

Broome Future Energy System

Application Number: **02857**Commencement Date:
02/04/2025Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

1.1.2 Project industry type *

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The WA State Government has committed to reducing government carbon emissions by 80% (below 2020 levels by 2030), and Horizon Power is supporting the Government to achieve this target. Many towns in the Kimberley are powered by high emission fossil fuels such as diesel and gas. In Broome, Horizon Power currently purchases power from an independent power producer. The power purchase agreement (PPA) is due to expire, providing Horizon Power with an opportunity to integrate grid-scale renewable electricity into the town supply.

Horizon Power is proposing to construct a Future Energy System (FES) in Broome in the Kimberley region of WA (the Proposed Action). The Proposed Action will ensure security of energy supply to Broome after the expiry of the PPA. As part of this future energy supply, Horizon Power is targeting higher renewables and a reduction in emissions as part of the decarbonisation strategy for the town.

The Broome FES project will nominally consist of solar photovoltaic (PV) system (up to 90 megawatts alternating current (MWAC)), battery energy storage systems (BESS) (up to 42 megawatts MW / 239 megawatt-hour (MWh)), a network connection route (up to 18 km) and new thermal power station (up to 32 MW).

The solar PV and BESS will be installed at a site approximately 10 km north of Broome, at Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 414127, Reserve 25716. The network connection route corridor will follow Broome Cape Leveque Road, Broome Highway, Old Broome Road and Fredrick Street to connect the solar PV and BESS to the existing substation on Fredrick Street in Broome. The network connection will either be an overhead or underground electrical distribution or transmission line and will be up to 18 km long. The new thermal power station and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) storage facility would be installed adjacent to the site of the existing power station location at Lot 1049 and 1060 on Deposited Plan 213567 (Reserve 33718) and Lot 1192 on Deposited Plan 213567. Additional supporting infrastructure will be installed as required and may include a new switchboard and transformers to be installed within the existing substation site on Lot 3142 on Plan 36907 and a new up to 5 km long underground electrical feeder between the existing substation and the existing power station.

A Development Envelope (DE) has been utilised for the Proposed Action approvals, as the exact location of Proposed Action elements are unknown, and will be subject to detailed design in the future. The DE has a total extent of 391.6 ha and represents the boundary surrounding the Proposed Action within which all development will be contained. Construction and operation of the Proposed Action will require permanent clearing of up to 289.5 ha within the DE (of which 24.3 ha is already cleared land, cleared roadside vegetation or landscaping and planted gardens). It should be noted that the 289.5 ha clearing extent within the DE represents the maximum area of disturbance required to construct and install the Proposed Action, where opportunities are available clearing will be minimised. The DE has been developed as the area within which the least environmental constraints were identified in the biological survey. To ensure the Proposed Action avoids impacts to significant environmental and heritage values identified within the DE, avoidance areas have been developed within the DE. The avoidance areas are located to avoid impacts to a Priority Ecological Community and potential habitat trees for the Northern Brushtail Possum and Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat. The final design of the Proposed Action will avoid these areas to minimise impacts to environmental values as much as possible.

Further details on the background of the Proposed Action are detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 1, Pages 9 - 10. The Proposed Action construction and operational elements are detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 2, Page 14 - 17.

Environmental management measures are detailed in the Environmental Management Plan (Att A - Supporting Document, Appendix A, Page 147 onward). The Proposed Action will not require a commissioning phase, and the completed elements of the Proposed Action will be permanent infrastructure, with no significant impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance expected during operation.

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is being referred to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* due to potential impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance.

The Proposed Action was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) in May 2025. The EPA decided not to assess the Proposed Action. It was determined that impacts are related to clearing and therefore can be adequately assessed under Part V of the EP Act. Since this time, Horizon Power has amended the Proposed Action to include amendments to the existing substation, thermal power station and connection between the two. The amendments are considered minor as they follow existing infrastructure corridors, and the EPA's reasoning for not assessing the Proposed Action is still applicable to the amended Proposed Action. The Proposed Action will not be re-referred. The information contained within this referral is also available on the EPA website, including fauna sensitivities recorded.

Further state approvals may also be required, under the EP Act or *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, these will be obtained by the construction contractor as required.

The Proposed Action is aligned with the Western Australian Climate Change Policy and government commitment to reduce government emissions by 80 percent below 2020 levels by 2030.

As an 'energy operator', Horizon Power has certain rights under Sections 46 and 49 of the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979* (EOPA) which allow Horizon Power to access and use land for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and operating electricity infrastructure. Horizon Power will utilise these powers for the network connection portion of the Proposed Action.

The solar and battery infrastructure will be located at Lot 501, which is currently a Crown Reserve (25716) for 'Water Supply' with Management Order to Water Corporation. It is proposed that a portion of the site will be excised and placed under Management Order to Horizon Power in accordance with the *Land Administration Act 1997*.

The substation will be located at the existing substation on Lot 3142 on Deposited Plan 36907. This is owned in freehold by Horizon Power. Lot 554 on Deposited Plan 714339, Lot 2052 on Deposited Plan 216507 and Lot 3148 on Deposited Plan 36907 may also be impacted for connection infrastructure and will be accessed utilising the EOPA.

The thermal components and LNG storage facility will be constructed adjacent to the existing power station within Reserve 33718, which is under a Management Order to Horizon Power for the purpose of Power Station. Reserve 33718 comprises Lot 1049, Lot 1050, and Lot 1192 on Deposited Plan 213567 (being Certificate of Title 3002, Folios 414, 415 and 421).

For further information on the legislative context of the Proposed Action see Att A - Supporting Document, Section 5, Pages 79 - 81.

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. *

The stakeholder engagement process is guided by an Engagement and Communications Plan that is informed by a strategic engagement framework. This framework combines the principles of the International Association for Public Participation, The Energy Charter and Free Prior and Informed Consent approach to engagement.

By integrating these principles, Horizon Power aims to foster inclusive, transparent, and rights-respecting engagement processes that empower communities and uphold fundamental rights.

Horizon Power is committed to working with communities and engaging with them on projects that impact them. We are committed to sharing the journey with our communities to gain their valuable knowledge, enabling us to translate their worthy ideas into our decisions and actions.

