

Morgan Solar Project

Application Number: **02728**

Commencement Date:
19/12/2024

Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Morgan Solar Project

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 *

31/12/2025

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2065

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Morgan Solar Project is a 108 Megawatt (MW) solar farm with 91 Megawatt hour (MWh) battery system. The solar farm is aimed to commence construction starting from the end of 2025 and be operational by 2028. The solar farm life span is approximately 30-40 years and will be generating electricity and selling it back into the South Australian power grid via ElectraNet's North West Substation. Batteries will be storing electricity during low electricity prices and export electricity when prices are high. No staff will be working on site, but a maintenance crew may be hired to service the solar farm a few times a year subject to solar farm conditions.

The Morgan Solar Project will consist of the following infrastructure components:

- Installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels with a total export capacity of 108 MW.
- Installation of 20 Inverters (battery storage units) with a combined battery capacity of 91.7MWh.
- 30 metres (m) setback from the boundary, which includes 11 m of cleared area for a fence line and a firebreak.
- Installation of underground cabling connecting the PV panels to Inverter Transformer Twin Skids connected to the on-site substation.
- Development of an on-site substation located near the western boundary in the northern part of the site, near the existing 132 Kilovolt (kV) transmission lines which traverse the site in a west-east direction at that location.
- Installation of an overhead transmission line connecting the on-site substation to the ElectraNet substation located approximately 1.2 km to the west of the subject site.
- Installation of a synchronous condenser plus flywheel / BESS to be housed within a compound located adjacent the on-site substation.
- Development of buildings and structures to support the operation of the solar farm, including:
 - storage containers housing batteries to be distributed across the site;
 - customer room accommodating metres that will be accessed by ElectraNet;
 - monitoring building; and
 - warehouse storing equipment and general items.
- Installation of rainwater tanks for fire-fighting purposes.
- Development of the site access point and access road off Goyder Highway.
- Development of internal access roads / tracks within the subject site.
- Development of cyclone mesh security fencing around the perimeter of the site.

Pre-construction activities

Pre-construction activities, such as pre-clearance surveys, establishment of monitoring programs, mobilisation of plant and equipment, materials and machinery to site may be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction activities and will have no adverse impact on MNES or their habitat. Pre-construction works will occur post approval throughout development of the Proposed Action to inform the detailed design and will be undertaken without triggering commencement of the Proposed Action.

Construction activities:

The construction phase of the Proposed Action is likely to occur over approximately 24 months. All construction activities will be undertaken in accordance with a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) or similar relevant environmental management plans and management measures to ensure environmental impacts from construction are minimised as much as possible and appropriately managed. Construction works are likely to commence with site preparation and establishment activities, upgrade and/or construction of internal access tracks and all other civil works, including preparation of hardstand areas and laying of cable to allow for delivery of components and servicing.

Operational activities:

During operation of the Proposed Action, PV panels and other associated Project infrastructure will require inspection and maintenance, which will be undertaken in accordance with an operational environmental management plan.

Decommissioning and rehabilitation activities[ET1] :

Decommissioning will be done by the project owner, there is a clause in the lease contracts they sign with the landowners that they will be removing everything that was installed for the solar farm. At this point in time no rehabilitation works is planned after decommissioning.

Will rehabilitation works be undertaken? For example, will vegetation be reinstated? What is the plan?

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

No

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

Commonwealth legislation that is relevant to the proposed action includes the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), as Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) (protected by the EPBC Act), including a Threatened Ecological Community, Threatened species and Migratory species, have been identified via a Protected Matters Search and subject to further assessment.

An assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Action in accordance with the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 2013) determined that the construction and operation of the Proposed Action is likely to have a significant impact on the Southern Whiteface. The Project may also have indirect impacts on the following Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) and the following two fauna species:

- Mallee Bird Community (MBC) of the Murray Darling Basin Bioregion (MDBB)
- Hooded Robin
- Black-eared Miner.

