

Upper and Lower Tumut 330 kV Transmission Line Realignment - NSW

Application Number: 02661

Commencement Date:
28/10/2024

Status: Locked

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Upper and Lower Tumut 330 kV Transmission Line Realignment - NSW

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (non-renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Transmission Line

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

02/06/2025

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2075

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

This referral relates to the relocation of part of the Upper and Lower Tumut 330 kV transmission lines near their point of connection in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), involving the construction and operation of the new lines and decommissioning and removal of the existing lines. The Upper and Lower Tumut transmission lines (Lines 1 and 7, respectively) extend from Kosciuszko National Park in New South Wales (NSW) into the ACT, where they connect into the Canberra Substation. The new alignments would divert from near the ACT/NSW border and extend southeast, crossing the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers in the ACT then connecting into the Stockdill Substation on Stockdill Drive in western Belconnen, ACT (see **Figure 1, Attachment A**).

This referral relates only to the NSW portion of the works, involving:

- Construction and operation of approximately 0.7 kilometres (km) of new lines, including the construction of one new tower for Line 1 and two towers for Line 7
- Electrical works to connect the new transmission lines to the existing lines
- Decommissioning and removal of approximately 3.8 km of existing Lines 1 and 7, including:
 - Removal of six towers from Line 1, with all tower foundations to be fully removed
 - Removal of five towers from Line 7, with all tower foundations to be fully removed
- Installation of temporary facilities associated with construction, including vegetation removal and modification where required, earthworks to level the site if required, and foundation preparation (excavation and/or boring, steel fabrication works and concrete pours). Existing tracks through farmland have been used to minimise impacts associated with line construction and removal works. Existing tracks for construction of the new alignments have been included in the defined Proposed Action Area, however tracks to be used for the removal of the existing lines have not been included as these are within existing easements, and any vehicle movements associated with demolition would be limited in number and short term in nature
- Following completion of the construction works, the temporary construction areas (new access tracks etc.) would be rehabilitated.

Detailed electrical and civil designs have been prepared for the Proposed Action. **Figure 2 (Attachment A)** shows the layout of the Proposed Action once operational, including locations of the new alignments and the lines to be removed, as well as the temporary construction footprint (access tracks, construction areas etc.).

The works would be located across several land parcels (see **Table 1, Attachment B**). The Proposed Action Area is defined by the construction and operational footprints of the Proposed Action, as defined below.

- Construction footprint (**Figure 3, Attachment A**): The area that would be directly impacted by the Proposed Action during construction. This includes the impact areas of the new alignments associated with tower footings and access tracks, as well as the impact areas for demolition of the towers along the existing Lines 1 and 7. The construction footprint comprises a 50 metre (m) radius buffer around the new towers, a 20 m radius buffer around the existing tower footings to be completely removed, a 60 m-wide transmission line easement, and a 10 m-wide disturbance footprint along the access tracks.
- Operational footprint (**Figure 4, Attachment A**): The area needed for operation of the Proposed Action. This includes the tower footings and 60 metre (m)-wide transmission line easements of the new alignments. Vegetation that grows taller than 6 m would need to be lopped from within the 60 m-wide easements throughout the life of the assets.

The total Proposed Action Area is approximately 6.2 hectares (ha), comprising a maximum construction footprint of 2.5 ha and an operational footprint of 4.6 ha. Direct on-ground impacts would be limited to the 2.5 ha construction footprint. In this referral, this is referred to as the 'Disturbance Footprint'. Direct impacts have been avoided on 3.7 ha of land within the Proposed Action Area. This is referred to as the 'Avoidance Area'.

The Proposed Action Area and its surrounds primarily consist of cleared agricultural land. The majority of the Proposed Action Area supports exotic grassland and derived native grasslands. Some discrete sections of the Proposed Action Area support mature woodland and isolated paddock trees.

The Proposed Action is part of a cross-jurisdictional larger action, with transmission line construction and removal works to be undertaken in the ACT as well as NSW. The Proposed Action is therefore part of a larger action, with the ACT portion of the action subject to a separate referral ('Upper and Lower Tumut 330 kV Transmission Line Realignment - ACT'). This is described further in **Section 1.2** of this referral.

The purpose of the larger action is to move the existing 330 kV transmission lines out of the future urban area of West Belconnen to:

- Increase the number of affordable housing products available on the market
- Increase the number of housing blocks in general
- Improve amenity and reduce real, perceived and visual impacts on urban areas from transmission lines
- Remove lines from within the Woodstock Nature Reserve and Ginninderry Conservation Corridor (GCC) (established under the West Belconnen Strategic Assessment) allowing rehabilitation and conservation

programmes to proceed, thereby reducing long term impacts on the conservation areas.

Construction of the larger action is anticipated to begin in February 2025, with operation commencing in the third quarter of 2026. This provides an 18-month construction and demolition period. The assets would operate indefinitely.

The Proposed Action is being developed by the Ginninderry Joint Venture (GJV), which is a joint venture between the ACT Government (the Territory) and Riverview Projects (ACT) Pty Ltd. For the purposes of this referral, Riverview Projects (ACT) Pty Ltd on behalf of the Ginninderry Joint Venture is considered to be the Proponent. The GJV is responsible for the development of the West Belconnen future urban area; a suburb known as Ginninderry.

Once constructed, the Proposed Action would be operated by Transgrid. Transgrid operates and manages the high voltage electricity transmission network in NSW and the ACT, which forms part of the backbone of the National Electricity Market (NEM) that enables energy trading between Australia's eastern states. Transgrid is not developing the Proposed Action and is not the Proponent for the purposes of this referral, but is heavily involved in design development as it will ultimately be responsible for operating the assets.

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

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

Yes

1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).

Consistent with the EPBC Act Policy Statement Staged Developments – Split Referrals: Section 74A of the EPBC Act, this referral is a split referral, as the referred action (the Proposed Action) is part of a larger action that is the subject of multiple referrals. The larger action has been referred in two referrals – this referral; and 'Upper and Lower Tumut 330 kV Transmission Line Realignment - ACT'. Both referred actions are proposed to be undertaken by the same organisation and at essentially the same time.

The larger action has been split to simplify the environmental assessment and planning requirements that relate to the various jurisdictions in which the action is located. The larger action is located on Territory Land in ACT, Commonwealth land in NSW, and non-Commonwealth land (freehold or State Government-owned) in NSW.

As described in **Section 1.2** of this referral, the portion of the larger action located on non-Commonwealth land in NSW is subject to the environmental assessment and development requirements of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), under which Transgrid can act as a determining authority in relation to the action. The environmental assessment and planning pathway is straightforward for actions located in a single jurisdiction, but Transgrid is uncertain as to whether it can act as a determining authority if the larger action was to be referred in its entirety under the EPBC Act. There is substantial precedence for cross-jurisdictional Transgrid projects to be referred as split referrals under the EPBC Act, hence why this process has been adopted for the larger action.

The assessments provided in the two referrals capture the full range of potential impacts of all activities associated with the larger action. All relevant impacts of the larger action have been assessed. The larger action comprises the following activities:

- Construction and operation of approximately 12 km of new lines, including the construction of 10 new towers and four poles for Line 1 and 11 new towers and five poles for Line 7
- Electrical works to connect the new Line 1 to the Stockdill Substation (replacing the existing Line 1 connection, thereby resulting in no change to the electrical configuration of the substation)

- Stringing of three additional conductors along the part of Line 3C located between the Stockdill Substation and Canberra Substation
- Decommissioning and removal of a total of approximately 16.1 km of existing Lines 1 and 7, including:
 - Removal of 24 towers from Line 1, involving complete removal of 16 tower foundations with the remaining foundations to be left in situ
 - Removal of 14 towers from Line 7, involving complete removal of 10 tower foundations with the remaining foundations to be left in situ
- Civil works associated with construction of new temporary access tracks, involving vegetation removal and modification, levelling, and laying of sub-base and/or metal grids for access across wet areas, as required. Existing tracks through farmland have been used where possible, to minimise impacts associated with line construction and removal works
- Installation of temporary facilities associated with construction, as per the description of the Proposed Action in Section 1.2
- Following completion of the construction works, the temporary construction areas (new access tracks, laydown areas etc.) would be rehabilitated.

