Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm

Application Number: **02534** Commencement Date: **05/08/2024** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Wind Farm

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2058

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Pty Ltd is proposing to develop, construct and operate up to 83 wind turbine generators (WTG) and battery energy storage system (BESS) in the mid-north of South Australia.

The Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm (the Project) site is located east, south-east and south of the town of Whyte Yarcowie, 180 km north of Adelaide. The small town of Whyte Yarcowie is 20 km north of Hallett, 8 km south of Terowie and 25 km east of Jamestown. The Project is east of the Barrier Highway, on privately owned land largely used for grazing sheep and grain growing.

The 500-600 MW Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm will help reduce Australia’s carbon footprint by generating an estimated 2,154.7 GWh/year of clean energy when constructed which is enough to power 400,000 homes. The project will also bring investment and benefits focused on the surrounding community.

The selected blade and hub height will be configured so that the maximum tip height of each turbine does not exceed 250 m above ground level.

Within this referral and supporting documentation, the Project Area refers to the area hosting the wind farm, an onsite substation, a high voltage overhead transmission line route, a BESS, the expansion of the existing Belalie substation and related ancillary infrastructure.

The Project Area is approximately 10,341.906 hectares*.

The ~18km transmission line between the wind farm and the existing Belalie Substation (on South Australia's high voltage transmission network) will be constructed within a 100 metre wide surveyed corridor (i.e., a proposed easement area), and then ultimately constructed within a 50 metre wide easement area.

The BESS is proposed to be located within a few hundred metres of the Belalie Substation and occupy an area of up to 25.565 hectares on land that is currently used for cropping.

The total construction stage Disturbance Footprint within the Project Area is approximately 645.814 hectares*.

The operational stage footprint of the Project Area is estimated to be 125 ha (1.3% of the Project Area). The Disturbance Footprint that is not required for operations will be rehabilitated to a condition consistent with the surrounding lands.

**Note that there is a minor discrepancy between the Disturbance footprint and Project Area as calculated by the EPBC referral portal and as noted in the referral text. It is believed that this discrepancy is related to the difference in software that is used by DCCEEW and the proponent.*

The Project will include a wind farm and ancillary equipment and infrastructure. The Project’s infrastructure includes (but is not limited to):

- Up to 83 wind turbines.
- Underground and overhead electrical cabling connecting groups of turbines to an onsite substation.
- Utility scale BESS.
- Electrical substations including step up transformers stepping up the voltage from 33 kV to 275 kV.
- Associated transmission infrastructure and cables to connect the project to ElectraNet’s Belalie substation.
- Operations and maintenance area including:
    - Control room and site office;
    - Operations and maintenance building with amenities;
    - Car parking sufficient for employees and contractors during operation;
    - Storage areas;
    - Security fencing and CCTV; and
    - Low-level nighttime lighting.
- Laydown/compound areas.

- Concrete batching plants.
- Internal access roads.
- Wind monitoring masts.
- Drainage works, including stormwater management systems.
- Lightning protection.

Waterway crossings will be required across drainage channels and minor ephemeral creeks within the Project Area. The access arrangement has sought to minimise these crossings as much as possible.

Project timeline:

Construction timeframe: 2-3 years.

Operation timeframe: 25-30 years.

Decommissioning timeframe: Approx. 12 months.

Rehabilitation timeframe: Approx. 12 months.

Construction activities:

Construction of the Project will involve:

- civil works including land clearance for the development and upgrade of access tracks, and hardstand areas.
- the construction of site facilities for staff (temporary and permanent).
- construction of culverts and drainage channel and minor ephemeral creek crossings.
- excavation of trenches required for the laying of internal reticulation cabling.
- excavation of turbine foundations.
- construction of wind turbine foundations.
- assembly of cranes.
- transport of turbine components.
- erection of turbine towers and hanging of turbine blades.
- construction of onsite substation.
- construction of dual circuit overhead transmission line, upgrade works at point of connection to existing electricity grid.
- installation of battery units, transformers and associated equipment, commissioning of wind turbines and BESS units.
- rehabilitation of disturbance footprint not required for operation of the wind farm.

Operational activities:

Operation, maintenance and monitoring of the project is likely to include the following activities:

- Environmental monitoring in accordance with the conditions of all statutory approvals and environmental management plans (e.g., noise monitoring, biosecurity and pest control, implementation of monitoring plans for ecological values, surface water management, etc.).
- Service and repair of WTGs.
- Maintenance of internal access tracks.
- Maintenance of electrical reticulation system, and buildings and plant, including control systems and BESS.