Each engagement activity is tailored to the local context, encouraging two-way dialogue. Information has been delivered in-person where possible. Throughout engagement and communications, queries and concerns have been captured and responses provided, and documented via a stakeholder consultation register.

A dedicated project webpage, established at project inception in 2023, with FAQs continues to provide easy access to information and serves as a portal for community members to sign up for updates, ask questions, and stay informed about the project's progress. The project page was updated mid-2025 and the Broome Future Energy System project is now presented as a standalone webpage. Since re-launch the page has received 387 page views.

Community members and stakeholders can contact the team by emailing broome@horizonpower.com.au or decarbonisation@horizonpower.com.au, or by reaching out to the Horizon Power Customer and Community team in the Broome office. These email addresses are used to register for project updates, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Two in-person community sessions were held in Broome to provide project updates, most recently in August 2025. The event was attended by representatives from Horizon Power's divisions, including Customer & Community and Future Energy Systems. The session saw a strong turnout, with 98 RSVPs and 51 attendees representing a diverse cross-section of Broome residents and key local stakeholders, including Environs Kimberley, Shire of Broome, Kimberley Development Commission, Broome Chamber of Commerce & Industry, RDA Kimberley, Kimberley Port Authority, Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, GenOffGrid, EDL, and Nulungu Research Institute, University of Notre Dame. The session focused on collaborative roles in the transition to renewable energy, updates on the Future Energy System planning process, and the Community Wave program. Attendees engaged actively, raising questions about renewable options, system resilience, project costs, and cultural-environmental considerations.

The project was presented to the Regional Development Australia Kimberley Committee, in Derby on 7 September 2023. Horizon Power commenced engagement with the Shire of Broome in September 2023 and maintained regular and ongoing engagement

Horizon Power first met with members of Yawuru on 26 September 2023 and several meetings have ensued. Community participation models and a Heritage Protection Agreement will be required, and engagement continues to secure this and other related discussions.

As a member of the Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Horizon Power co-hosted a Business After Hours event on 17 April 2024, where the Broome Future Energy System planning featured as an agenda item and senior regional and executive Horizon Power staff attended to undertake Question and Answer session, and face-to-face engagement following the formal presentation.

A full summary of engagement undertaken to date is included in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 3, Pages 21 - 28.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

Personal information may be disclosed to other Australian government agencies, persons or organisations where necessary for the above purposes, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act). Your personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

See our Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, email us at privacy@dcceew.gov.au.

Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN 57955011697

Organisation name Regional Power Corporation

Organisation address 6102 WA

Referring party details

Name Rochelle Lupton

Job title Environment Lead

Phone 0435042502

Email rochelle.lupton@horizonpower.com.au

Address PO Box 1066 Bentley DC WA 6983

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN 57955011697

Organisation name Regional Power Corporation

Organisation address 6102 WA

Person proposing to take the action details

Name Rochelle Lupton

Job title Environment Lead

Phone 0435042502

Email rochelle.lupton@horizonpower.com.au

Address PO Box 1066 Bentley DC WA 6983

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

No

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

No

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

Regional Power Corporation, trading as (T/A) Horizon Power, is a Western Australian (WA) Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) and the state's regional and remote energy provider. Horizon Power operates under the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005* and is governed by a Board of Directors accountable to the Minister for Energy. Horizon operate across the full energy supply chain with generation, transmission, distribution and retail services and are currently considering the future of energy in the transition to renewables.

Works undertaken by Horizon Power are subject to an Environmental Management System including all appropriate screening of project impacts against legislation and their potential impacts on the environment, as well as record keeping and investigation in the event of an incident. Horizon Power operates under an Environment Policy and regularly reviews its legal corporate obligations as relates to environmental performance, as well as benchmarking against industry best practice. Horizon Power has a history of responsible environmental management, actively managing over 8,400 km of overhead and underground electrical transmission and distribution lines, associated infrastructure and generation assets across a 2.3 million square kilometre service area. No pending proceedings under Commonwealth or State legislation for the protection of the environment are in progress.

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

Horizon Power operates under an Environment Policy and Environmental Management System aligned to ISO14001. Projects are screened against State and Commonwealth legislation, and their potential impacts on the environment are determined, including appropriate avoidance, mitigation and management.

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	57955011697
Organisation name	Regional Power Corporation
Organisation address	6102 WA

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Rochelle Lupton
Job title	Environment Lead
Phone	0435042502
Email	rochelle.lupton@horizonpower.com.au
Address	PO Box 1066 Bentley DC WA 6983

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	57955011697
Organisation name	Regional Power Corporation
Organisation address	6102 WA
Representative's name	Rochelle Lupton
Representative's job title	Environment Lead
Phone	0435042502
Email	rochelle.lupton@horizonpower.com.au
Address	PO Box 1066 Bentley DC WA 6983

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

Same as Referring party information.