Construction of the larger action is anticipated to begin in February 2025, with operation commencing in the third quarter of 2026. This provides an 18-month construction and demolition period. The assets would operate indefinitely.

The larger action has a total construction footprint of 13.3 ha and total operational footprint of 65.9 ha. The majority of works associated with the larger action are located in the ACT and are covered under the other referral. The majority of works relating to the Proposed Action, which are considered in this referral, are associated with tower and line removal and have a limited disturbance footprint (19% of the total construction footprint).

Potential impacts on Part 3 matters under the EPBC Act can be assessed through consideration of the split referred actions consistent with the objects of the EPBC Act. In particular, the Proponent has sought to minimise impacts on the environment in all aspects of the larger action's design, not just in relation to one of the referred actions (avoidance is discussed further in **Section 4.1** in relation to listed threatened species and communities and **Section 3.3** in relation to heritage). This demonstrates the Proponent's efforts to:

- Protect the environment, especially the aspects of the environment that are matters of national environmental significance (MNES)
- Promote ecological sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources
- Protect and conserve heritage
- Promote a cooperative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments (e.g. DCCEE, Department of Finance and the ACT Government), the community, landholders and Indigenous peoples.

Table 2 (Attachment C) summarises the potential impacts on Part 3 matters associated with each referred action and the larger action in its entirety. The ACT portion of the larger action may have potential significant impacts on superb parrot and gang-gang cockatoo, but the NSW portion of the larger action (the subject of this referral) is not expected to have significant impacts on any MNES. When the impacts of the ACT and NSW referred actions are considered in combination, the larger action would only have potential significant impacts on superb parrot and gang-gang cockatoo because of the ACT action. The NSW action would not change the significant impact assessments when considered in combination with the ACT action.

The Proponent has identified avoidance opportunities and will implement mitigation and management measures across the whole of the larger action; not specifically in relation to either one of the referred actions. By splitting the larger action into the two referred actions, the ability to achieve the objects of the EPBC Act is therefore not reduced.

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

The Proposed Action involves works on Commonwealth land and non-Commonwealth land in NSW. The Department of Finance (which owns the Commonwealth land) has confirmed that environmental impacts on its land are to be considered through the EPBC Act process. This referral and any subsequent assessment and approval documentation will therefore apply to the Commonwealth land portion of the Proposed Action. A whole of environment assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2: *Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land, and actions by Commonwealth agencies*.

The portion of the Proposed Action located on non-Commonwealth land (owned by the NSW Government or private landowners) is subject to the environmental assessment and development requirements of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regulation).

Part 5 of the EP&A Act sets out the environmental assessment requirements that apply to activities undertaken by or on behalf of a public authority or which requires the approval of a public authority, such as Transgrid. For activities subject to assessment under Part 5, Section 5.5 of the EP&A Act imposes a duty on a determining authority to “examine and take into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment” by reason of the proposed activity. Additionally, Section 5.7 requires the public authority to determine whether an activity is “likely to significantly affect the environment” and if so, to not carry out or grant approval relating to the activity unless an environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared for the activity and considered by the authority.

Clause 171 of the EP&A Regulation contains an obligation to consider the likely impacts of an activity on the environment and to prepare an assessment report (e.g. a Review of Environmental Factors (REF)) demonstrating how the environmental factors provided in the NSW Department of Planning and Environment’s (DPE’s) *Guidelines for Division 5.1 assessments* have been taken into account by the authority when considering the likely impact of the activity.

An REF will be prepared to consider potential environmental impacts, avoidance, and mitigation measures relating to the portion of the Proposed Action located on non-Commonwealth land, if the Proposed Action is found to not be a controlled action under the EPBC Act (indicating that impacts would not be significant). If the Proposed Action is found to be a controlled action, an alternative approach will be required under the EP&A Act.

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

Consultation on the Proposed Action has involved direct ongoing communication with the various stakeholders, including host and neighbouring landholders, Traditional Owners, local residents, local ACT and NSW communities, nearby utility owners (including Transgrid who would ultimately own the Proposed Action’s assets), special interest groups such as the Strathnairn Arts Centre, various government agencies, and relevant ACT Legislative Assembly members.

The Proponent has been responsible for all stakeholder management and engagement to date. This has included:

- Study of several alternatives for the new alignments with input from affected landholders and other stakeholders
- Collaborative design with Transgrid based on ecological and heritage constraints mapping
- Regular engagement and updates with all landowners impacted by the proposed realignment works including the Department of Finance and private landowners
- Valuations of the proposed easements and offers of compensation to all affected landholders
- Updates on progress with the Proposed Action’s development to the Ginninderry Aboriginal Advisory Group, Ginninderry People and Place Group, Bush on the Boundary, ACT Government, Australian Department of Finance, and the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation.

Additionally, the Proponent will be holding two community drop-in sessions for the Proposed Action in November 2024. The first will be held at Ginninderry to target Ginninderry residents, other ACT community members and other interested stakeholders; and the second will be at Uriarra Crossing (Uriarra Recreation Reserve), targeting rural landholders in the ACT and NSW who live near the Proposal Area (e.g. off Fairlight Road).

Attachment D summarises the Proponent's community and stakeholder engagement approach and the outcomes of its engagement activities.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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☒ **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	18059519041
Organisation name	UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

Organisation address Unit 3 2/6 Shea St, Phillip ACT 2606

Referring party details

Name Alexander Garrett

Job title Senior Environmental Scientist

Phone +61449253999

Email alexander.garrett@umwelt.com.au

Address Unit 3 2/6 Shea St, Phillip ACT 2606

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 165870539

Organisation name RIVERVIEW PROJECTS (ACT) PTY LIMITED

Organisation address PO Box 3908, Manuka ACT 2603

Person proposing to take the action details

Name David Maxwell

Job title Managing Director

Phone 0404 829 048

Email jessica@ginninderry.com

Address

The Link, 1 McClymont Way, Strathnairn ACT 2615

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

Yes

Joint Venture Name	Business Address	ABN/ACN	Responsible Person	Email
RIVERVIEW PROJECTS (ACT) PTY LIMITED	The Link, 1 McClymont Way, Strathnairn ACT 2615	165870539	David Maxwell	jessica@ginninderry.com
Suburban Land Agency	480 Northbourne Ave, Dickson ACT 2602	27105505367		

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

No

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

The GJV is a joint venture between the Territory and Riverview Projects (ACT) Pty Ltd. The Territory is represented by the SLA, which is a statutory authority within the EPSDD that is responsible for urban development in the ACT on behalf of the ACT Government. SLA developments aim to balance social, economic and environmental benefits for all Canberrans through the following:

- Affordable living
- A safe and healthy population
- Social inclusion and diversity
- Housing choices
- Environmental sustainability.

Riverview Group is a subsidiary of Corkhill Bros Pty Ltd. It is a property development company that aims to create "communities of modern commerce and living that are at the forefront of international design and sustainability". Riverview Projects (ACT) Pty Ltd (Riverview) acts as the development/project manager for the joint venture.

As the managing agent of the GJV, Riverview's past and future projects have been and will continue to be carried out in accordance with all relevant environmental protection policies and guidelines. The planning, design and construction of their projects have met industry best practice and the Proponent will continue to operate in this manner. Riverview has a strong history of responsible environmental management and has not been subject to any proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory law.

