplain)
No	Yes	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
No	No	Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	Yes	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Galaxias rostratus	Flathead Galaxias, Beaked Minnow, Flat-headed Galaxias, Flat-headed Jollytail, Flat-headed Minnow
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	Hemiaspis damelii	Grey Snake
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	Yes	Leipoa ocellata	Malleefowl
No	No	Lepidium monoplocoides	Winged Pepper-cress
No	No	Litoria raniformis	Southern Bell Frog, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
No	Yes	Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (eastern), Eastern Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Pink Cockatoo (eastern)
No	No	Manorina melanotis	Black-eared Miner

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	Yes	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	Yes	Nyctophilus corbeni	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
No	Yes	Pachycephala rufogularis	Red-lored Whistler
No	No	Pedionomus torquatus	Plains-wanderer
No	Yes	Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides	Regent Parrot (eastern)
No	No	Pterostylis xerophila	Desert Greenhood
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	Yes	Stipiturus mallee	Mallee Emu-wren
No	No	Swainsona pyrophila	Yellow Swainson-pea
No	No	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions
No	No	Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion
No	No	Plains mallee box woodlands of the Murray Darling Depression, Riverina and Naracoorte Coastal Plain Bioregions

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. *

There were no threatened flora species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act recorded within the Project Area (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 3.4.3, Pp. 25-30).

Ten threatened fauna species listed under the EPBC Act (Southern Whiteface, Brown Treecreeper, Malleefowl, South-eastern Long-eared Bat, Red-lored Whistler, Regent Parrot, Murray Mallee Striated Grasswren, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Hooded Robin, and Mallee Emu-wren) had past records within 10 kilometres of the Project Area (largely within the adjacent Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and surrounding vegetation). No direct impact is anticipated to these species as a result of the project. An indirect impact may result from the loss of potential low quality habitat within the Project Area where up to 1.335 hectares of native vegetation is proposed to be removed.

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

No

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

Southern Whiteface, Brown Treecreeper, Malleefowl, South-eastern Long-eared Bat, Red-lored Whistler, Regent Parrot, Murray Mallee Striated Grasswren, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Hooded Robin, and Mallee Emu-wren are all unlikely to rely on the habitat within the Project Area given the modified nature of the vegetation present and the abundance of high-quality habitat in the wider landscape (e.g., Hatta-Kulkyne National Park). However, as mobile species they may access the vegetation within the Project Area for opportunistic foraging and en route to higher quality habitat areas. Given the retention of 49.79 hectares of native vegetation (97.25% of that present within the Project Area) (Att. 4 - EcologicalFeatures_2025), the residual clearing and proposed use as a solar farm will not significant reduce the availability of suitable habitat for these significant fauna species within the local area. The proposed removal of 1.335 hectares of low quality habitat is not considered to have a direct impact on these significant species.

Significant fauna will still be able to opportunistically use the retained vegetation and will not be directly impacted by the project, given this the potential indirect impact resulting from potential habitat loss (i.e., 1.335 hectares of native vegetation) for these threatened fauna species is not considered to be significant.

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

No

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

The project will not result in a significant impact to any Matters of National Environmental Significance. Mitigation measures will be put in place for the protection of the native vegetation that is proposed to be retained. Provided these mitigation measures are successfully implemented, it is considered that the project does not constitute a controlled action.

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

The project has undergone several revisions to reduce impacts to native vegetation, resulting in the retention of 49.79 hectares of the 51.20 hectares of native vegetation patches present within the Project Area. No threatened flora species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act were recorded within the Project Area. The implementation of 25 Avoidance Areas within the Project Area has retained most of the potential habitat for threatened fauna species that may use it opportunistically. For the 1.335 hectares of native vegetation and 27 scattered trees proposed to be removed, pre-clearance surveys will be undertaken to prevent harm to any native wildlife residing within these areas during the works. Additional mitigations measures for the project are outlined in the associated Biodiversity Assessment (Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017, Section 5.2, Pp 38-39).

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

No offsets for Matters of National Environmental Significance are proposed, as the project will not result in a significant impact to any listed matter.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

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

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

No

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

No listed migratory species have been recorded within the Project Area and based on the highly modified habitat present, the habitat within the Project Area is not considered important or limiting habitat for any migratory species.