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

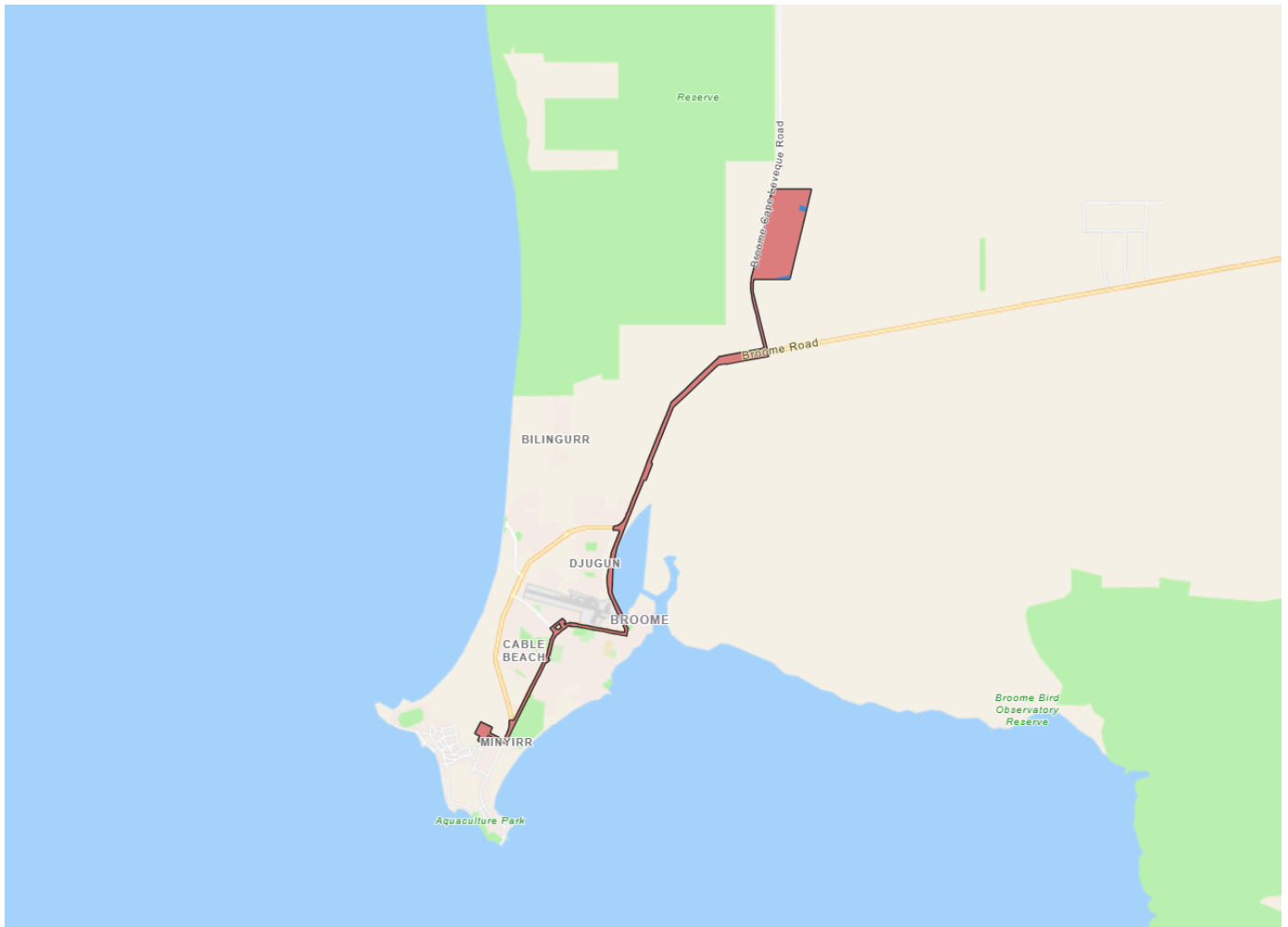
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 392.85 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 392.85 Ha Avoidance Area: 4.55 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 414127, Reserve 25716; Broome Cape Leveque Road; Broome High

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

Western Australia

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

No

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

The solar facility is approximately 10 km northeast of Broome, with the network connection corridor following Broome Cape Leveque Road, Broome Highway, Old Broome Road and Fredrick Street to the existing substation in Broome.

The connection infrastructure will follow the road reserve and will be accessed under powers provided by the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979*. The solar farm is on Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 414127, Reserve 25716, Volume LR3172, Folio 67. This site is currently a Crown Reserve (25716) for 'Water Supply' with Management Order to Water Corporation, it is proposed that a portion of the site will be excised and placed under Management Order to Horizon Power.

The substation will be located at the existing substation on Lot 3142 on Deposited Plan 36907. This is owned in freehold by Horizon Power. Lot 554 on Deposited Plan 714339, Lot 2052 on Deposited Plan 216507 and Lot 3148 on Deposited Plan 36907 may also be impacted for connection infrastructure.

The thermal components and LNG storage facility of the Proposed Action will be constructed adjacent to the existing power station within Reserve 33718, which is under a Management Order to Horizon Power for the purpose of Power Station. Reserve 33718 comprises Lot 1049, Lot 1050, and Lot 1192 on Deposited Plan 213567 (being Certificate of Title 3002, Folios 414, 415 and 421).

The Water Corporation are aware that Horizon Power is seeking environmental approvals for the site. See Att B - Application authorisation letter Water Corp April 2025, Pages 1 - 2.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Proposed Action is within a larger land parcel that is currently under Management Order to Water Corporation for drinking water supply. Vegetation within the solar farm area is relatively undisturbed, with some access tracks evident. The main points of access to the Proposed Action during the development and operational stages will be via Cape Leveque Road and existing cleared access tracks located within the DE. New access tracks are also proposed. See Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.12.4, Page 78 for information of land use of the area surrounding the DE.

Vegetation condition ranges from Excellent to Completely Degraded with the majority of the vegetation in Excellent condition (GHD, 2024). The southern portion of the DE associated with the network connection corridor, substation and power station, is located within Broome township and has limited native vegetation. Outside Broome township, the vegetation is disturbed but still presents records of Priority flora and trees with hollows suitable for fauna habitat. No waterways are present within the Development Envelope, however a small portion of riparian vegetation was identified in the connection corridor. See Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.8.1, Pages 64 - 66 for further detail on vegetation condition within the DE.

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

The Proposed Action is within a larger land parcel that is currently under Management Order to Water Corporation for drinking water supply. Future land use would be as a solar facility including battery storage, and network connection infrastructure (either overhead or underground).

The substation and power station will continue to be utilised for the same purposes.

See Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.12.4, Page 78 for additional information on land use within and surrounding the DE.

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

As stated in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.11, Page 73, the Proposed Action is located within the Dampierland bioregion and Pindanland subregion. The Dampierland bioregion is characterised by extensive plains, ranges and spectacular gorges. The vegetation is characterised by Acacia thickets with scattered trees and areas of grasslands and savannas (Bastin & ACRIS Management Committee, 2008).

The West Kimberley region is defined as a National Heritage area due to unique environmental, landscape and heritage features. No gorges or significant features of the Kimberley region are evident in the DE. The West Kimberley National Heritage Place is located approximately 950 m east of the network connection corridor section of the DE. The network connection corridor portion of the DE also overlaps an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) that is associated with the buffer of the Roebuck Bay mudflats State listed Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). The DE only overlaps the buffered extent of this TEC, and does not overlap the mapped boundary of the TEC. No vegetation commensurate with these ecological communities was identified in the DE.