The Ginninderry urban development project has the West Belconnen Strategic Assessment Area approval of April 2017 in place for urban development in West Belconnen. For compliance purposes, the Ginninderry project prepares annual reports all of which have been submitted and endorsed and are publicly available as required by

the approval. The project also recently completed the first five year audit report in 2022 which has been endorsed by DCCEEW.

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

The GJV is developing the Ginninderry urban development area, with a vision of inspiring sustainable living, development practice and awareness. Achieving a high quality of life for the people living in Ginninderry is at the heart of the project's planning and design.

The GJV has a range of principles that direct decision-making by all project management, subconsultants and referral agencies in the delivery and development of the project. The principles reflect national priorities and Federal, State and Territory Government policies on housing affordability, climate change and environmental protection. These principles are provided at **Attachment J**.

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	165870539
Organisation name	RIVERVIEW PROJECTS (ACT) PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	PO Box 3908, Manuka ACT 2603

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	David Maxwell
Job title	Managing Director
Phone	0404 829 048
Email	jessica@ginninderry.com

Address

The Link, 1 McClymont Way, Strathnairn ACT 2615

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	18059519041
Organisation name	UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	Unit 3 2/6 Shea St, Phillip ACT 2606
Representative's name	Alexander Garrett
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Scientist
Phone	+61449253999
Email	alexander.garrett@umwelt.com.au
Address	Unit 3 2/6 Shea St, Phillip ACT 2606

✔ 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	165870539
Organisation name	RIVERVIEW PROJECTS (ACT) PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	PO Box 3908, Manuka ACT 2603
Representative's name	David Maxwell
Representative's job title	Managing Director
Phone	0404 829 048
Email	jessica@ginninderry.com
Address	The Link, 1 McClymont Way, Strathnairn ACT 2615

✔ 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

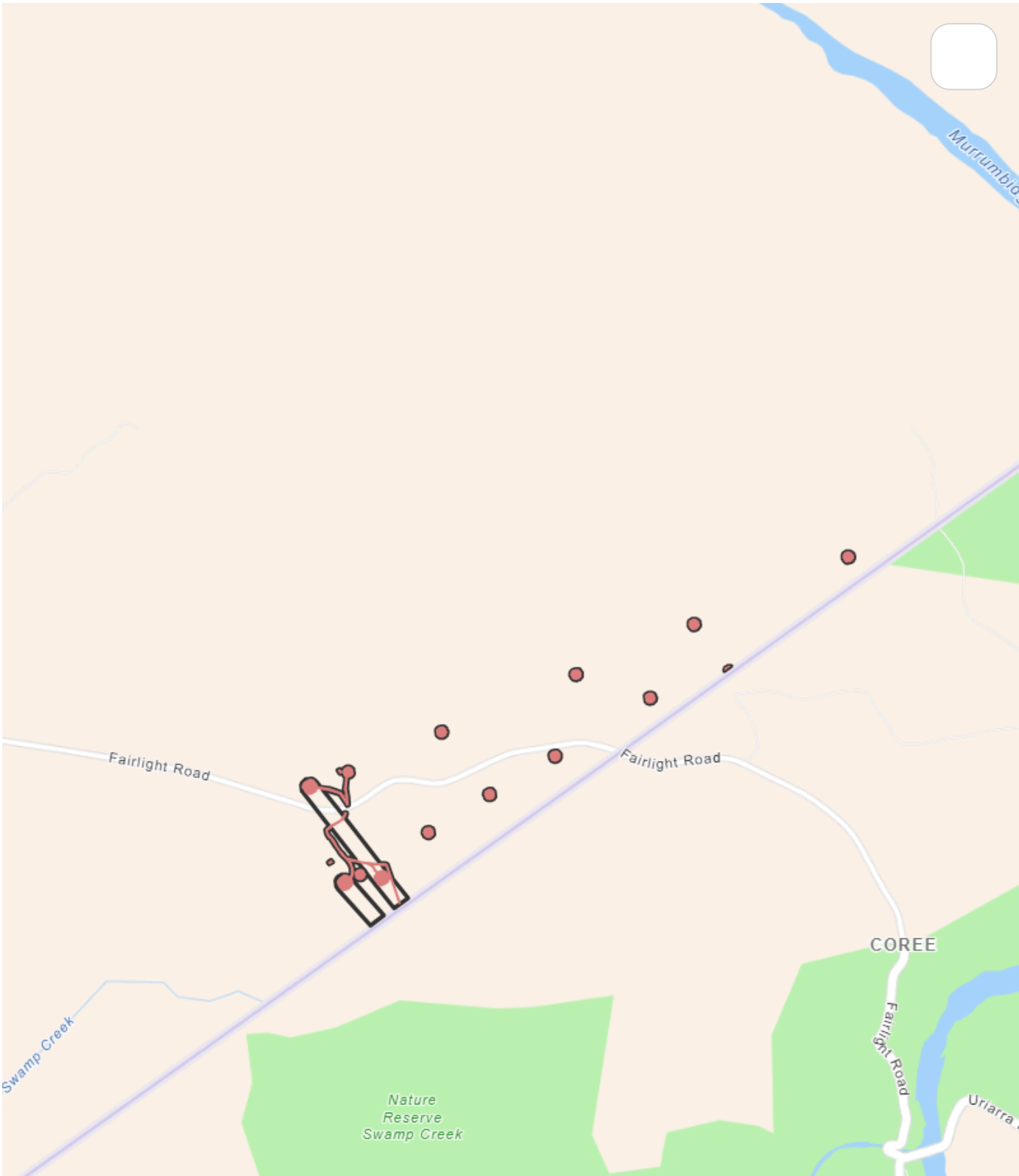
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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 (6.26 Ha)
Disturbance footprint (2.84 Ha)

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Fairlight Road, Uriarra NSW 2611

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

New South Wales

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

No

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

The Proposed Action passes multiple blocks with varying custodianship, including private leases and open space. Refer to **Table 1 (Attachment B)** for the land use zoning of each block. See also **Figure 5 (Attachment A)**.

The Proponent is acting as the agent for and on behalf of Transgrid who will ultimately be the owner and operator of the transmission lines, responsible for compensating landholders for the required easements. The underlying property holders will retain responsibility for managing the land underneath the transmission lines as is common and current practice for transmission line projects.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Proposed Action Area and surrounding landscape have a history of agricultural land use, primarily livestock grazing. As a result, the landscape has been subject to extensive land clearing and some environmental degradation. No existing contamination has been found in the Proposed Action Area, although there is potential for fill and pesticides to be present consistent with a history of rural land use.

Despite the Proposed Action Area having been cleared for agricultural use and subject to ongoing grazing, it is dominated by native grasslands and contains some areas of woodland near roads. As shown in **Figure 6 (Attachment A)**, native vegetation occurs throughout the Proposed Action Area, with exotic grasslands limited to two of the existing towers located towards the eastern end.

The native vegetation occurs primarily as derived native grasslands, with woodland located adjacent to Fairlight Road at two of the existing towers which would be removed as part of the Proposed Action.

Two NSW Plant Community Types (PCTs) were mapped within the Disturbance Footprint (PCT3374 and PCT3373), totalling 2.61 ha. Of this, 2.5 ha is native vegetation and 0.58 ha is consistent with the EPBC Act listing criteria for the White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (BGW) critically endangered ecological community.

Parts of the Proposed Action Area and extensive areas of the surrounding landscape support derived native grassland in low condition that does not on its own meet listing criteria for inclusion in the critically endangered ecological community. However, these form part of a continuous patch including areas of higher condition.

The native woodlands and grasslands provide a range of habitats suitable for various flora and fauna species, including threatened species such as superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) and gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*). One hollow bearing tree (*Eucalyptus rubida*) is located approximately 12 m northeast of the Disturbance Footprint boundary. Woodland also provides foraging and breeding habitat for other woodland birds.