Decommissioning and rehabilitation activities:

At the end of its operational life, the Project will either be decommissioned or be repowered with new WTG technology (subject to future statutory approvals). Decommissioning activities would include the removal of all aboveground infrastructure and restoration of all areas associated with the Project. Where possible infrastructure would be recycled. Rehabilitation of access tracks would be completed in consultation with

landholders and left in place where requested. The objective of decommissioning works would be to return the site to its pre-existing agricultural land use. Project decommissioning will comply with all relevant requirements prescribed under any planning or environmental approvals and/or licences.

The activity has potential to significantly impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) by disturbing:

- Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia (INTG) Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) – the Disturbance Footprint will impact on up to 49.31 ha of the INTG TEC
- Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard (PBTL) (*Tiliqua adelaidensis*) habitat – the Disturbance Footprint will impact on 450.72 ha (of known, likely or potential PBTL habitat).
- Southern Whiteface (SWF) (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) habitat – the Disturbance Footprint will impact on 139.61 ha of potential SWF habitat.

From the very beginning of the design process efforts have been made to avoid potentially sensitive or significant ecological values, even before surveys and assessments were carried out by qualified ecologists. As information was gathered through surveys and research conducted by qualified ecologists, the design was further refined via multiple iterations to arrive at a design that avoids MNES and other sensitivities as much as reasonably practicable while allowing the project to achieve its energy production and efficiency objectives. An assessment of the disturbance area in a scenario where MNES are ignored in the design process has not been undertaken, therefore the avoidance area (number of hectares) has not been calculated.

Refer to the attached Ecological Impact Assessment (EIA) Report (**Attachment 1, Section 5**), for more information on MNES known or considered likely to be present within the Project Area.

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

No

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

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

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), proponents proposing an action that may have a significant impact on a Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES), or occurring on Commonwealth Land, must prepare a referral that will help the Commonwealth decide whether the proposal is a controlled action and requires assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

Ecological assessments, including a combination of desktop searches (EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Report and Biological Database of South Australia – BDBSA) and ecological surveys, were undertaken to identify the risk of the Project impacting on any MNES. The assessments identified that the Project has potential to impact on the following MNES; being nationally threatened species and ecological communities.

A Significant Impact Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (Department of the Environment, 2013) to determine whether the Project is likely to have a Significant Impact to the Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or any of the four threatened species that were identified as known or likely to occur within the Project Area (refer to **Attachment 1, Section 5, p37-83**).

The assessment concluded that the Project is likely to have a Significant Impact on the INTG TEC, PBTL and Southern Whiteface and subsequently, this EPBC Referral for the Project is submitted to the Commonwealth Minister for Environment for consideration.

Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023 (SA)

For renewable energy projects in South Australia, the approvals process transitioned to the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* (HRE Act) on the 11th of July 2024. An Environmental Impact Report and Statement of Environmental Objectives have been prepared for the Project to satisfy the requirements of the HRE Act.

Assuming the Project's application is successful, the culmination of the approvals pathway under the HRE Act will be the granting of a Renewable Energy Infrastructure Licence which grants the Project proponent the right to develop the project, subject to the conditions of the Licence as well as any additional permits or licences required under other legislation. The proponent will then develop an Operational Management Plan (also a requirement of the HRE Act) in consultation with key stakeholders and government agencies to enable the project to be developed to achieve its environmental objectives.

The Statement of Environmental Objectives will establish a set of objectives against which the Project’s performance can be audited against to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of the Licence.

***Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (SA)**

For renewable energy projects in South Australia the approvals process transitioned to the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* (HRE Act) as of the 11th of July 2024.

The State's Planning and Design Code is still relevant to renewable energy projects on land in South Australia. The Project has therefore adhered to that code.

The Project is situated on agricultural land that is entirely zoned Rural.

The following Desired Outcomes relate to the Rural Zone:

- DO1 - A zone supporting the economic prosperity of South Australia primarily through the production, processing, storage and distribution of primary produce, forestry and the generation of energy from renewable sources.
- DO2: A zone supporting diversification of existing businesses that promote value-adding such as industry, storage and warehousing activities, the sale and consumption of primary produce, tourist development and accommodation.

Renewable energy facilities are a form of development that the Desired Outcome (DO) of the Rural Zone envisages to support the economic prosperity of South Australia, as stated in DO1.