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 elevation within the solar and BESS facility portion of the DE is relatively flat, ranging from approximately 45 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) in the centre of the area, to approximately 36 m AHD in the southwest corner. The network connection route/substation portion of the DE ranges from approximately 25 m AHD at the northern extent of the route, to 7 m AHD. The power station is relatively flat, ranging from 17-19 m AHD throughout.

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.

Horizon Power commissioned two Biological Surveys for the Proposed Action (GHD, 2024; 2025), which involved surveying several sites around Broome to determine suitability for the Proposed Action, totalling 1270.74 ha. See attachments. The vegetation, flora and fauna surveys within the DE are outlined in Table 4-2 with the extent of survey coverage shown on Figure 2-3 of Att A - Supporting Document.

Horizon Power also undertook a review of a number of biological surveys completed in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Action to provide regional context. A summary of the surveys and studies consulted in the preparation of this referral are included in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.7.1, Pages 35 - 37.

The Supporting Documentation include further details regarding the following:

- Flora diversity (see Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.7.2, Page 37)
- Introduced species (see Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.7.3, Page 38)
- Significant flora (see Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.7.4, Pages 38 - 39)
- Fauna diversity (see Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.7.5, Page 39)
- Fauna habitat (see Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.7.6, Pages 39 - 40)
- Significant fauna including Threatened and Migratory fauna (see Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.7.7, Pages 44 - 51)
- Short-range endemic fauna (see Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.7.8, Pages 62).

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

The Proposal is located within the Dampier Peninsula Sandplain Zone, which is described as sandplains and dunes (with some sandy plateaux and coastal mudflats) on sedimentary rocks of the Canning Basin with Red deep sands and some Yellow sandy earths and Tidal soils (DPIRD, 2022; Payne & Schoknecht, 2011). The solar farm area is within an area of extremely low probability of occurrence of Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) (Fitzpatrick et al., 2011). Adjacent to the network connection corridor portion of the DE, there is a high probability of occurrence of ASS in intertidal and extratidal flats (Fitzpatrick et al., 2011). The Development Envelope overlaps Vegetation Association 750.

The 391.6 ha DE comprises native vegetation representing seven vegetation types (GHD, 2024; 2025). Areas that are not considered native vegetation have been modified with significant changes to the vegetation structure and no longer represent an intact vegetation type. These include areas of scattered natives over weeds, landscaped areas and planted gardens, cleared road verge and drains with regrowth of native forbs and grasses or cleared land.

The GHD (2024; 2025) surveys also recorded vegetation condition across the DE. The vegetation condition ranges from Excellent to Completely Degraded with the majority of the vegetation in Excellent condition. Degraded or Completely Degraded vegetation is associated with areas of scattered natives over weeds, landscaped areas and planted gardens, cleared road verge and drains with regrowth of native forbs and grasses. Areas of Excellent condition contained large continuous areas of pindan (GHD, 2024).

The Survey Area intersects with the mapped extent of the Monsoon Vine Thickets of Dampier Peninsula TEC (Endangered). However, the GHD (2024;2025) did not identify any vegetation types that represented TECs within the DE.

VT07 and VT08 are considered to be riparian vegetation and occur in small patches within the network connection route section of the DE. There is 1.5 ha of riparian vegetation within the DE to be cleared.

A detailed description of of geology, landform and soils is provided in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.2, Pages 29 - 32.

A detailed description of the regional biogeography in relation to the Proposed Action is provided in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.6, Page 35.

A detailed description of the vegetation within the DE is provided in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.8, Pages 62 - 70.

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.

As detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.10, Page 73, there are no World Heritage Properties or Commonwealth Heritage Places within the Development Envelope or within 20 km of the Development Envelope. The West Kimberley National Heritage Place is located approximately 950 m east of the network connection corridor. All activities will be confined to the Development Envelope and no impacts to significant features of the Kimberley region are proposed.

As detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.12.3, Pages 76 - 77, a search of the Heritage Council WA inHerit database confirms no State Heritage sites occur within the DE (DPLH, 2025a). Two municipal heritage sites, Tram Line (Place Number: 26423) and Lurujarri Heritage Trail (Place Number: 26457) intersects a portion of the DE (a figure is shown of this site in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.12.3, Page 77).

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

As detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.12.1, Page 73, the Proposed Action is not located within an Indigenous Land Use Agreement area (Landgate, 2025b). The DE is located within the Rubibi Community Native Title Determination Area (Federal Court file number: WAD6006/1998), which has the Yawuru Native Title Holders Aboriginal Corporation as the RNTBC.

A search of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS) indicates one Lodged site intersects the DE and the buffers of 9 Registered sites intersect the DE (these sites are detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.12.2, Pages 73 - 75). Horizon Power has completed an Aboriginal cultural heritage survey within the DE with Yawuru, and heritage features will be avoided. No disturbance, damage, impact or removal of any Aboriginal Heritage sites is proposed as part of Proposed Action activities.

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. *

As detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.3, Pages 33 - 34, the DE is within the Cape Leveque Coast Sub-catchment, which is within the Cape Leveque Coast Basin Catchment (DWER, 2024) which contains no large rivers. No permanent water bodies or drainage lines are located within the solar farm area. Based on the topography of the DE and surrounding area, rainfall is expected to drain west towards the coast.

The southern portion of the network connection corridor is located in close proximity to the Dampier Creek. This area is characterised by mangroves that experience tidal inundation. The Roebuck Bay wetland is located less than 20 m east of the DE (DBCA, 2018). Roebuck Bay is also associated with a Ramsar wetland which is located approximately 7 km east of the DE (DBCA, 2017). Roebuck Bay wetland is an important site for shorebirds associated with the East-Asian Australasian Flyway and it is internationally important for many migratory shorebird species (Bennelongia, 2009). It also supports benthic invertebrates, Loggerhead Turtles and Green Turtles. It is of high social and cultural value as it provides a deep-water port, supports tourism, commercial fishing and pearling, and recreational activities. Roebuck Bay contains a substantial number of Aboriginal heritage sites, and remains a place of Aboriginal cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance (Bennelongia, 2009).

As detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.4, Pages 33 - 34, the DE overlaps the Broome Water Reserve, which is a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA), and it also overlaps the Broome Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act).