Rocky habitat is located throughout the Proposed Action Area, some of which was found to be suitable for pink-tailed worm-lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*) (PTWL). As shown in **Figure 7 (Attachment A)**, 0.49 ha of potential PTWL habitat was found in the Disturbance Footprint, primarily at the towers to be removed.

Some areas of grassland also provide potential habitat for golden sun moth (*Synemon plana*) (GSM), totalling 1.95 ha of potential habitat within the Disturbance Footprint. GSM has not been recorded in these areas.

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

The Proposed Action Area is a mixture of privately owned, Australian Government, and State Government land. The land is mostly undeveloped and managed with sheep grazing. All existing land uses would continue unchanged following construction, with minor disruptions to occur during construction (e.g. exclusion of stock from construction areas). The Proposed Action is expected to have minimal impacts on existing land uses and is not considered inconsistent with the current uses of the Proposed Action Area, particularly as transmission lines already occur in the region.

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

The Proposed Action is located wholly on agricultural land and does not contain any known outstanding, unique or important natural features. The most important natural values in the region would be associated with the Murrumbidgee River, which is located more than 2 km east of the Proposed Action Area. The Murrumbidgee River is a key feature of the region and contains significant vegetation and aquatic habitat values, as well as providing amenity and recreational value.

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

The Proposed Action Area is relatively flat. There is a gradual decrease in elevation from west to east, nearing the Murrumbidgee River. The highest elevation is approximately 620 m, while the lowest is approximately 540 m.

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.

Information on the flora and fauna within the Proposed Action Area is detailed below.

Flora

Field surveys were conducted in December 2021; November and December 2022; and February, August and October 2023 to identify all native vegetation in the Disturbance Footprint, and to map vegetation communities and condition zones in accordance with the NSW Plant Community Type classification system.

The Proposed Action Area predominately comprises cleared agricultural land but has some patches of remnant woodland and native grassland (see **Figure 6, Attachment A**). Although the area has been degraded by grazing and has been cleared for agricultural uses, parts of the Proposed Action Area still support box gum woodland and derived native grasslands in varying conditions.

Groundcover in the Proposed Action Area is dominated by exotic annual species, but some areas still contain native species including common wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma caespitosa*), red grass (*Bothriochloa macra*) and kneed spear grass (*Austrostipa bigeniculata*). Scattered eucalypt trees occur mostly on road verges, including yellow box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), Blakely's red gum (*E. blakelyi*) and apple gum (*E. bridgesiana*). Exotic vegetation in the Proposed Action Area includes catsear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), silver grass (*Vulpia* spp.), clover (*Trifolium* sp.) and various exotic broad leaf species.

Targeted surveys were undertaken within the Disturbance Footprint in October 2023 for three threatened flora species:

- Hoary sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*) – endangered
- Small purple-pea (*Swainsona recta*) – endangered
- Austral toadflax (*Thesium australe*) – vulnerable.

Surveys for Austral toadflax were also undertaken in the previous flowering season, in February 2023.

Informal surveys were undertaken for pale pomaderris (*Pomaderris pallida*) (vulnerable) during the October 2023 threatened flora surveys, as the species is large and highly distinctive.

None of the species were recorded within the Disturbance Footprint.

Fauna

Surveys for threatened fauna habitat were undertaken during the vegetation surveys in December 2021; November and December 2022; and February, August and October 2023. Targeted surveys were also undertaken for some threatened species, as described below.

The Proposed Action Area contains some fauna habitat for both common and threatened species. This includes outcroppings of loose surface rocks, derived native grasslands, and restricted patches of woodland. One hollow bearing tree is located 12 m from the Disturbance Footprint boundary.

Areas of rocky habitat within the Proposed Action Area are suitable for PTWL (see **Figure 7, Attachment A**). PTWL is known to occur extensively throughout the Murrumbidgee River corridor, and a small amount of potential habitat occurs within the Disturbance Footprint (0.49 ha). No surveys for the species were undertaken and their presence was assumed. Given the small amount of available habitat within the Disturbance Footprint, it is unlikely that it supports a population that would be considered important.

Potential habitat for GSM occurs throughout the Proposed Action Area in areas of native grassland. 1.95 ha of potential GSM habitat was found within the Disturbance Footprint. Targeted GSM surveys were conducted in areas of potential habitat within the Disturbance Footprint in November 2023. Targeted surveys had also been undertaken throughout an older alignment corridor in December 2021. Surveys were conducted in accordance with the *Significant impact guidelines for the critically endangered golden sun moth* (*Synemon plana*). No individuals were recorded during these surveys.

Woodland in the Disturbance Footprint would provide foraging habitat for woodland birds including superb parrot, gang-gang cockatoo, hooded robin (*Melanodryas cucullate*) (endangered), diamond firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*) (vulnerable), painted honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) (vulnerable) and southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) (vulnerable). No targeted surveys were undertaken for threatened woodland birds, but any incidental sightings during other field surveys were recorded and used to inform the impact assessment. Two southern whiteface individuals were recorded in the ACT area of the larger action during surveys, and diamond firetail has been recorded nearby previously (see **Section 4.4.5, Attachment F**). No threatened birds were observed during surveys for the Proposed Action.

No trees were assessed as being suitable for superb parrot nesting, however, the hollow-bearing tree located 12 m from the Disturbance Footprint boundary was assessed as a potential breeding tree for gang-gang cockatoo. No targeted surveys were undertaken for superb parrot or gang-gang cockatoo for the Proposed Action, however, five gang-gang cockatoo individuals were recorded as a group in the ACT area of the larger action, in an area west of the Murrumbidgee River dominated by red stringybark.

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

As discussed in **Section 3.1** (see also **Figure 6, Attachment A**), patches of native woodlands and native grasslands are located throughout the Proposed Action Area. Two PCTs were recorded in the Proposed Action Area comprising six zones:

- 3373: Goulburn Tableland Box-Gum Grassy Forest, woodland, low quality (0.13 ha)
- 3373: Goulburn Tableland Box-Gum Grassy Forest, derived native grassland, moderate-high quality (0.45 ha)
- 3373: Goulburn Tableland Box-Gum Grassy Forest, derived native grassland, low quality (1.33 ha)
- 3373: Goulburn Tableland Box-Gum Grassy Forest, exotic-dominated grassland (0.13 ha)
- 3374: Goulburn Tableland Peppermint Grassy Forest, derived native grassland, low quality (0.57 ha)
- 3374: Goulburn Tableland Peppermint Grassy Forest, exotic-dominated grassland (0.13 ha).

In the South Eastern Highlands bioregion, soils on the Palaeozoic slates, sandstones and volcanics consist of mottled red and yellow textured contrast soils, with red earths. On the granites, shallow red earths occur on ridges, yellow texture contrast soils on all slopes and deep coarse sand in alluvium. On Tertiary basalts, shallow red-brown to black stony loam exist, with alluvial loam and black clays in swampy valley floors.

Reference to the Brindabella 1:100 000 geological map indicates that the Proposed Action Area comprises pyroclastic and tuff extrusives formed during the late Silurian period, with some andesite, broken volcanic fragments embedded in sediment, and limestone.

3.3 Heritage

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

No heritage places are registered on the Australian Heritage Database in the vicinity of the Proposed Action Area. Additionally, the NSW/ACT border markers located near the Proposed Action Area have been nominated to the ACT Heritage Register but are not yet registered.

The NSW/ACT border markers northwest of Ginninderry, ACT, date from 1913-15 and are associated with the establishment of the National Capital and its surrounding territory. They are among the earliest surviving structures erected after the founding of the ACT. The markers contain many good examples of the type of markers used by surveyors of the time, including some rare mile reference trees whose engravings display skilful use of mallet and chisel.