A detailed significant impact assessment was undertaken for the species that are known, likely or possibly occurring within the Project Area, this includes one TEC, one threatened flora and seven fauna species as listed below:

- The MBC of the MDDDB TEC
- Yellow Swainson-pea (*Swainsona pyrophila*)
- Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*)
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*)
- Black-eared Miner (*Manorina melanotis*)
- Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*)
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*)
- Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*)
- Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*)

Refer to **Att 2, Section 5 pages 30-89.**

South Australian legislation that is relevant to the Proposed Action includes:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (NPW Act)
- *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (NV Act)
- *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (LSA Act)
- *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (PDI Act)
- *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* (HRE Act)

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (NPW Act)

Native plants and animals in South Australia are protected under the NPW Act. It is an offence to take a native plant or protected animal without approval. Threatened plant and animal species are listed in Schedules 7 (Endangered species), 8 (Vulnerable species) and 9 (Rare species) of the Act. Persons must not:

- take a native plant on a reserve, wilderness protection area, wilderness protection zone, land reserved for public purposes, a forest reserve or any other Crown land
- take a native plant of a prescribed species on private land
- take a native plant on private land without the consent of the owner (such plants may also be covered by the NV Act)
- take a protected animal or the eggs of a protected animal without approval
- keep protected animals unless authorised to do so
- use poison to kill a protected animal without approval.

Conservation rated flora and fauna species listed on Schedules 7, 8, or 9 of the NPW Act may occur within the Project Area. Persons must comply with the conditions imposed upon permits and approvals.

Flora and fauna surveys undertaken for the Proposed Action have been undertaken in accordance with NPW Act requirements.

Native Vegetation Act 1991 (NV Act)

Native vegetation within the Project Area is protected by the NV Act and subject to the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*. Any proposed clearance of native vegetation in South Australia (unless exempt under the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*) is to be assessed against the NV Act Principles of Clearance and requires approval from the Native Vegetation Council (NVC). A net environmental benefit, either through contribution to the Native Vegetation Fund or via implementation of an on-ground Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB), is generally conditional on an approval being granted.

Native vegetation refers to any naturally occurring local plant species that are indigenous to South Australia, from small ground covers and native grasses to large trees and water plants.

The Proposed Action is in the process of seeking approval in accordance with the NV Act to clear native vegetation.

Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (LSA Act)

Regional landscape boards have been established under the LSA Act to deliver landscape related services to regional communities, including effective water management, pest plant and animal control, soil and land management and support for broader sustainable primary production programs. Under the LSA Act, landholders have a legal responsibility to manage declared pest plants and animals and prevent land and water degradation.

Construction and operation of the Proposed Action will be undertaken in accordance with LSA Act requirements.

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act)

The PDI Act, along with the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017* and *Planning and Design Code*, provide the legislative framework for carrying out planning and development works within the state. The *Planning and Design Code* is the cornerstone of the new system and has replaced all council development plans to become the single source of planning policy for assessing development applications. No development can be undertaken without an appropriate Development Approval being obtained from the relevant authority after an application and assessment process.

Morgan Solar Project has achieved Development Approval via the Crown Sponsorship pathway on 1 July 2024.

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. *

An open day was hosted by Green Gold Energy and Golder Consulting back in 2020 welcoming the local people of Morgan to visit and understand the project. Later in 2023, Green Gold Energy prepared a local letter drop to all households in the Morgan town informing them of all updates since the 2020 open day, state government has also organised a public notification as part of the DA process which took place in early 2024. No indigenous stakeholders were contacted as the Aboriginal Heritage report prepared by IHC did not mention any threats in the proposed area.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

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

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Alternatively, email us at privacy@awe.gov.au.

☒ **Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice ***

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	635013731
Organisation name	MORGAN SOLAR PTY LTD
Organisation address	Morgan Solar Pty Ltd, Unit 1 216 Glen Osmond Rd FULLARTON SA 5063 AUSTRALIA

Referring party details

Name	Elton Zhang
Job title	
Phone	0447026237
Email	elton.zhang@greengoldenergy.com.au
Address	Morgan Solar Pty Ltd, Unit 1 216 Glen Osmond Rd FULLARTON SA 5063 AUSTRALIA

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	635013731
Organisation name	MORGAN SOLAR PTY LTD
Organisation address	Morgan Solar Pty Ltd, Unit 1 216 Glen Osmond Rd FULLARTON SA 5063 AUSTRALIA

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Elton Zhang
Job title	
Phone	0447026237
Email	elton.zhang@greengoldenergy.com.au
Address	Morgan Solar Pty Ltd, Unit 1 216 Glen Osmond Rd FULLARTON SA 5063 AUSTRALIA

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. *

Morgan Pty Ltd does not have any previous cases of EPBC but will comply to the environmental policy and framework to the best of our ability.