Performance Outcome (PO) 1.1 of the Rural Zone anticipates a range of primary production and value adding activities on rural land. Designated Performance Feature (DPF) 1.1 identifies renewable energy facilities as a land use that is envisaged to satisfy PO 1.1.

This shows that the Desired Outcomes of the zone are not at variance with the proposed project and that development of a Renewable Energy Facility (including a wind farm and a battery) is considered 'Deemed-to-Satisfy' the Performance Outcome for land use within the Rural Zone.

Renewable Energy Facilities are restricted in the Rural Zone only if they are situated within the Significant Landscape Protection Overlay or Character Preservation District Overlay, neither of which apply to the project site.

The following overlays are applicable to the project area:

- Hazards (Bushfire - General Risk) Overlay.
- Hazards (Bushfire - Regional).
- Hazards (Flooding - Evidence Required).
- Native Vegetation.
- Water Resources.
- Murray-Darling Basin.
- State Heritage Place (14361).
- Heritage Adjacency.
- Gas and Liquid Petroleum Pipelines.
- Gas and Liquid Petroleum Pipelines (Facilities).
- Key Outback and Rural Routes.
- Dwelling Excision Overlay.

The Project is being developed to comply with the applicable codes in the Planning and Design Code. An assessment of the Project's alignment with the Planning and Design Code has been undertaken by a planning consultant to inform any project design updates and to ensure that the project is compatible with the Code and was included in the Renewable Energy Infrastructure Licence application for the Project under the HRE Act.

Other legislation

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Risk Assessment has been prepared and will inform the scope of subsequent Aboriginal Cultural Heritage studies and surveys for the Project. This assessment will respond to requirements of State and Commonwealth heritage legislation including the Commonwealth ***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*** (ATSIHPA), ***Native Title Act 1993*** and the South Australian ***Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*** (AHA).

The Project Area is situated on the traditional land of the Ngadjuri peoples and sits within the Ngadjuri Nation #2 Native Title determination area. The Project is proposed on freehold land and so native title has been extinguished. The only Crown land that will be impacted by the Project is in road reserves within which Native Title is also extinguished.

Taa-Wika search results identify eight Aboriginal cultural heritage sites across a search area that included the Project Area and its surrounds (including archaeological, cultural and burial sites), all of which are well outside of planned infrastructure areas.

The proponent is in active discussions with Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation (NNAC) regarding the assessment of heritage values in the Project Area and the development of management measures to protect these values from harm. The assessment of the heritage values is expected to involve a survey of

relevant sections of the Project's Disturbance Footprint to facilitate the potential unearthing of archaeological heritage finds. A heritage survey agreement has been formalised between the proponent and NNAC to facilitate the survey work.

The Project design will be reviewed and updated following the completion of heritage surveys, micrositing infrastructure to avoid impacts to heritage values (if discovered), where possible.

Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Pty Ltd is committed to working with NNAC to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to protect any identified heritage values, as well as to protect against accidental impacts to previously undiscovered Aboriginal heritage values.

Environment Protection Act 1993 **(EP Act)**

Prescribed activities of environmental significance require a licence or exemption under the EP Act. This applies to the Project for the onsite concrete batching plant(s) and potentially for earthworks associated with the Project which could be classified as extractive industry if more than 100,000 tonnes of material per annum is excavated during the construction period.

Native Vegetation Act 1991 **(NV Act)**

The Project involves the clearance of native vegetation protected under the NV Act. As such consent to clear native vegetation will be required from the Native Vegetation Council.

Heritage Places Act 1993 **(Heritage Places Act)**

The Project will avoid all direct impacts to non-Aboriginal heritage places. It is intended that construction impacts will be managed such that indirect impacts are avoided. No impacts to any State Heritage Places will occur without a Heritage Permit allowing the project to alter, damage or destroy a State or Local heritage place.

Landscape South Australia Act 2019 **(LSA Act)**

A Water Affecting Activities Permit may be required for the creation or modification of a well, creation or modification of certain dams or other structures that collect or diverts water, direct impacts to a water course, lake or floodplain, or drainage or discharge directly or indirectly into a watercourse or lake. Sources for water for dust suppression will be assessed over the coming months and finalised prior to the commencement of construction. Consideration will be given to water availability, environmental impact, and cost. Appropriate permits will be sought, if required.