The NSW/ACT border markers at this location have been nominated but not yet registered to the ACT Heritage Register, so are not currently afforded any statutory protection. However, the markers are still considered to have heritage significance and have been treated the same as any listed heritage place in relation to the Proposed Action (i.e. with impacts to be avoided in the first instance).

The NSW/ACT border markers are located in the Proposed Action Area but more than 67 m from the proposed works.

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

A Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) was undertaken by Past Traces for the Proposed Action and is attached at **Attachment E**. The CHA involved a desktop review of heritage databases, a literature review of Aboriginal archaeological and historical information relevant to the Proposed Action Area and surrounds, and field surveys to identify any Aboriginal items or sites that could be impacted by the Proposed Action.

Field surveys were initially undertaken in January 2022, covering a 10 m-wide corridor along the sections of Lines 1 and 7 proposed for removal, and a 50 m radius around existing tower locations. Surveys were also completed along the new alignment routes, covering a width of 50 m along the length of the proposed alignments and the new tower locations. The findings of these surveys informed the revision of the new alignments to minimise potential impacts.

Additional surveys were undertaken in March and September 2023 to cover changes made to the new alignment routes and the full construction footprint as assessed in this referral. All field surveys were undertaken in the presence of representatives from the ACT Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs), including:

- Mirrabee (formerly known as the Little Gudgenby River Tribal Council)
- King Brown Tribal Group
- Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation
- Ngarigu Currawong Clan.

In addition to the discussions held on site, three different versions of the draft CHA were supplied to the RAOs for comment, with follow-up phone calls made to each RAO to confirm if they had any concerns with the report's findings or recommended management strategies. No concerns were raised, and some RAOs stated that they agreed with the report's recommendations.

The ACT and NSW Aboriginal heritage databases show that there are numerous Aboriginal heritage sites located through the landscape surrounding the Proposed Action Area. As shown in **Figure 8 (Attachment A)**, none of these sites are located in the Proposed Action Area.

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 Proposed Action Area does not contain any waterbodies, although a number of farm dams are located in close proximity. The closest major waterway is the Murrumbidgee River, which is located more than 2 km to the east. The Proposed Action Area generally slopes towards the river, so rainfall runoff would generally flow in an easterly direction, depending on localised undulations in topography.

There are no known nearby monitoring or abstraction bores within the area. The closest bore is a groundwater abstraction bore located approximately 5 km east of the Proposed Action Area on the outskirts of the suburb of Holt, ACT. The status of groundwater in the Proposed Action Area is therefore unknown, although it is expected to flow towards and potentially discharge into the Murrumbidgee 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	Yes	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

There are no listed World Heritage properties within or near the Proposed Action Area. No direct or indirect impacts are therefore expected as a result of the Proposed Action.

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 listed National Heritage places within or near the Proposed Action Area. No direct or indirect impacts are therefore expected as a result of the Proposed Action.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is located within the catchment of a number of Ramsar wetlands (including Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes; Banrock Station Wetland Complex; Riverland; and the Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland). However, these wetlands are all more than 500 km downstream of the Proposed Action Area. As the Proposed Action has been designed to avoid impacts on waterways, there would be no downstream impacts, either direct or indirect, on any of these wetlands.

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	Ammobium craspedioides	Yass Daisy
No	No	Amphibromus fluitans	River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass
No	No	Anthochaera phrygia	Regent Honeyeater
Yes	No	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	No	<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	Silver Perch, Bidyan
No	No	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern
No	No	<i>Caladenia concolor</i>	Crimson Spider-orchid, Maroon Spider-orchid
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo
No	No	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
No	No	<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat
No	No	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Crinia sloanei</i>	Sloane's Froglet
No	No	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
No	No	<i>Delma impar</i>	Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard
No	No	<i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i>	Black Gum
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	No	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot
No	No	<i>Lepidium aschersonii</i>	Spiny Peppercress
No	No	<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> subsp. tricolor	Hoary Sunray, Grassland Paper-daisy
No	No	<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>	Booroolong Frog
No	No	<i>Litoria castanea</i>	Yellow-spotted Tree Frog, Yellow-spotted Bell Frog
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>Macquaria australasica</i>	Macquarie Perch

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Petauroides volans	Greater Glider (southern and central)
No	No	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
No	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
Yes	No	Polytelis swainsonii	Superb Parrot
No	No	Pomaderris pallida	Pale Pomaderris
No	No	Prasophyllum petilum	Tarengo Leek Orchid
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Pycnoptilus floccosus	Pilotbird
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Senecio macrocarpus	Large-fruit Fireweed, Large-fruit Groundsel
Yes	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Swainsona recta	Small Purple-pea, Mountain Swainson-pea, Small Purple Pea
No	No	Synemon plana	Golden Sun Moth
No	No	Thesium australe	Austral Toadflax, Toadflax

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands
Yes	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

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

Yes

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

Potential impacts on EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities are discussed below. These impacts are not considered to be significant. Significant impact assessments for species which have the potential to occur in the Proposed Action Area but which were confirmed not to be present during field surveys (e.g. golden sun moth) can be found in **Attachment H**.

White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

While the Proposed Action has been positioned to avoid areas of BGW where possible, impacts on BGW cannot be fully avoided due to the location of the existing lines which control the location of demolition impacts and constrain where the new towers can be placed within NSW.

Two PCT 3373 zones (woodland low quality and derived native grassland moderate-high quality), cover a total area of 0.58 ha within the Disturbance Footprint and meet the classification criteria for the EPBC Act listed BGW, in accordance with the National Recovery Plan for White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (BGW Recovery Plan). The majority of the TEC (0.45 ha) is in the derived native grassland form. All zones were assessed as Class B in accordance with the BGW Recovery Plan due to the sparse cover (or absence) of canopy species (see **Attachment G**).

The BGW Recovery Plan states that all areas of BGW should be considered critical to the survival of this ecological community. Based on this advice, the Proposed Action would result in the loss of 0.58 ha of BGW that is considered critical to the survival of the ecological community. However, a range of measures will be implemented to protect adjacent areas of BGW from indirect impacts, including onsite demarcation of approved clearance boundaries, fencing, and pest plant and animal management.

Given the small area of BGW that would be cleared, its position in relation to existing transmission line infrastructure and that indirect impacts on adjacent areas of BGW will be carefully managed, the Proposed Action is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on BGW.

A full significant impact assessment is provided in **Table 1 (Attachment H)**.

Superb parrot

The National Recovery Plan for the Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* (Superb Parrot Recovery Plan) (DAWE, 2021) does not define any important populations of superb parrot. The species' distribution extends from northern Victoria through to northern NSW, west of the Great Dividing Range, including the northern part of the ACT. In the ACT region, yellow box-red gum grassy woodlands form the major habitat of the species, with large Blakely's red gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*) and scribbly gum (*E. rossii*) being the main source of nesting hollows and the woodland understorey being the main foraging habitat (Scientific Committee, 2019).

No trees located within the Disturbance Footprint were assessed as potential breeding habitat for superb parrot, and therefore no targeted surveys for the species were undertaken. However, it is likely that the species utilises habitat within the Disturbance Footprint for foraging, including breeding pairs from known breeding trees located in the ACT, as the species is known to travel up to 10 km from breeding sites for foraging.

Eucalyptus and *Acacia* species recorded in the Disturbance Footprint provide potential superb parrot foraging habitat. As the species is also known to feed on native and exotic grass seed, it is likely that the superb parrot may also use the open grassland areas within these areas. As such, all native vegetation within the Disturbance Footprint is considered potential foraging habitat for the superb parrot (2.5 ha made up of multiple separate areas). This direct impact is considered to be unavoidable as it relates to removal of existing towers at fixed locations, and the construction of new towers in locations that are constrained by the existing lines.