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

Morgan Pty Ltd does not have an environmental policy and planning framework

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	635013731
Organisation name	MORGAN SOLAR PTY LTD
Organisation address	Morgan Solar Pty Ltd, Unit 1 216 Glen Osmond Rd FULLARTON SA 5063 AUSTRALIA

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Elton Zhang
Job title	
Phone	0447026237
Email	elton.zhang@greengoldenergy.com.au
Address	Morgan Solar Pty Ltd, Unit 1 216 Glen Osmond Rd FULLARTON SA 5063 AUSTRALIA

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	635013731
Organisation name	MORGAN SOLAR PTY LTD
Organisation address	Morgan Solar Pty Ltd, Unit 1 216 Glen Osmond Rd FULLARTON SA 5063 AUSTRALIA
Representative's name	Elton Zhang
Representative's job title	
Phone	0447026237
Email	elton.zhang@greengoldenergy.com.au
Address	Morgan Solar Pty Ltd, Unit 1 216 Glen Osmond Rd FULLARTON SA 5063 AUSTRALIA

✔

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

Same as Referring party information.

✔

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

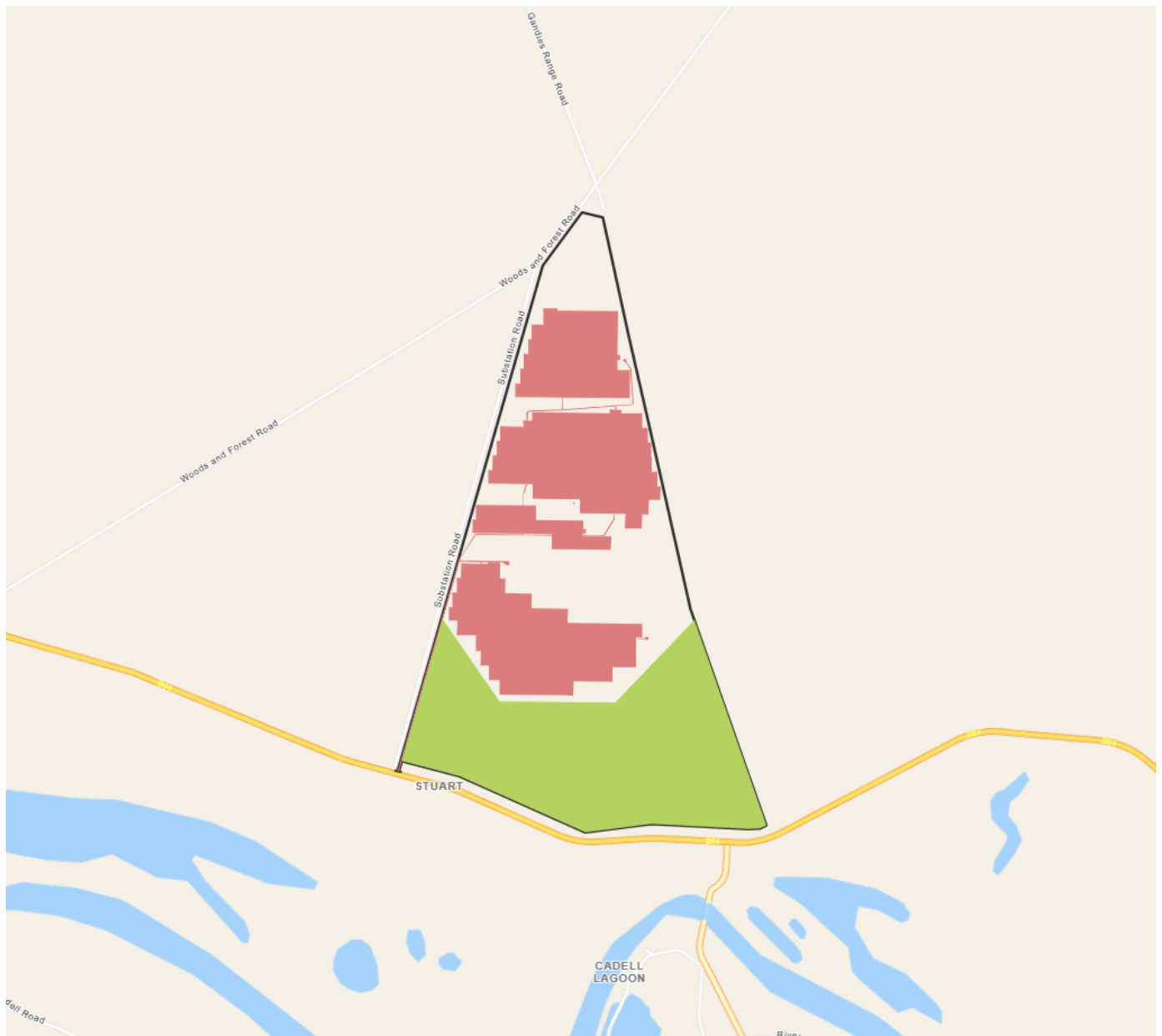
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Referring party