Based on publicly available data, the depth to groundwater in the area surrounding the DE is estimated to be between 2.1 m to 32 m below ground level (Landcorp, 2009 and Talis, 2023). The groundwater is expected to be shallow along the portion of the network connection corridor that is located in close proximity to the Dampier Creek. The general inferred direction of groundwater flow is in a south to southwest direction towards the coast.

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	Yes	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	Yes	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

*

There are no World Heritage Properties or Commonwealth Heritage Places within the DE or within 20 km of the Development Envelope.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

*

The West Kimberley National Heritage Place is located approximately 950 m east of the network connection corridor section of the Development Envelope. All activities will be confined to the Development Envelope, therefore there will be no impacts to this National Heritage Place as a result of the Proposal and it is not discussed further.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
Yes		Roebuck Bay

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

Yes

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

A wetland associated with Roebuck Bay is located less than 20 m east of the connection corridor (DBCA, 2018). Roebuck Bay is a Ramsar wetland located approximately 7 km east of the DE (DBCA, 2017). Roebuck Bay wetland is an important site for shorebirds associated with the East-Asian Australasian Flyway and it is internationally important for many migratory shorebird species (Bennelongia, 2009). It also supports benthic invertebrates, Loggerhead Turtles and Green Turtles. It is of high social and cultural value as it provides a deep-water port, supports tourism, commercial fishing and pearling, and recreational activities. Roebuck Bay contains a substantial number of Aboriginal heritage sites, and remains a place of Aboriginal cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance (Bennelongia, 2009).

As described in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.1.1, Page 82, activities associated with the construction of the Proposed Action and associated infrastructure have the potential to influence and/or alter existing hydrological processes within and surrounding the DE and indirectly impact the Roebuck Bay Ramsar Wetland. This may include:

- A minor and temporary impact on the quality of surface water as a result of sediments and/or contaminants being transported with stormwater runoff.
- Changes to surface water flows and increased risk of land erosion and sedimentation in nearby waterways due to clearing of native vegetation within the DE.
- Risk of contamination of soils and subsequent mobilisation to surface waters may result from accidental release of chemicals and/or hydrocarbons (i.e. leaks, spills).
- Exposure of ASS by ground disturbing associated with construction of the network connection route.
- If groundwater is encountered, short-term dewatering of potentially acidic groundwater may be required.
- Changes to groundwater infiltration from clearing of native vegetation within the DE
- Minor temporary drawdown of groundwater should dewatering be required to construct solar infrastructure and network connection infrastructure.

Operational activities associated with the Proposed Action include operation of the solar and BESS facility and network connection, along with maintenance inspections and repairs. Operation of the Proposed Action will be restricted to cleared access tracks and is not expected to impact drainage lines or other water features surrounding the DE.

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

*

No

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

An assessment against the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (Commonwealth of Australia, 2013) have identified no significant impacts to the ecological character of the Roebuck Bay Ramsar wetland (see Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.1.3, Pages 83 - 85). A summary of this assessment is detailed below:

- The DE is located approximately 7 km east of the Roebuck Bay Ramsar Wetland. As the Proposed Action will be confined to the DE, there will be no direct impacts to the wetland, and there is no expected impact to drainage lines or other water features surrounding the DE which may indirectly impact the Roebuck Bay Ramsar Wetland.
- The Proposed Action will not cause significant impacts to surface water or groundwater given the mitigation approaches and short term, minor nature of construction and operational activities. Impacts can be managed through Horizon Power's mitigation and management measures, and the implementation of the EMP (see Att A - Supporting Document, Appendix A, Pages 147 onward).
- No significant impacts are expected to the hydrological regime or water quality of Roebuck Bay Ramsar Wetland.
- The Proposed Action does not introduce any credible impact pathways that could introduce an invasive species (or spread an existing invasive species) that may harm the ecological character of the wetland.
- Operational activities associated with the Proposed Action include operation of the solar and BESS facility and network connection, along with maintenance inspections and repairs. Operation of the Proposed Action will be restricted to cleared access tracks and is not expected to impact drainage lines or other water features surrounding the DE which may indirectly impact the Roebuck Bay Ramsar Wetland.

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

No

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

*

An impact assessment was undertaken for the Proposed Action (see Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.1, Pages 82 - 85) which identified that the Proposed Action is not likely to have a significant impacts on the ecological character of the Roebuck Bay Ramsar Wetland.

Therefore, based on the criteria detailed in the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1, it is not expected that the Proposed Action would be a Controlled Action due to impacts to Ramsar wetlands.

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

As detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.1.2, Page 82, the following measures will be implemented to mitigate impacts to surface water and groundwater, and thereby mitigate indirect impacts to Roebuck Bay Ramsar Wetland:

- Implementation of an EMP (see Att A - Supporting Document, Appendix A, Pages 147 onward) to prevent chemical/ hydrocarbon leaks and spills and prescribe corrective actions in the event of accidental releases
- Any water abstraction required for construction of the Proposed Action will be undertaken to minimise drawdown, and water allowed to infiltrate as close to the source as possible. If the groundwater is acidic, it would be treated and discharged in accordance with an ASS Management Plan.
- Weather will be monitored to avoid construction works during heavy rainfall to prevent runoff, erosion and mobilisation of sediment
- If ASS or any other contaminants are encountered, additional investigations will be undertaken. An ASS Management Plan will be developed if required.