The removal of 2.5 ha of superb parrot foraging habitat, made up of multiple small areas, is a small loss in a landscape that contains extensive areas of potential superb parrot foraging habitat (native woodlands and grasslands). Within the Proposed Action Area alone, BioNet (2024) indicates that there is approximately 3.7 ha of vegetation that would provide potential foraging habitat for superb parrot which would not be impacted by the Proposed Action (see also **Figure 9, Attachment A**).

Habitat critical to the survival of the species is defined in the Superb Parrot Recovery Plan and includes both breeding and foraging habitat. As such, the Proposed Action would result in the loss of 2.5 ha of potential superb parrot foraging habitat that is considered habitat critical to the survival of the species.

The Proposed Action Area is situated adjacent to larger areas of grassland and woodland areas, including those protected within the Woodstock and Molonglo River Nature reserves in the ACT. Foraging habitat is therefore extensive in the local landscape.

While 2.5 ha of potential foraging habitat is considered habitat critical to the survival of the species, given that there are no important populations defined for superb parrot, no individuals were observed within the Disturbance Footprint, no breeding habitat would be impacted as a result of the Proposed Action, the minimal impact of 2.5 ha of potential foraging habitat in a landscape that contains extensive habitat and is exposed to existing threats relating to transmission line maintenance (canopy height maintenance) and agricultural land uses, it is unlikely that the removal of the habitat would adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of superb parrot and have a significant impact on the species.

A full significant impact assessment is provided in **Table 2 (Attachment H)**.

Pink-tailed worm-lizard

The Conservation Advice for *Aprasia parapulchella* (Pink-tailed worm-lizard) (PTWL Conservation Advice) (TSSC, 2015) does not define any important populations of PTWL. The Disturbance Footprint supports a total of 0.49 ha of potential PTWL habitat across 12 separate patches. Only 0.12 ha across five patches is considered high quality. Given the small amount of potential habitat within the Disturbance Footprint, it is unlikely that it supports a population that would be considered important.

The PTWL Conservation Advice notes that PTWL habitat includes primary and secondary grassland, grassy woodland, and woodland communities, and that the species usually inhabits sloping sites that contain rocky outcrops or scattered, partially buried rocks. These rocks are considered important foraging and shelter sites. It does not define habitat critical to the survival of the species.

PTWL is known to occur along the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo River corridors near the Proposed Action Area, particularly further south within the ACT. The Proposed Action is not located in any areas where the species has been recorded.

While the Proposed Action would result in the loss of 0.49 ha of potential PTWL habitat, given that this habitat is distributed across 12 separate patches in the Development Footprint, only comprises 0.12 ha of high quality habitat that is spread across five patches, is exposed to existing threats relating to agricultural land uses, and is located in a landscape that contains extensive habitat, it is unlikely that the removal of the potential habitat would have a significant impact on PTWL.

A full significant impact assessment is provided in **Table 4 (Attachment H)**.

Hooded robin, painted honeyeater, diamond firetail, southern whiteface

0.58 ha of grassy woodland habitat occurs within the Disturbance Footprint and would be directly impacted by the Proposed Action, which may provide foraging and breeding opportunities for woodland bird species such as the hooded robin, painted honeyeater, diamond firetail and southern whiteface. The painted honeyeater, diamond firetail and southern whiteface have previously been recorded in the vicinity of the Proposed Action Area, but were not recorded during surveys for the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action has the potential to have indirect impacts on these species through the spread of invasive species, noise, vibration and lighting, erosion and sedimentation, dust emissions and waste generation during construction; and increased predation efficiency and collision mortality once operational. These impacts will be managed using the measures discussed at the end of this section and in **Attachment I**.

Given the large distribution of the species and the minimal extent of habitat removal, a significant impact assessment against the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines has not been provided. The Proposed Action is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the species and a full significant impact assessment has not been undertaken.

Cumulative impacts

The Proposed Action has the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts on the above listed species based on its proximity to other developments in the area, including the ACT portion of the larger action associated with this referral, the Ginninderry residential development, and the proposed Territory Battery.

The Proposed Action is unlikely to significantly contribute to cumulative impacts for impacted species as the impacts on most species are minimal or have been avoided, there is extensive habitat in the surrounding region, including in nearby protected areas such as nature reserves and the Ginninderry Conservation Corridor, and consistent with the findings of the independent ecological assessments of those other developments. Refer to **Attachment C** for a detailed cumulative impact assessment for the impacted species and communities.

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. *

Significant impact assessments undertaken for each relevant listed species and community against the Significant Impact Guidelines are provided at **Attachment H**.

The assessments identified that due to the small amount of habitat to be impacted, the quality of the habitat and the utilisation of that habitat, the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on:

- Box gum woodland
- Superb parrot
- Gang-gang cockatoo
- Pink-tailed worm-lizard
- Golden sun moth.

Significant impact assessments were not undertaken for the following species due to the minimal extent of habitat removal and the extent of habitat remaining in the broader landscape, and the lack of records/sightings in the Proposed Action Area, and significant impacts are not anticipated:

- Hooded robin
- Painted honeyeater
- Diamond firetail
- Southern whiteface
- Hoary sunray
- Small purple-pea
- Austral toadflax
- Pale pomaderris.

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

No

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

Significant impact assessments undertaken for each relevant listed species and community against the Significant Impact Guidelines are provided at **Attachment H**.

The assessments identified that due to the small amount of habitat to be impacted, the quality of the habitat and the utilisation of that habitat, the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on:

- Box gum woodland
- Superb parrot
- Gang-gang cockatoo

- Pink-tailed worm-lizard
- Golden sun moth.

Significant impact assessments were not undertaken for the following species due to the minimal extent of habitat removal and the extent of habitat remaining in the broader landscape, and the lack of records/sightings in the Proposed Action Area, and significant impacts are not anticipated:

- Hooded robin
- Painted honeyeater
- Diamond firetail
- Southern whiteface
- Hoary sunray
- Small purple-pea
- Austral toadflax
- Pale pomaderris.

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 of impacts on TECs and threatened species habitat has been a key focus of the Proposed Action's development over the past several years. The layout of the larger action has been developed through an iterative options analysis process which began with the evaluation of four different alignment options. Constraints mapping was undertaken following preliminary ecological surveys by Umwelt in 2021-22. This informed micro-siting of tower locations to avoid and minimise direct ecological impacts. Given the relatively large area covered by the Proposed Action (6.2 ha), the anticipated impacts on 0.58 ha of BGW, 2.5 ha of native vegetation which constitutes potential foraging habitat for some woodland bird species, 0.49 ha of potential PTWL habitat, and 1.94 ha of low-moderate quality potential GSM habitat, are considered very small, reflecting the substantial effort that the Proponent has made to avoid ecological impacts. The final positioning of the new tower footings was determined through the avoidance of patches of high quality native vegetation, in particular TECs and PTWL habitat. Micro-siting of the tower footings has ensured that almost all high quality habitat has been avoided.

In addition, existing tower footings located within the Molonglo River nature reserve will be retained, instead of being fully removed, to minimise demolition impacts adjacent to these towers.

The Proposed Action will involve the implementation of industry best practice measures to mitigate and manage direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity. Each of these measures will contribute to the protection of habitat adjacent to the Disturbance Footprint and within the broader Proposed Action Area. These mitigation measures have been developed to ensure they are consistent with all relevant Commonwealth and Territory statutory documents, including conservation advices and recovery plans, in particular:

- The National Recovery Plan for White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland and Approved Conservation Advice for the White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland
- National Recovery Plan for the Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* and Conservation Advice for *Polytelis swainsonii* superb parrot
- Conservation Advice for *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (Gang-gang Cockatoo)
- Conservation Advice *Aprasia parapulchella* Pink-tailed worm-lizard
- Conservation Advice for *Synemon plana* (Golden Sun Moth).