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 621.80 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 210.27 Ha **Retention Area:** 230.02 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

LOT 104 GOYDER HWAY, STUART, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 5320

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

South Australia

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? *

Project land is owned by a project shareholder as freehold land, the project company has entered into an option to lease with the respective company Edel New Energy Australia Pty Ltd. The option period started in Jan 2022 for a period of 5 years and will expire in 2027.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Project Area consists of remnant native vegetation on pastoral land.

The Project Area is located within the Murray Darling Depression IBRA bioregion and Braemer IBRA subregion. All of the Braemer subregion (957,367 ha) is mapped as remnant vegetation, however less than 1% (3,461 ha) is formally conserved (DEW 2019). Four IBRA environmental associations occur within the Braemer IBRA subregion: Florieton, Parcoola, Blanchetown and Renmark. The Florieton IBRA association covers the largest area within the Project Area.

The **Murray Darling Depression** IBRA bioregion is described as: An extensive gently undulating sand and clay plain of Tertiary and Quaternary age frequently overlain by Aeolian dunes. Vegetation consists of semi-arid woodlands of Black Oak / Belah, Bullock Bush / Rosewood and Acacia species, Mallee shrublands and heathlands and savanna woodlands.

The **Braemer IBRA subregion** is described as:

- Gently inclined outwash plains of calcrete rises with Black oak woodland or Pearl Bluebush low shrubland separated by alluvial flats of Low Bluebush and Blackbush low shrubland; isolated low, rocky hills of Pearl Bluebush and Black oak with some Mulga or Mallee; River Red Gum watercourses with Cottonbush floodplains, Nitrebush flats and depressions of Australian Boxthorn.
- Landform: Plains with variable dune cover, from dune formations with relatively small plains between two plains with isolated tracts of dunes. Claypans, saline soils, swamps, and intermittent lakes in low-lying areas.

Geology: Exposed caliche and crusty loamy soils; colluvial sand, silt, clay and gravel along footslopes of Olay Spur. Evaporite deposits; gypsum and halite.

- Soil: Brown calcareous earths, highly calcareous loamy earths, cracking clays, yellow grey, hard setting loamy soils with red clayey subsoils.

Vegetation within the Project Area is grazed, but considered to be in good condition generally, with medium weed occurrence/abundance.

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

The site will be strictly used for renewable energy for the next 30-40 years, for the duration of the lifespan of the project. As for now the project site is not being used at all.

It is not known whether the land was previously cropped.

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

A total of 61.16 ha of vegetation within the Project Area meets the criteria for the Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Basin Bioregion (Threatened Ecological Community), which is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act.

The Murray river is situated on the southern side of the Morgan project. Today, the Murray River at Morgan is known for its picturesque views, tranquil waters, and recreational activities such as fishing, boating, and kayaking. The area is also a popular spot for camping, and exploring the natural beauty of the river and surrounding landscapes. The region features a mix of bushland, wetlands, and farmland.

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 approximately 20-30 m above sea level and is relatively flat.

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 Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) report was generated on 6 August 2024 using a 5 km buffer on the Project Area. A copy of the PMST report is provided within Att 2, Appendix A, pp A2-A13.