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

The Proposed Action will not result in any significant residual impacts to Ramsar Wetlands. An offset strategy is not proposed as management and mitigation measures developed are expected to adequately reduce impacts as a result of the Proposed Action.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Aipysurus foliosquama</i>	Leaf-scaled Sea Snake, Leaf-scaled Seasnake
No	No	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone
No	No	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue Whale
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot, Knot
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot
No	No	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	White Shark, Great White Shark
No	No	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Turtle
No	No	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
No	No	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser Sand Plover, Mongolian Plover
No	No	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Turtle
Yes	Yes	<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>	Gouldian Finch
No	No	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth
No	No	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Hawksbill Turtle
No	No	<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	Red Goshawk
Yes	Yes	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	Asian Dowitcher
No	No	<i>Limosa lapponica menzbieri</i>	Northern Siberian Bar-tailed Godwit, Russkoye Bar-tailed Godwit
No	No	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit
No	No	<i>Macroderma gigas</i>	Ghost Bat

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	Yes	<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	Greater Bilby
No	No	<i>Natator depressus</i>	Flatback Turtle
No	No	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	<i>Orcaella heinsohni</i>	Australian Snubfin Dolphin
No	No	<i>Papasula abbotti</i>	Abbott's Booby
No	No	<i>Phaethon lepturus fulvus</i>	Christmas Island White-tailed Tropicbird, Golden Bosunbird
No	No	<i>Phaethon rubricauda westralis</i>	Red-tailed Tropicbird (Indian Ocean), Indian Ocean Red-tailed Tropicbird
No	No	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover
No	No	<i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>	Princess Parrot, Alexandra's Parrot
No	No	<i>Pristis clavata</i>	Dwarf Sawfish, Queensland Sawfish
No	No	<i>Pristis pristis</i>	Freshwater Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish
No	No	<i>Pristis zijsron</i>	Green Sawfish, Dindagubba, Narrowsnout Sawfish
No	No	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark
No	No	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe
Yes	Yes	<i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus</i>	Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat, Bare-rumped Sheath-tail Bat
No	No	<i>Seringia exastia</i>	Fringed Fire-bush
No	No	<i>Sousa sahalensis</i>	Australian Humpback Dolphin
No	No	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped Hammerhead
No	No	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern
Yes	Yes	<i>Tiliqua scincoides intermedia</i>	Northern Blue-tongued Skink
Yes	Yes	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis</i>	Northern Brushtail Possum
No	No	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli	Masked Owl (northern)
No	No	Varanus mertensi	Mertens' Water Monitor, Mertens's Water Monitor
No	No	Xenus cinereus	Terek Sandpiper
No	No	Xeromys myoides	Water Mouse, False Water Rat, Yirrkoo

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Monsoon vine thickets on the coastal sand dunes of Dampier Peninsula

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. *

The GHD (2024) survey recorded four conservation significant fauna species within the DE or in close vicinity to the DE (Bilby, Northern Brushtail Possum, Northern Blue-tongue Skink), with an additional three species considered likely to occur (Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat, Gouldian Finch and Grey Falcon). A description of these species is provided in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.7.7, Pages 44 - 61.

As detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.2.1, Pages 85 - 86, construction of the Proposed Action will result in the direct loss of fauna habitat, including habitat suitable for Threatened fauna species, through clearing. Operation of the Proposed Action will not directly impact Threatened fauna as maintenance activities will utilise the existing roads and access tracks, hence impacts to fauna habitats will be short-term and partially recoverable.

Direct impacts to Threatened fauna during construction of the Proposed Action includes:

- Clearing of 251.6 ha of pindan shrubland, which provides habitat for:
 - Bilby (critical habitat)
 - Northern Brushtail Possum (critical habitat and supporting habitat)
 - Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat (critical habitat and supporting habitat)
 - Northern Blue-tongue Skink (critical habitat)
 - Gouldian Finch (critical habitat)
 - Grey Falcon (supporting habitat)
- Clearing of 5.9 ha of pindan woodland and 3.5 ha of pindan woodland plain, which provides habitat for:
 - Bilby (critical habitat)
 - Northern Blue-tongue Skink (critical habitat)
 - Gouldian Finch (critical habitat)
 - Northern Brushtail Possum (supporting habitat)
 - Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat (supporting habitat)
 - Grey Falcon (supporting habitat)
- Clearing of up to 14 hollow containing trees identified in the GHD (2024) survey within the pindan shrubland habitat type in the network connection route portion of the DE, which could provide suitable important nesting/roosting/breeding habitat to the Northern Brushtail Possum and the Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat.
- Clearing of 1.4 ha of open Eucalypt dampland, which provides habitat for:
 - Northern Brushtail Possum (supporting habitat)
 - Northern Blue-tongue Skink (critical habitat)
 - Gouldian Finch (critical habitat)
- Clearing of 0.9 ha of sparse mangrove tidal mudflat, which provides habitat for the Grey Falcon (supporting habitat)
- Clearing of 3.9 ha of scattered plantings and native trees, which provides habitat for:
 - Northern Brushtail Possum (supporting habitat)
 - Northern Blue-tongue Skink (critical habitat).

Construction and operation of the Proposed Action may result in the following indirect impacts to Threatened fauna:

- Fauna injury/death from vehicle strike, clearing activities or direct collision with infrastructure (particularly with solar and BESS facility infrastructure for bird and bat species).
- Fauna activity disturbance from temporary increase in noise/vibration/light, attraction of feral animals, alteration of fire regimes, and increased generation of dust during construction.

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

*

Yes

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

An assessment against the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 identified that a significant impact may result to Bilby, Northern Brushtail Possum and Northern Blue-tongue Skink due to the clearing of critical habitat. See Section 6.2, pages 85 - 126.

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

Yes

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

An assessment of impacts, including assessment against the significant impact criteria (CoA, 2013) for Threatened species was undertaken in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.2, pages 85 - 126.

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. *

As described in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.2.2, Pages 86 - 87, the Proposed Action has been designed to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to Threatened fauna where possible. During the design phase, particular focus has been, and will be, placed on reducing the amount of fauna habitat clearing required for construction. Operation of the Proposed Action will utilise existing roads and access tracks.

Avoidance measures considered and incorporated into Proposed Action planning to date include:

- An avoidance area has been established around four habitat trees within the DE (of which two had suitable nesting/roosting hollows)
- Pre-clearance fauna survey and relocation to be undertaken by licenced fauna specialist.

Impacts to Threatened fauna will be minimised and reduced through the following mitigation measures:

- Clearing impacts will be further reduced where possible through the detailed design process, including the positioning of solar and BESS facility infrastructure and network connection infrastructure to minimise impacts to fauna habitat
- Dust, noise, vibration and light management measures will be implemented during construction
- Implementation of the management measures in the EMP (Att A - Supporting Document, Appendix A, Pages 147 onwards) to minimise risks to Threatened fauna, and to provide monitoring during construction
- A pre-clearance survey will be undertaken within the DE for the Bilby, Northern Brushtail Possum and Northern Blue-tongue Skink, as detailed in the EMP (Att A - Supporting Document, Appendix A)
- Habitat trees suitable for the Northern Brushtail Possum and the Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat will be avoided where possible during site selection and design.