The mitigation measures have also been developed to ensure they are not inconsistent with the relevant threat abatement plans (TAPs). In particular, the mitigation measures will ensure the Proposed Action:

- Does not result in an increase in rabbit numbers within the Disturbance Footprint in accordance with the Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Rabbits
- Does not result in any actions that would cause an increase in feral pigs in accordance with the Threat Abatement Plan for Predation, Habitat Degradation, Competition, and Disease Transmission by Feral Pigs (*Sus scrofa*)

- Results in a reduction in the spread of weeds and pathogens such as *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in accordance with the Threat Abatement Plan for Disease in Natural Ecosystems caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

The mitigation measures will also ensure that the Proposed Action does not result in an increase in the spread of cane toads in accordance with the Threat Abatement Plan for the Biological Effects, including Lethal Toxic Ingestion, caused by Cane Toads. It is noted however, that the Proposed Action Area is several hundred kilometres from the predicted area of occurrence of the cane toad, as identified in the TAP, thus cane toads are not considered to pose a particular risk to the Proposed Action. This TAP has been considered as it is identified as relevant to BGW.

Attachment I details the specific measures that will be implemented to mitigate and manage biodiversity impacts. The measures will be documented in a CEMP and include:

- Demarcation of approved clearance boundaries and avoidance areas
- Fencing and access control
- Pest plant and animal management
- *Phytophthora cinnamomi* management
- Erosion and sediment control
- Noise and vibration management
- Site rehabilitation.

The person and/or entity responsible for implementing these mitigation measures will be designated in the CEMP. The CEMP and relevant sub-plans will be adaptive, with the effectiveness of the control measures monitored continuously to identify opportunities for improvement.

The overall effectiveness of control measures to achieve the desired biodiversity outcomes is considered high, as the measures are largely linked to standard construction management requirements, such as site access control and soil and weed management. Salvage prior to or during construction for fauna and hollow-bearing trees is frequently undertaken in NSW, and standard procedures are available to ensure these activities are undertaken in an effective manner.

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

No offsets are proposed as the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on any listed threatened species or communities.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

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

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

No

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

The white-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) is the only EPBC Act listed migratory species that has a moderate or higher likelihood of occurrence in the Proposed Action Area (see **Attachment F**). However, the species is considered unlikely to interact with habitat in the Proposed Action Area as it is primarily aerial and highly mobile, thus no direct impacts have been considered for this migratory species.

Collision with overhead powerlines and associated infrastructure can be a source of mortality for some aerial species. White-throated needletail is predominantly aerial and highly mobile and is at a constant risk of collision with overhead powerlines when in Australia, however collision with transmission lines would affect only a few individuals and is not a threat to the overall viability of the 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. *

The Proposed Action is not a nuclear action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not located in or near a Commonwealth marine area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The Proposed Action Area is located more than 1,200 km from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and no direct or indirect impacts are expected.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not a large coal mining development, or related to coal seam gas, and would not involve any mining activities that would have an impact on a water resource.

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.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Commonwealth land area
Yes	No	Commonwealth Land -

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

Yes

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

A portion of the Proposed Action is located on Commonwealth land (owned by the Department of Finance), as shown in **Figure 5 (Attachment A)**, comprising the installation of three new towers and removal of five existing towers. The Commonwealth land portion of the disturbance footprint covers an area of approximately 5.5 ha. The Proposed Action would therefore result in direct impacts on Commonwealth land.

For impacts on Commonwealth land, a whole of environment assessment is required. The Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2 define the environment as:

- Ecosystems and their constituent parts including people and communities
- Natural and physical resources
- Qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas
- Heritage values of places
- The social, economic and cultural aspects of any of the above.

The Proposed Action would therefore have direct impacts on 5.5 ha of the environment of Commonwealth land.

The Commonwealth land portion of the Proposed Action Area is currently used for livestock grazing. It contains a mix of native and exotic-dominated grassland, with some areas of woodland near roads and isolated paddock trees.

The Proposed Action would have direct impacts on 1.78 ha of native vegetation within Commonwealth land, including:

- 0.45 ha of moderate-high quality derived native grassland, all of which conforms with BGW
- 1.33 ha of low quality derived native grassland, none of which conforms with BGW.

Some of this vegetation also provides potential habitat for threatened woodland bird species, PTWL and GSM. In particular, the Proposed Action would have direct impacts on 0.39 ha of potential PTWL habitat, and 1.63 ha of low-moderate quality potential GSM habitat.

Some heritage values are located on the Commonwealth land close to the disturbance footprint. This includes the NSW/ACT border markers and several registered Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (see **Figure 8, Attachment A**). However, none of these sites are located within the disturbance footprint, and direct impacts will be avoided.

The location and design of the proposed transmission line realignment has been developed through an iterative options analysis process over several years, to reduce environmental, cultural and social impacts of the larger action, including on the environment of Commonwealth land.

Five sub-options were initially considered for the new alignments. All sub-options other than the Proposed Action (as assessed in this referral) were rejected due to cultural impacts associated with the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee River corridors, and visual/social impacts on the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre and Shepherds lookout (which is a popular bushwalking location known for its scenic views over the Murrumbidgee River), both of which are located in the ACT.

Micrositing was also undertaken to inform the final Disturbance Footprint as discussed in **Section 4** of this referral, based on detailed ecological and Aboriginal heritage mapping.

Given this extensive design and avoidance work that has been undertaken by the Proponent, this direct impact on the environment of Commonwealth Land is considered to be unavoidable as further design changes are not feasible. Additionally, the impact relates to the removal of existing towers at fixed locations, and the construction of new towers in locations that are constrained by the location of the existing lines.

A range of mitigation and management measures will be implemented by the Proposed Action to further ensure that it does not have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land. These are outlined at the end of this section of the referral, and are detailed in **Attachment I**.

As a result of implementing the above avoidance and mitigation measures, the impacts on BGW (0.45 ha of moderate-high quality derived native grassland), up to 1.78 ha of potential foraging habitat for woodland bird species), 0.39 ha of potential PTWL habitat and 1.63 ha of potential GSM habitat on Commonwealth land are not considered to be significant, for the reasons provided in **Section 4.1.4**.

Additionally, the Proposed Action would not impact on other aspects of the environment which are identified in the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2, including:

- Landscapes and soil (the Proposed Action would not substantially alter natural landscape features; cause subsidence, instability or substantial erosion; or involve medium or large-scale excavation of soil)
- Coastal landscapes and processes (the Proposed Action is not in a coastal location)
- Ocean forms, ocean processes and ocean life (the Proposed Action is not located in an ocean environment)
- Water resources (the Proposed Action would not reduce the quantity, quality or availability of surface or groundwater; alter river, creek or other drainage patterns; or alter water table levels)
- Heritage (the Proposed Action has avoided direct impacts on known heritage values and will implement a range of mitigation measures to avoid indirect impacts).

The Proposed Action would also not use or generate any pollutants, chemicals or toxic substances that would reduce local air or water quality, contribute to the greenhouse effect or otherwise result in harmful impacts on the environment or people.

Finally, the Proposed Action may have some impacts on people and communities through minor disruptions to local traffic during construction (e.g. due to heavy vehicle movements to install and remove transmission towers), but would not:

- Substantially increase demand for community services or infrastructure such as water supply, power supply, roads, waste disposal and housing
- Affect the health, safety, welfare or quality of life of the community
- Cause physical dislocation of individuals or communities
- Impact cultural identity, social organisation or community resources.

For all these reasons, the Proposed Action is not considered to have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land.

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

No

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

The area of Commonwealth land and the associated environment that would be directly impacted by the Proposed Action is very small, and the nature of the Proposed Action would not alter the current condition and land use of that area. This, combined with the mitigation and management measures described above and in **Attachment I**, will ensure that the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land.