Flora:

The Proposed Action has undergone vegetation surveys since 2020. A total of eight vegetation associations were mapped across the Project Area see section 3.2.2 for detail on this vegetation. The vegetation was assessed in accordance with the Bushland Assessment Method (BAM; NVC 2020). A total of 18 sites across the eight vegetation associations were surveyed with this method. Spring surveys were undertaken in October 2020 to identify spring flowering species not readily detected during the initial summer survey. A total of four flora species were identified within 5 km of the Project Area by the PMST all of which “may occur within the area”, these species include:

- *Dodonaea subglandulifera* (Peep Hill Hop-bush)
- *Lepidium monoplacoides* (Winged Pepper-cress)
- *Pterostylis xerophila* (Desert Greenhood)
- *Swainsona pyrophila* (Yellow Swainson-pea).

No EPBC threatened flora were observed within the Project Area.

Two State Rare species protected under the NPW Act were identified within 5 km of the Project Area, this includes:

- *Callistemon brachyandrus* (Prickly Bottlebrush) – 2022 record
- *Myoporum parvifolium* (Creeping Boobialla) – 2005 record

These State Rare species were not observed on site across any of the field surveys.

Three TEC were identified as potentially occurring on site and only one was observed. A total of 61.16 ha of the nationally Endangered MBC of the MDDB occurs within the southeast corner of the Project Area. They key diagnostic features for this community is mallee vegetation as well as the assemblage of bird species that utilise that mallee (described in more detail below). Infrastructure has been designed to avoid the TEC completely (Att 2, section 5.1, pp 32 – 41).

Fauna:

All native and exotic fauna species opportunistically encountered (directly observed, or tracks, scats, burrows, nests, and other signs of presence potential fauna refuge sites, such as hollows, were noted as an indication of availability of suitable habitat. Particular attention was paid to identifying habitat for threatened species identified in the desktop assessment. For each opportunistic fauna observation, the species, number of individuals, GPS location, detection methodology (sight, sound, or sign) and habitat were recorded.

Targeted bird surveys for the MBC were undertaken to identify whether the mallee within the Project classes as the TEC. A dedicated 20-minute, ~2-hectare (ha) bird surveys (Birdlife Australia 2023) were undertaken during the field survey within in each broad vegetation association. At each survey site, the observer walked through similar vegetation recording all birds seen and heard during a timed 20-minute period. For each sighting the following were recorded (as a minimum):

- Detection method (e.g. seen, heard).
- Number of individuals.
- Activity (i.e., foraging, resting on tree, advertising).

The deployment of an ANABAT during the initial 2020 survey to capture the echolocation of any *Nyctophilus corbeni* (Corben's Long-eared Bat) which may occur within the area.

An additional eight threatened fauna species were identified as “may occur within the area” by the PMST, include:

- *Amytornis striatus howei* (Murray Mallee Striated Grasswren, Striated Grasswren (sandplain))
- *Calidris ferruginea* (Curlew Sandpiper)
- *Craterocephalus fluvialis* (Murray Hardyhead)
- *Galaxias rostratus* (Flathead Galaxias)
- *Grantiella picta* (Painted Honeyeater)
- *Pachycephala rufogularis* (Red-lored Whistler)
- *Pedionomus torquatus* (Plains-wanderer)

These species were not identified during any of the field surveys and not suitable habitat was observed within the Project Area.

A total of seven species were identified by the PMST as “likely to occur within the area”, this includes:

- *Bidyanus bidyanus* (Silver Perch)
- *Falco hypoleucos* (Grey Falcon)
- *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl)
- *Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri* Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (eastern)
- *Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides* (Regent Parrot (eastern))
- *Rostratula australis* (Australian Painted Snipe)
- *Tringa nebularia* (Common Greenshank)

None of these species were observed within the Project Area.

A total of nine species that a “known to occur within the area” were identified within the PMST, this includes:

- *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (Southern Whiteface) – observed within the Project Area
- *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (Australasian Bittern)
- *Calidris acuminata* (Sharp-tailed Sandpiper)
- *Gallinago hardwickii* (Latham's Snipe)
- *Maccullochella peelii* (Murray Cod)
- *Manorina melanotis* (Black-eared Miner)
- *Melanodryas cucullata cucullata* (Hooded Robin (south-eastern))
- *Neophema chrysostoma* (Blue-winged Parrot)
- *Stagonopleura guttata* (Diamond Firetail)

The Southern Whiteface was the only species that was observed utilising the vegetation within the Project Area.

For information on number of individuals and the habitat utilised refer to Att 2. Section 5.3.5, pp 47-48.

For detailed information on threatened EPBC fauna within the Project Area please reflect to Att 2, Section 5 and 6.