A road works permit will be required under ***Road Traffic Act 1961*** for any works required to alter public roads, including by carrying out works in, on, across, under or over a Council-managed road. A road works permit will be required under ***Local Government Act 1999*** for the upgrades to the local public road network proposed as part of the Project. Oversize Overmass Permits will be required under ***Heavy Vehicle National Law (South Australia) Act 2013*** for the transport of plant and materials to site.

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. *

Wind Prospect (on behalf of the proponent) has undertaken significant community and key stakeholder consultation since the Project went public in 2022, and this work will continue throughout the construction and operational life of the project.

Specific consultation activities undertaken to date are summarised below:

Website: A website has been established to provide easy access to information about the Project including the ability to provide feedback (via 'Have Your Say' link) and to contact Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm for further engagement. The Project website can be found at: **www.whyteyarcowiewindfarm.com.au** and includes the newsletters, project information, and seeking community input on the Project and design of the Project's Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program.

Project media release: Media releases are used to communicate Project updates through local digital and print media outlets. Media releases were distributed to select local media outlets for the public launch in 2022 and ahead of community information sessions. These are summarised as follows:

- **Information sessions:** Information sessions were held to share information with the local community. Information sessions were held at the Whyte Yarcowie Community Hall, the Hallett Community Hall and tearoom, and the Terowie Hall in September 2022. 45 people attended these events across the two days. Further drop-in sessions were held at these same venues later in 2023 and had 21 community members attend. Further information sessions will be held to coincide with the exhibition period for the Project's Renewable Energy Infrastructure Licence application (May 2025) to provide timely information on the project planning and approvals process.
- **Mailout (including electronic):** Five project newsletters have been issued to date as well as postcard invitations to community information sessions. Mailouts to the local community occurred in April 2025 ahead of the notice period for the Project's Renewable Energy Infrastructure Licence application notice period and at other times to provide timely updates on the Project's status. All dwellings within 10 km of the Project Area have been included in the mailing list for newsletters and mailouts, as have key stakeholders and interested attendees of community information sessions.
- **Meetings, phone calls, letters and email communication:** These methods of communication have been (and continue to be) used in stakeholder engagement activity, including responses to all feedback.
- **Pop-up stalls**: Two 'pop-up stalls' have been held at local shops in Hallett and Terowie, giving community members an opportunity to discuss the Project at locations convenient to them.
- **Council and local newsletters**: The Project has taken the opportunity to provide periodic updates through council presenting on three separate occasions at council meetings, and has provided project updates in local council newsletters and social media posts.
- **First Nations people:** Wind Prospect staff have met with Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation (NNAC) and Ngadjuri Walpa Juri in discussions about the Project. Wind Prospect is working with NNAC as the key body representing the interests of Ngadjuri peoples, and who will be involved in the upcoming heritage survey and heritage assessment of the Project Area. A survey agreement has been entered into with NNAC in May 2025 with surveys to occur later in 2025.

A consultation plan has been prepared for the project's Renewable Energy Infrastructure Licence application under the South Australian Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023 (see **Attachment_4 Consultation Plan**).

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

See our Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint.

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

☑ **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	55622889294
Organisation name	WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM PTY LTD
Organisation address	PO Box 110, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Referring party details

Name	Patrick Deveney
Job title	Development Manager
Phone	+61(03)90059075
Email	patrick.deveney@windprospect.com.au
Address	PO Box 110, Fitzroy VIC 3065

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	55622889294
Organisation name	WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM PTY LTD
Organisation address	PO Box 110, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Patrick Deveney
Job title	Development Manager
Phone	+61(03)90059075
Email	patrick.deveney@windprospect.com.au
Address	PO Box 110, Fitzroy VIC 3065

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. *

Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Pty Ltd is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) company established by Wind Prospect for the development of Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm and associated infrastructure. There are no proceedings against Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Pty Ltd under Commonwealth, State or Territory law.

Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Pty Ltd is a subsidiary of Wind Prospect Group (Wind Prospect).

Wind Prospect is a leading renewable energy developer in Australia having achieved planning approval for 22 wind farms and 3 solar farms totalling more than 3,700 MW. 15 of these wind farms comprising over 2,500 MW are currently operational or under construction. Wind Prospect uses the expertise and insight gained from this significant experience and success in the development of our projects. Wind Prospect is committed to renewable energy projects that respect the environment and benefit communities with all projects designed to avoid significant environmental impacts.