Operational activities associated with the Proposed Action include operation of the solar and BESS facility and network connection, along with maintenance inspections and repairs. Operation of the Proposed Action will utilise existing roads and access tracks. The following management measures will be implemented during operation of the Proposed Action to minimise impacts to Threatened fauna:

- Maintenance and repair activities will be restricted to existing cleared areas where possible
- Access to infrastructure will be through existing access tracks.

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

Following the referral of the Derby Future Energy System to DCCEEW, a Controlled Action decision was made, and Horizon Power is now developing an offset strategy. It is anticipated that a similar decision will be made for the Broome Future Energy System, and Horizon Power is preparing for a potential offset requirement.

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>Anous stolidus</i>	Common Noddy
No	No	<i>Anoxypristis cuspidata</i>	Narrow Sawfish, Knifetooth Sawfish
Yes	Yes	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone
No	No	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>	Bryde's Whale
No	No	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue Whale
Yes		<i>Balaenoptera omurai</i>	Omura's Whale
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling
No	No	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot, Knot
Yes		<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Red-necked Stint
No	No	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot
No	No	<i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>	Streaked Shearwater
No	No	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic Whitetip Shark
No	No	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	Grey Nurse Shark
No	No	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	White Shark, Great White Shark
No	No	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Turtle
No	No	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Red-rumped Swallow
No	No	<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>	Double-banded Plover

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
No	No	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser Sand Plover, Mongolian Plover
No	No	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>	Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel
No	No	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Turtle
No	No	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile
No	No	<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
No	No	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth
No	No	<i>Dugong dugon</i>	Dugong
No	No	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Hawksbill Turtle
No	No	<i>Fregata ariel</i>	Lesser Frigatebird, Least Frigatebird
No	No	<i>Fregata minor</i>	Great Frigatebird, Greater Frigatebird
No	No	<i>Gallinago megala</i>	Swinhoe's Snipe
No	No	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Pin-tailed Snipe
No	No	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	Oriental Pratincole
Yes	Yes	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
No	No	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	Asian Dowitcher
No	No	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit
No	No	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit
No	No	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback Whale
No	No	<i>Mobula alfredi</i>	Reef Manta Ray, Coastal Manta Ray
No	No	<i>Mobula birostris</i>	Giant Manta Ray
No	No	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail
No	No	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	<i>Natator depressus</i>	Flatback Turtle
No	No	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Numenius minutus	Little Curlew, Little Whimbrel
No	No	Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel
No	No	Orcaella heinsohni	Australian Snubfin Dolphin
No	No	Orcinus orca	Killer Whale, Orca
Yes	Yes	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey
No	No	Phaethon lepturus	White-tailed Tropicbird
Yes		Phaethon rubricauda	Red-tailed Tropicbird
No	No	Pluvialis fulva	Pacific Golden Plover
No	No	Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover
No	No	Pristis clavata	Dwarf Sawfish, Queensland Sawfish
No	No	Pristis pristis	Freshwater Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish
No	No	Pristis zijsron	Green Sawfish, Dindagubba, Narrowsnout Sawfish
No	No	Rhincodon typus	Whale Shark
No	No	Sousa sahalensis	Australian Humpback Dolphin
No	No	Sternula albifrons	Little Tern
No	No	Tringa brevipes	Grey-tailed Tattler
No	No	Tringa glareola	Wood Sandpiper
No	No	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank
No	No	Tringa stagnatilis	Marsh Sandpiper, Little Greenshank
No	No	Tringa totanus	Common Redshank, Redshank
No	No	Tursiops aduncus (Arafura/Timor Sea populations)	Spotted Bottlenose Dolphin (Arafura/Timor Sea populations)
No	No	Xenus cinereus	Terek Sandpiper

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

Yes

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

The GHD (2024) survey recorded one conservation significant fauna species in close vicinity to the DE (the Fork-tailed Swift), with an additional two species considered likely to occur (Osprey and Barn Swallow). A description of these species is provided in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 4.7.7.2 Pages 60 - 61 and Section 6.3 pages 123 - 137.

As detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.3.1, Pages 123 - 137, construction of the Proposed Action will result in the direct loss of fauna habitat, including habitat suitable for Migratory fauna species, through clearing. Operation of the Proposed Action will not directly impact Migratory fauna as maintenance activities will utilise the existing roads and access tracks, hence impacts to fauna habitats will be short-term and partially recoverable.

Direct impacts to Migratory fauna during construction of the Proposed Action includes:

- Clearing of 251.6 ha of pindan shrubland, 5.9 ha of pindan woodland and 3.5 ha of pindan woodland plain, which provides habitat for:
 - o Fork-tailed Swift (supporting)
 - o Osprey (supporting habitat)
 - o Barn Swallow (supporting habitat).
- Clearing of 1.4 ha of open Eucalypt dampland, 0.9 ha of sparse mangrove tidal mudflat, 3.9 ha of scattered plantings and native trees which provides habitat for:
 - o Fork-tailed Swift (supporting habitat)
 - o Osprey (supporting habitat).

Construction and operation of the Proposed Action may result in the following indirect impacts to Migratory fauna:

- Fauna injury/death from vehicle strike, clearing activities or direct collision with infrastructure (particularly with solar and BESS facility infrastructure for bird and bat species).
- Fauna activity disturbance from temporary increase in noise/vibration/light, attraction of feral animals, alteration of fire regimes, and increased generation of dust during construction.

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

*

No

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

An assessment of direct impacts and indirect impacts from the Proposed Action on Migratory species is provided in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.3.3, Pages 128 - 129. A summary is provided below:

- The Proposed Action will result in the loss of 267.2 ha of potential fauna habitat. The habitats present comprise a mixture of pindan shrubland, Eucalypt dampland, mangrove tidal mudflat and scattered plantings and native trees, and provides habitat for various significant fauna species that have the potential to occur within the DE. The design of the Proposed Action has, and will continue to be, refined to minimise the extent of Migratory fauna habitat clearing as much as possible. The assessment of significant residual impacts as a result of clearing fauna habitat is provided in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.3.3.1.1, Pages 128 - 129. Significant residual impacts from the Proposed Action are not expected.
- Significant impacts from fauna injury/death from vehicle strike/clearing activities or direct collision with infrastructure are not expected, as explained in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.3.3.2.1, Page 130.
- Significant impacts from fauna activity disturbance from temporary increase in noise/vibration/light attraction of feral animals, alteration of fire regimes, and increased generation of dust during construction are not expected, as explained in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.3.3.2.2, Pages 130 - 131.