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

Eight different vegetation associations (VAs) occur within the Project Area:

- VA 1: *Acacia nyssophylla* (Spine Bush) Tall Shrubland over *Austrostipa nitida* (Balcarra Spear-grass).
- VA 2: *Eucalyptus socialis* (Beaked Red Mallee) Very Open Woodland Over *Maireana sedifolia* (Pearl Bluebush).
- VA 3: *Duma florulenta* (Lignum) Shrubland.
- VA 4: *Lycium australe* (Australian Boxthorn) Shrubland with *Austrostipa nitida* (Balcarra Spear-grass).
- VA 5: *Maireana sedifolia* (Pearl Bluebush) Low Shrubland with *Lycium australe* (Australian Boxthorn) ± *Austrostipa nitida* (Balcarra Spear-grass) with emergent *Myoporum platycarpum* (False Sandalwood) +/- *Eucalyptus socialis* (Beaked Red Mallee).
- VA 6: *Maireana sedifolia* (Pearl Bluebush) +/- *Lycium australe* (Australian Boxthorn) Very Open Shrubland with *Austrostipa* sp. (Spear-grass) and *Aristida* sp. (Wire-grass).
- VA 7: *Austrostipa nitida* (Balcarra Spear-grass) grassland +/- *Rytidosperma* sp. (Wallaby Grass).
- VA 8: *Maireana sedifolia* (Pearl Bluebush) with emergent *Myoporum platycarpum* (False Sandalwood).

The vegetation has been historically grazed but considered to be in good condition with medium weed occurrence/abundance.

Much of the Project Area is comprised of shrubland dominated by the highly palatable Chenopod shrub species *Maireana sedifolia* (Pearl Bluebush), a species that is typical of limestone plains in this area (VA 5 and VA 8). Three other shrubland communities are present in the Project Area: an ephemeral, intermittent soak populated by the important habitat plant *Duma florulenta* (VA 3), a mid-dense stand of *Acacia nyssophylla* (Spine Bush) that is codominant with the ubiquitous *Austrostipa nitida* (Balcarra grass) (VA 1), and a *Lycium australe* (Australian Boxthorn) dominant covering with an understory of *Austrostipa nitida* (Balcarra Spear-grass) (VA 4 and VA 6).

Smaller patches of Mallee and Woodland vegetation are also present in the Project Area (VA 2). A large patch of diverse *Eucalyptus socialis* (Beaked Red Mallee) is located in the southeast of the Project Area. Throughout the Project Area 42 plant species have been recorded, including eight introduced plants or weeds. Weed species include two plants Declared under the LSA Act:

- *Cynara cardunculus* ssp. *flavescens* (Wild Artichoke)
- *Marrubium vulgare* (Horehound)

Refer to the Native Vegetation Clearance Morgan Solar Project – Green Gold Energy Data Report (Att1 Data Report Morgan-2024) for more information.

3.3 Heritage

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

A heritage study was conducted by IHC and showed that there were no heritage places listed on the project site. (Att3 Heritage Morgan-2024)

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

A heritage study was conducted by IHC and showed that there were no heritage places listed on the project site. (Att3 Heritage Morgan-2024)

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. *

Several small water bodies occur within the Project Area, which are identified as 'Land Subject to Inundation'. There is a small dam located near the south-western boundary, connected to three small, surface water courses identified as 'Channel/Drain/Ditch' (DEW NatureMaps 2024). These are likely to only contain water intermittently (after recent rain) and for a very short time.

The River Murray is located approximately 500m south of the Project Area and is a Prescribed Watercourse. The land immediately south of the Project Area is part of the River Murray Protection Area (DEW NatureMaps 2024).

The south-eastern section of the Project Area is recognised as a high 'River Murray Salinity Impact Zone', while the remaining north-western and south-western areas are recognised as a low 'River Murray Salinity Impact Zone'.

The Project Area is located within the Murray Basin Groundwater basin, which is a shallow sedimentary basin.

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 known World Heritage places located within or proximate to the Proposed Action. As such, the Project Action is unlikely to have a direct or indirect impact on any World Heritage protected matter.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

There are no known National Heritage places located within or proximate to the Proposed Action. As such, the Project Action is unlikely to have a direct or indirect impact on any National Heritage protected matter.