Wind Prospect has no proceedings against it under Commonwealth, State or Territory law relating to the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Wind Prospect (via its subsidiaries) has previously referred the following actions under the EPBC Act:

- Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd/ Energy Generation and Supply (renewable), Hexham, Victoria. Reference No: 2022/09287
- Willatook Wind Farm Pty Ltd/Energy Generation and Supply (renewable) Willatook, Victoria/Willatook Wind Farm, Vic. Reference No: 2019/8439.
- Wind Prospect Pty Ltd/Dandaragan Wind Farm WA. Reference No: 2011/6006.
- Wind Prospect Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply/North Brown Hill Wind Farm/SA. Reference No: 2008/4666.
- Wind Prospect Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply/Construction and Operation of electrical connection line for Barunga Gap Wind Farm/SA. Reference No: 2004/1803.
- Wind Prospect Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply/Barunga Gap Wind Farm/SA. Reference No: 2004/1357.
- Wind Prospect Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply/Troubridge Point/SA. Reference No: 2003/952.
- Wind Prospect Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply/Distribution line including connection to Lake Bonney Central Wind Farm and Snuggery Substation/SA. Reference No: 2003/1108.
- Wind Prospect Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply/Transmission line servicing Yabmana Wind Farm/SA. Reference NO:2003/981.
- Wind Prospect Pty Ltd/Energy Generation and supply/Lake Bonney Central Wind Farm/SA. Reference No:2002/691.
- Wind Prospect Pty Ltd/Energy Generation and supply/Yabmana Wind Farm/SA. Reference No: 2001/530.
- Wind Prospect Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply/Green Point Wind Farm/SA/. Reference No: 2001/529.

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

Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Pty Ltd does not have its own environmental policy and planning framework and utilises Wind Prospect's environmental policy and planning framework. Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Pty Ltd is a subsidiary of Wind Prospect Group (Wind Prospect). Wind Prospect manages all projects in Australia via Wind Prospect Pty Ltd.

The action will be completed in accordance with the attached Wind Prospect Pty Ltd's Environmental Policy (**Att 2_Wind Prospect Environmental Policy**).

Wind Prospect (including its subsidiaries) is committed to sustainable environmental practices and to an Environmental Management System that is based on the principals of ISO14001 (which is the international standard that specifies requirements for an effective environmental management system (EMS)) to ensure that:

- its projects minimise environmental detriment, and maximise environmental benefit
- in conducting its business, it minimises its environmental footprint

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	55622889294
Organisation name	WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM PTY LTD
Organisation address	PO Box 110, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Patrick Deveney
Job title	Development Manager
Phone	+61(03)90059075
Email	patrick.deveney@windprospect.com.au
Address	PO Box 110, Fitzroy VIC 3065

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	55622889294
Organisation name	WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM PTY LTD
Organisation address	PO Box 110, Fitzroy VIC 3065
Representative's name	Patrick Deveney
Representative's job title	Development Manager
Phone	+61(03)90059075
Email	patrick.deveney@windprospect.com.au
Address	PO Box 110, Fitzroy VIC 3065