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. *

No Nuclear action is proposed.

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 proposed action will not impact any Commonwealth marine areas.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The proposed action is not within or near 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. *

Proposed action is not coal mining 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 proposed action is not within Commonwealth land and will not impact on any 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.

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

No

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

The proposed action is not within Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas, nor will it impact on any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

Various criteria were considered during site selection including:

- Small slope gradient;
- Proximity and access to existing overhead transmission lines;
- Minimal nearby sensitive receptors; and
- Minimal environmental impacts.

Edify considered several alternative sites that did not meet these criteria. The site location for the Project was selected as it ranked highest in each of these criteria.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017.pdf Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed Nowingi Solar Farm	19/10/2017	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017.pdf Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed Nowingi Solar Farm	20/10/2017	No	High
#2.	Document	Att. 6 - SignificantFauna_2025.pdf Threatened fauna records within 10 kilometres of the Project Area	17/06/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att. 7 - NativeVegetationRemovalReport_NowingiSF_2025.pdf Nowingi Solar Farm 2025 proposed impacts native vegetation removal report	23/06/2025	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 2 - CommunityConsultationandEngagementPlan_NowingiSF_2025.pdf Nowingi Community Consultation and Engagement Plan	19/05/2025	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	Att. 10 - EdifyEnergy_CleanEnergyCouncil _BestPracticeCharterReport_2025.pdf Edify Energy and Clean Energy Council Best Practice Charter Report	02/07/2025	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017.pdf	19/10/2017	No	High

		Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed Nowingi Solar Farm			
#2.	Document	Att. 3 - ProjectArea_2025.pdf Project Area Map	17/06/2025	No	High

3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017.pdf Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed Nowingi Solar Farm	19/10/2017	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017.pdf Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed Nowingi Solar Farm	19/10/2017	No	High
#2.	Document	Att. 4 - EcologicalFeatures_2025.pdf Nowingi Solar Farm ecological features and proposed clearing 2025	17/06/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att. 5 - SignificantFlora_2025.pdf Threatened flora records within 10 kilometres of the Project Area	17/06/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att. 6 - SignificantFauna_2025.pdf Threatened fauna records within 10 kilometres of the Project Area	16/06/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Att. 9 - PMST_2025.pdf July 2025 PMST Search	27/06/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017.pdf Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed Nowingi Solar Farm	19/10/2017	No	High
#2.	Document	Att. 4 - EcologicalFeatures_2025.pdf Nowingi Solar Farm ecological features and proposed clearing 2025	16/06/2025	No	High

3.3.1 Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	Att. 8 - CulturalHeritageManagementPlan_20239_NowingiSF_2025.pdf Nowingi Solar Farm Cultural Heritage Management Plan	13/05/2025	Yes	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 8 - CulturalHeritageManagementPlan_20239_NowingiSF_2025.pdf Nowingi Solar Farm Cultural Heritage Management Plan	12/05/2025	Yes	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017.pdf Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed Nowingi Solar Farm	19/10/2017	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 4 - EcologicalFeatures_2025.pdf Nowingi Solar Farm ecological features and proposed clearing 2025	16/06/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - BiodiversityAssessment_NowingiSF_2017.pdf Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed Nowingi Solar Farm	19/10/2017	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	111427920
Organisation name	ECOLOGY AND HERITAGE PARTNERS PTY LTD
Organisation address	292 Mt Alexander Road, Travancore VIC 3032
Representative's name	Braden Callaway
Representative's job title	Botanist
Phone	0484183077
Email	bcallaway@ehpartners.com.au
Address	292 Mt Alexander Rd, Travancore VIC 3032

☑ 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, **Braden Callaway of ECOLOGY AND HERITAGE PARTNERS PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	85606684995
Organisation name	EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	Level 4, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095
Representative's name	Patrick Dale

Representative's job title	Senior Development Manager
Phone	0487177136
Email	Patrick.dale@edifyenergy.com
Address	Level 4, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

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

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

☑ I, **Patrick Dale of EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

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

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☑ I, **Patrick Dale of EDIFY ENERGY PTY. LTD.**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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