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

No

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

The area of Commonwealth land and the associated environment that would be directly impacted by the Proposed Action is very small, and the nature of the Proposed Action would not alter the current condition and land use of that area. This, combined with the mitigation and management measures described above and in **Attachment I**, will ensure that the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land.

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

Avoidance of environmental impacts has been a key focus of the Proposed Action's development over the past several years. The location and design of the proposed transmission line realignment has been developed through an iterative options analysis process over several years, to reduce environmental, cultural and social impacts of the Proposed Action, including on the environment of Commonwealth land.

Five sub-options were initially considered for the new alignments. All sub-options other than the Proposed Action (as assessed in this referral) were rejected due to cultural impacts associated with the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee River corridors, and visual/social impacts on the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre and Shepherds lookout (which is a popular bushwalking location known for its scenic views over the Murrumbidgee River), both of which are located in the ACT.

Micrositing was also undertaken to inform the final Disturbance Footprint as discussed in **Section 4** of this referral, based on detailed ecological and Aboriginal heritage mapping.

The Proposal will involve the implementation of industry best practice measures to mitigate and manage direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity. Each of these measures will contribute to the protection of habitat adjacent to the Disturbance Footprint and within the broader Proposed Action Area, including within Commonwealth land. These mitigation measures have been developed to ensure they are consistent with all relevant Commonwealth and Territory statutory documents, including conservation advices and recovery plans, in particular:

- The National Recovery Plan for White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland and Approved Conservation Advice for the White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland
- The Approved Conservation Advice (Including Listing Advice) for Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands (EC152)
- National Recovery Plan for the Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* and Conservation Advice for *Polytelis swainsonii* superb parrot
- Conservation Advice for *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (Gang-gang Cockatoo)
- Conservation Advice *Aprasia parapulchella* Pink-tailed worm-lizard
- Conservation Advice for *Synemon plana* (Golden Sun Moth).

The mitigation measures have also been developed to ensure they are not inconsistent with the relevant threat abatement plans (TAPs). In particular, the mitigation measures will ensure the Proposed Action:

- Does not result in an increase in rabbit numbers within the Disturbance Footprint in accordance with the Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Rabbits
- Does not result in any actions that would cause an increase in feral pigs in accordance with the Threat Abatement Plan for Predation, Habitat Degradation, Competition, and Disease Transmission by Feral Pigs (*Sus scrofa*)
- Results in a reduction in the spread of weeds and pathogens such as *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in accordance with the Threat Abatement Plan for Disease in Natural Ecosystems caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

The mitigation measures will also ensure that the Proposed Action does not result in an increase in the spread of cane toads in accordance with the Threat Abatement Plan for the Biological Effects, including Lethal Toxic Ingestion, caused by Cane Toads. It is noted however, that the Proposed Action Area is several hundred kilometres from the predicted area of occurrence of the cane toad, as identified in the TAP, thus cane toads are not considered to pose a particular risk to the Proposed Action. This TAP has been considered as it is identified as relevant to BGW.

Attachment I details the specific measures that will be implemented to mitigate and manage biodiversity impacts. The measures will be documented in a CEMP and include:

- Demarcation of approved clearance boundaries and avoidance areas
- Fencing and access control
- Pest plant and animal management
- *Phytophthora cinnamomi* management
- Erosion and sediment control
- Noise and vibration management
- Site rehabilitation.

The person and/or entity responsible for implementing these mitigation measures will be designated in the CEMP. The CEMP and relevant sub-plans will be adaptive, with the effectiveness of the control measures monitored continuously to identify opportunities for improvement.

The overall effectiveness of control measures to achieve the desired biodiversity outcomes is considered high, as the measures are largely linked to standard construction management requirements, such as site access control and soil and weed management. Salvage prior to or during construction for fauna and hollow-bearing trees is frequently undertaken in NSW, and standard procedures are available to ensure these activities are undertaken in an effective manner.

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

No offsets have been proposed as the Proposed Action is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is in inland Australia and would therefore not impact 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. *

The location and design of the proposed transmission line realignment has been developed through an iterative options analysis process over several years, to reduce environmental, cultural and social impacts of the Proposed Action.

Five sub-options were initially considered for the new alignments. All sub-options other than the Proposed Action (as assessed in this referral) were rejected due to cultural impacts associated with the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee River corridors, and visual/social impacts on the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre and Shepherds lookout (which is a popular bushwalking location known for its scenic views over the Murrumbidgee River), both of which are located in the ACT.

Micrositing was also undertaken to inform the final Disturbance Footprint as discussed in **Section 4** of this referral, based on detailed ecological and Aboriginal heritage mapping.

As a result, the Proposed Action Area has been refined over years of planning and consultation and no suitable alternatives remain.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment A - Figures.pdf Provides the figures/maps that are cross-referenced in this referral.	27/10/2024	Mo	High
#2.	Document	Attachment B - Land parcels.pdf Provides the list of land parcels on which the Proposed Action is located.	27/10/2024	Mo	High

1.2.5 Information about the staged development

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment C - Impacts of the larger action.pdf Details potential impacts on MNES that may occur as a result of the larger action.	27/10/2024	Mo	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment D - Summary of community and stakeholder engagement.pdf Outlines the community and stakeholder engagement activities that the Proponent has undertaken to date, and the outcomes of that engagement.	27/10/2024	Mo	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment J - Ginninderry Project Vision.pdf Provides the GJV's vision statement for the Ginninderry residential development project.	27/10/2024	Mo	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment F - Biodiversity Assessment Report.pdf Details the biodiversity assessment undertaken by Umwelt for the ACT component of the Project	27/10/2024	Mo	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment E - Cultural Heritage Assessment - redacted.pdf Details the cultural heritage assessment undertaken by Past	27/10/2024	Mo	High

Traces for the larger action and is relevant to the Proposed Action. This is a redacted version which can be provided for public exhibition of the referral.

#2.	Document	Attachment E - Cultural Heritage Assessment.pdf	27/10/2024	Yes	High
		Details the cultural heritage assessment undertaken by Past Traces for the larger action and is relevant to the Proposed Action. A redacted version has been provided for public exhibition of the referral.			

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

Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document Attachment G - BGW condition assessments.pdf Table 1 provides an assessment of relevant plant community types against the EPBC Act BGW key diagnostic characteristics, and Table 2 provides an assessment against the BGW condition classes and thresholds.	27/10/2024	No	High
#2.	Document Attachment H - Significant impact assessments.pdf Provides significant impact assessments for EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities that could be impacted by the Proposed Action.	27/10/2024	No	High
#3.	Document Attachment I - Biodiversity mitigation measures.pdf Details the mitigation and management measures that will be implemented in relation to biodiversity impacts associated with the Proposed Action.	27/10/2024	No	High

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

Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document Attachment F - PMST search.pdf Provides general guidance on MNES and other matters protected by the EPBC Act within 10 km of the Proposed Action Area.	27/10/2024	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	18059519041
Organisation name	UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	Unit 3 2/6 Shea St, Phillip ACT 2606

Representative's name	Alexander Garrett
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Scientist
Phone	+61449253999
Email	alexander.garrett@umwelt.com.au
Address	Unit 3 2/6 Shea St, Phillip ACT 2606

- ☒ 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, **Alexander Garrett of UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) 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	165870539
Organisation name	RIVERVIEW PROJECTS (ACT) PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	PO Box 3908, Manuka ACT 2603
Representative's name	David Maxwell
Representative's job title	Managing Director
Phone	0404 829 048
Email	jessica@ginninderry.com
Address	The Link, 1 McClymont Way, Strathnairn ACT 2615

- ☒ 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, **David Maxwell of RIVERVIEW PROJECTS (ACT) PTY LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete,

current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

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

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, **David Maxwell of RIVERVIEW PROJECTS (ACT) PTY LIMITED**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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