Assessment against the significant impact criteria (CoA, 2013) for Migratory species in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.3.3.3, Pages 132 - 137 shows that the Proposed Action is not likely to have a significant impact on the Fork-tailed Swift, Osprey or Barn Swallow.

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

No

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

*

An assessment of impacts, including assessment against the significant impact criteria (CoA, 2013) for Migratory species was undertaken in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.3.3, Pages 132 - 137. The assessment shows that significant impacts to Migratory fauna as a result of the Proposed Action are not likely.

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

As described in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 6.3.2, Page 117, the Proposed Action has been designed to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to Migratory fauna where possible. During the design phase, particular focus has been, and will be, placed on reducing the amount of fauna habitat clearing required for construction. Operation of the Proposed Action will utilise existing roads and access tracks.

Impacts to Migratory fauna will be minimised and reduced through the following mitigation measures:

- Clearing impacts will be further reduced where possible through the detailed design process, including the positioning of solar and BESS facility infrastructure and network connection infrastructure to minimise impacts to fauna habitat.
- Dust, noise, vibration and light management measures will be implemented during construction
- Implementation of the management measures in the EMP (Att A - Supporting Document, Appendix A, Pages 147 onwards) to minimise risks to Migratory fauna, and to provide monitoring during construction.

Operational activities associated with the Proposed Action include operation of the solar and BESS facility and network connection, along with maintenance inspections and repairs. Operation of the Proposed Action will utilise existing roads and access tracks. The following management measures will be implemented during operation of the Proposed Action to minimise impacts to Migratory fauna:

- Maintenance and repair activities will be restricted to existing cleared areas where possible
- Access to infrastructure will be through existing access tracks.

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

The Proposed Action will not result in any significant residual impacts to Migratory species. An offset strategy is not proposed as management and mitigation measures developed are expected to adequately reduce impacts as a result of the Proposed Action.

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 does not include any nuclear components and is not expected to have any direct or indirect impacts on the environment as a result of nuclear actions.

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.

*

No impacts to Commonwealth marine areas are proposed.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

*

The Proposed Action is in Western Australia and not within vicinity of the Great Barrier Reef.

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 will not require impacts to water resources in relation to a coal mining development or coal seam gas development.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

The Proposed Action is not being undertaken on Commonwealth land and is not expected to impact 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.

*

No Commonwealth heritage places overseas are proposed to be impacted by the Proposed Action

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

Several proposed alternatives were considered for the Proposed Action but will not be progressed as detailed in Att A - Supporting Document, Section 2.4, Pages 18 and summarised below:

Alternative sites

Several alternative sites were considered for the Proposed Action. Three sites were surveyed in 2024 and one in 2025 to determine the environmental features present and suitability for construction of the solar farm and battery site. The Development Envelope for this Proposed Action was selected as it presented the fewest environmental constraints, including fewest trees with hollows and fewest active Bilby burrows. The Development Envelope was also designated to avoid impacts to the Relict dune system dominated by extensive stands of Minyjuru (Mangarr - *Sersalisia sericea*) Priority Ecological Community, which may have significance to Traditional Owners.

Alternative project components

A combined option of wind, solar, PV and energy storage system was considered for the Proposal. This was not selected as the wind option may have had significant impacts on migratory birds, with the selected site being close to Roebuck Bay Ramsar Site, and within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway zone.

Installation of solar infrastructure on rooftops within Broome township was also under consideration, to reduce the requirement for centralised renewables to be constructed. This assessment and installation of rooftop solar is ongoing, and centralised renewables is still considered to be required.

Do nothing

The 'Do nothing' option was considered as part of the Business Case however would not meet the electricity needs of the town.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment A - Broome EPBC Referral Supporting Document 2025.pdf Supporting Documentation for EPBC referral	18/12/2025		High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment A - Broome EPBC Referral Supporting Document 2025.pdf Supporting Documentation for EPBC referral	17/12/2025		High
#2.	Link	Western Australias Climate Action https://www.climateaction.wa.gov.au/wa-climate-a..			High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment A - Broome EPBC Referral Supporting Document 2025.pdf Supporting Documentation for EPBC referral	17/12/2025		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.	Link	Environment Policy https://www.horizonpower.com.au/globalassets/med..			High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment B - Horizon Power Broome- Clearing consent Water Corp April 2025_Redacted.pdf Horizon Power Broome Borefield Clearing consent application authorisation letter Water Corp as landholder April 2025	07/04/2025	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment A - Broome EPBC Referral Supporting Document 2025.pdf Supporting Documentation for EPBC referral	17/12/2025		High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment C - Biological Survey GHD 2024.pdf Biological Survey 2024	25/07/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment D - Biological Survey GHD 2025.pdf Unredacted Biological survey	17/09/2025	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Attachment D - Biological Survey GHD 2025_Redacted.pdf Biological survey 2025	17/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment A - Broome EPBC Referral Supporting Document 2025.pdf Supporting Documentation for EPBC referral	17/12/2025		High

5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	57955011697
Organisation name	Regional Power Corporation
Organisation address	6102 WA
Representative's name	Rochelle Lupton
Representative's job title	Environment Lead
Phone	0435042502
Email	rochelle.lupton@horizonpower.com.au
Address	PO Box 1066 Bentley DC WA 6983

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

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

By checking this box, I, **Rochelle Lupton of Regional Power Corporation**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

✔ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

Same as Referring party information.

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

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

I, **Rochelle Lupton of Regional Power Corporation**, 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, **Rochelle Lupton of Regional Power Corporation**, the Person proposing the action, consent to the designation of **Rochelle Lupton of Regional Power Corporation** as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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

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. *

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

I, **Rochelle Lupton of Regional Power Corporation**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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