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	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 Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland (Ramsar listed) is located approximately 100-150 km downstream from the Project Area. The Project Area is not located within a wetland area and contains no watercourses that flow directly into any Wetlands of International Importance.

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	<i>Amytornis striatus howei</i>	Murray Mallee Striated Grasswren, Striated Grasswren (sandplain)
No	No	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface
No	No	<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	Silver Perch, Bidyan
No	No	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Craterocephalus fluviatilis</i>	Murray Hardyhead
No	No	<i>Dodonaea subglandulifera</i>	Peep Hill Hop-bush
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Galaxias rostratus</i>	Flathead Galaxias, Beaked Minnow, Flat-headed Galaxias, Flat-headed Jollytail, Flat-headed Minnow
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl
No	No	<i>Lepidium monoplacoides</i>	Winged Pepper-cress
No	No	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Southern Bell Frog,, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
No	No	<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri</i>	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (eastern), Eastern Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
No	No	<i>Maccullochella peelii</i>	Murray Cod
No	No	<i>Manorina melanotis</i>	Black-eared Miner

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Nyctophilus corbeni	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
No	No	Pedionomus torquatus	Plains-wanderer
No	No	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	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	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. *

Of the 29 Threatened Species, three TEC, 11 migratory species and 1 Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Wetland) identified by the PMST, the Proposed Action may indirectly impact on the Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion (Endangered). This community will not be directly impacted by the Morgan Solar Project.

Although one MNES was identified within the Project Area (Southern Whiteface), the SIA deemed the Project to have no direct or indirect impact to this species (Att 2, Section 5.3.8, pp 53-55).

No other Threatened Species or Threatened Ecological Communities are likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the Proposed Action as the Project Area has been adequately surveyed and assessed, and no other Threatened Species or Threatened Ecological Communities have been identified during the assessment or detected during ecological surveys. Consideration of the other Threatened Species and Threatened Ecological Communities identified by the PMST is presented in Att 2, Section 5 and 6.

The Mallee Bird Community (MBC) of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion (MDDDB)

A total of 60.53 ha of the MBC occurs within the southeastern corner of the Project Area. This vegetation community consists of *Eucalyptus socialis* and *E. gracilis* over sclerophyllous and chenopod shrubs. Whilst this TEC is mapped as within the Project Area, it is in fact situated within the 30m buffer zone. This 30m buffer zone acts as an additional buffer from the development, reducing the direct and indirect impacts to the TEC and existing vegetation associations.

The MBC of the MDDDB will not be directly impacted, however, the clearance of adjacent vegetation may indirectly impact this community. Scattered and isolated trees within VA5 (*Myoporum platycarpum*) may provide a corridor for birds towards the mallee community (VA2). Clearance of these scattered trees may reduce their capability to access VA2 easily and overtime it may reduce the number of birds that will utilise this community, therefore reducing the overall condition of the community.

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. *

The impact footprint of the Morgan Solar Project has been designed to avoid directly impacting the Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion and as such, the Proposed Action is unlikely to cause a Significant Impact. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP(see Att 2, Section 5.1.6, pp 39-41); or similar plan) will be implemented during construction works to ensure that construction works do not indirectly impact the Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion.

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.

*

This community is not being directly impacted and will be for part of an on-ground SEB Area (protected under the Native Vegetation Act 1991). A CEMP has been developed and will be executed during the construction and management phase of the Project (att4 CEMP Morgan 2025 pg16-17).

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. *

Avoidance

During the Initial Footprint period in 2020 Ecologists were engaged to determine the vegetations associations across the Project Area. Based on the survey outcome, native vegetation areas of poorer condition and lower value were identified (along with the converse) and the initial footprint was further adjusted targeting such areas as per recommendations by EBS Ecology in their report in 2021. These recommendations were to avoid the mallee in the south of the Project Area

The Morgan Solar Project has evolved since 2021, initially the design avoided the MBC, however, the project design was near the MBC. The Morgan Solar Project was redesigned in 2023 to further reduce the impacts to the MBC, this meant the design shifted north and a 11m setback was placed around the panel to provide a firebreak between the panels and the vegetation.

Minimisation

For the most part, clearance areas have been proposed in areas of more disturbed vegetation, or vegetation which contains fewer habitat resources such as upper storey vegetation, dense vegetation and water sources. The proposed solar panel array has been micro-sited to avoid these ecological constraints. A CEMP has been developed for this project and has outlined how impacts to native vegetation will be minimised, this includes but not limited to:

Construction contractors will follow measures outlined in a CEMP such as clearly delineating the area to be cleared to ensure that no clearance occurs outside of the approved Impact Footprint.

Induct all personnel to provide an understanding of the relevant vegetation protection issues including an awareness of weed species. All movement, control and destruction of declared plants to be in accordance with the LSA Act.

Construction contractors will follow measures outlined in a CEMP to minimise the impact of contaminants on site and prevent runoff for entering any drainage pathways.

Construction contractors will follow measures outlined in a CEMP such as weed hygiene measures and other biosecurity measures to ensure that invasive species, including introduced plants and pathogens, don't become established.

Exposed surfaces will be regularly watered to suppress dust generation (stock piles and access tracks etc).

Refer to att4 CEMP Morgan 2025 pg16-17 for matters relating to flora and fauna

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

Vegetation clearance will be offset in accordance with the requirements of the *SA Native Vegetation Act 1991*. The final offset will be calculated based on the final detailed design for the Project.

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>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail
No	No	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey
No	No	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	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.

*

11 migratory species have been identified as potentially occurring by the PMST report but have not been recorded within the Project Area during surveys, these include:

- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)
- Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
- Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)
- Satin Flycatcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*).

Additional two species not identified in the PMST but have records within the Search Area, include the Marsh Sandpiper and the Caspian Tern, these species were both located within Cadell Lagoon (< 5 km from the Project Area).

There are no wetlands or suitable habitat for migratory species within the Project Area. It is unlikely that migratory species will be observed using habitat within the Project Area, rather, they may only occur as a fly over. Subsequently, direct/indirect impact on these species is unlikely and a significant impact is unlikely to occur.

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 MNES occur within 5 km of the Project, therefore no Nuclear MNES are likely to be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

No Commonwealth Marine Areas occur within 5 km of the Project, therefore no Commonwealth Marine Areas are likely to be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the action.

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 Great Barrier Reef is not located in South Australia, therefore, will not be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the action.

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 associated with a Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas, therefore this matter is not impacted.

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 Project is not on or near Commonwealth Land, therefore this matter is not impacted.

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 Project does not impact a Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas, therefore this matter is not impacted.

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. *

Location of the site is selected because it is in close proximity to the local transmission substation. DA has been approved for this project as it does not affect any local residents of the Morgan township and land use is suitable for this project to proceed.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att2-SIA Morgan-2024.pdf Significant Impact Assessment for Morgan Solar Farm	01/10/2024	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1 Data Rport Morgan-2024.pdf Data Report for Morgan Solar Project	16/07/2024	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	Att3 Heritage Morgan-2024.pdf IHC consultant Heritage study	31/12/2019	Yes	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att3 Heritage Morgan-2024.pdf IHC consultant Heritage study	31/12/2019		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	Att2-SIA Morgan-2024.pdf Significant Impact Assessment for Morgan Solar Farm	30/09/2024	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att2-SIA Morgan-2024.pdf Significant Impact Assessment for Morgan Solar Farm	30/09/2024	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4 - CEMP Morgan -2025.pdf CEMP for Morgan Solar Farm	20/09/2020	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	Att4 - CEMP Morgan -2025.pdf CEMP for Morgan Solar Farm	19/09/2020	No	High

5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	635013731
Organisation name	MORGAN SOLAR PTY LTD
Organisation address	Morgan Solar Pty Ltd, Unit 1 216 Glen Osmond Rd FULLARTON SA 5063 AUSTRALIA
Representative's name	Elton Zhang
Representative's job title	
Phone	0447026237
Email	elton.zhang@greengoldenergy.com.au
Address	Morgan Solar Pty Ltd, Unit 1 216 Glen Osmond Rd FULLARTON SA 5063 AUSTRALIA

☒ 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, **Elton Zhang of MORGAN SOLAR PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

✔ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

Same as Referring party information.

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

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

☒ I, **Elton Zhang of MORGAN SOLAR 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, **Elton Zhang of MORGAN SOLAR PTY LTD**, the Person proposing the action, consent to the designation of **Elton Zhang of MORGAN SOLAR PTY LTD** as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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

☒ **Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration**

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☒ I, **Elton Zhang of MORGAN SOLAR 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. *