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

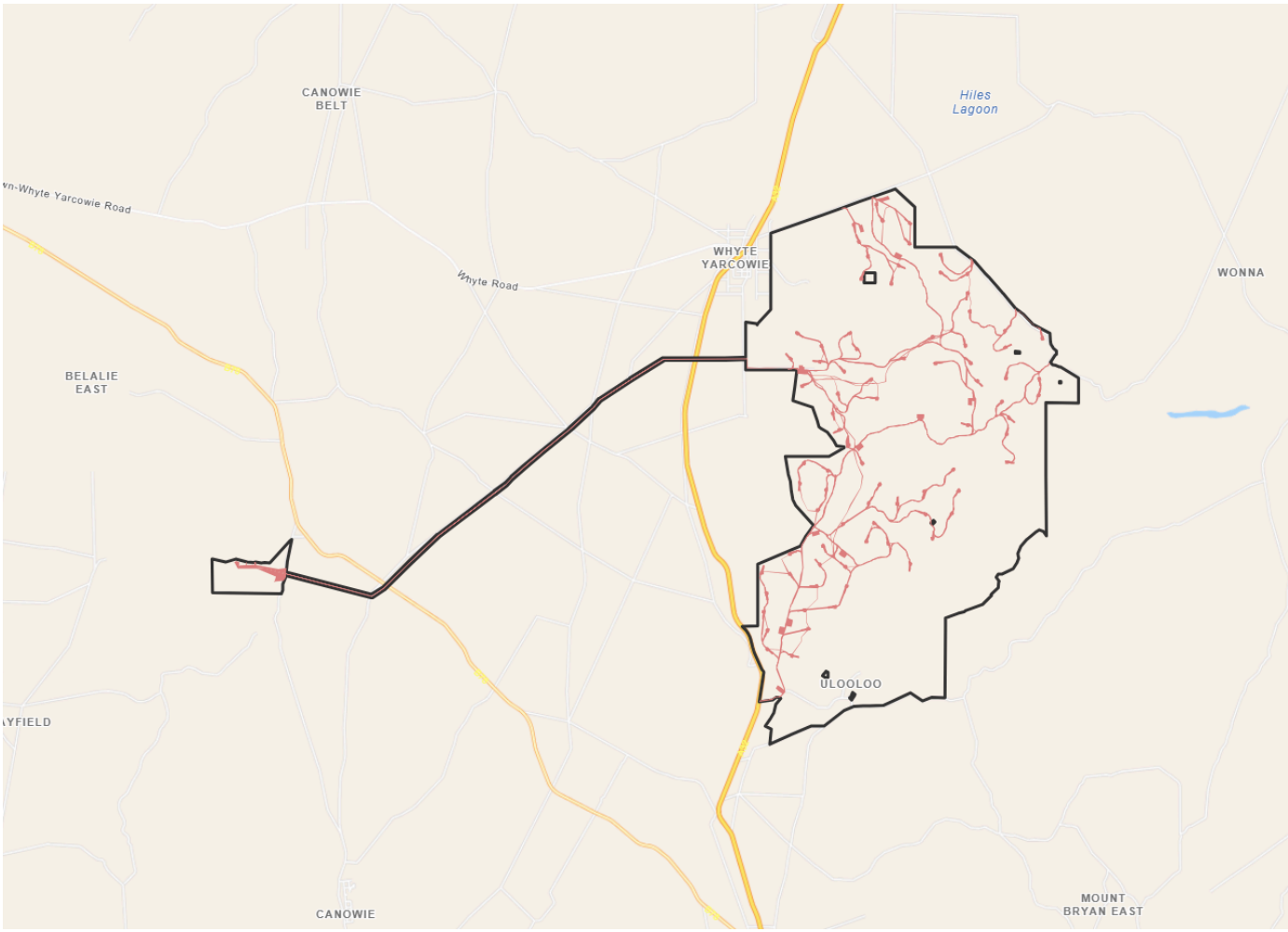
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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: 10345.28 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 646.02 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

215 Sheoak Road, Whyte Yarcowie, South Australia 5420

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

South Australia

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

No

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

The Project will be hosted on privately owned freehold land, with impacts to Crown land limited to road reserves operated and maintained by the Regional Council of Goyder and the SA government, where access points to the project site will be required.

In total, the Project will involve 11 landowner entities.

Please refer to **Attachment 3** for a list of the land parcels involved in the project.

This document is not publicly available due to stakeholder sensitivity reasons as land tenure for the connection to the grid is currently being negotiated and is yet to be finalised.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Project Area is located in the mid north of South Australia within Northern and Yorke Landscape Management Region. The wind farm and most of the OHL is located in the Goyder Local Government Area, with a small portion of the OHL and all of the BESS and grid connection infrastructure falling within the Northern Areas Local Government Area.

The Interim Biogeographical Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) identifies geographically distinct bioregions based on common climate, geology, landform, native vegetation, and species information. The bioregions are further refined into subregions and environmental associations. The Project Area is located in the Flinders Lofty Block IBRA bioregion. The majority of the Project Area falls within the Olary Spur subregion with the OHL and BESS falling within the Broughton subregion. Environmental associations over the Project Area are Terowie, Hansen and Bald Hill.

Approximately 97 percent (%) (45,372 ha) of the Olary Spur IBRA Subregion and approximately 10% (106,330 ha) in the Broughton IBRA subregion are mapped as remnant vegetation. 86% (9,673 ha) of the Terowie IBRA Environmental Association, 3 % of the Hansen (3,738 ha) and 30 % of Bald Hill (4,431 ha) respectively are mapped as remnant vegetation. Of this, 24% (10,865 ha), 1% (28 ha) of Hansen and 0% (0 ha) of Bald Hill is formerly conserved and protected, respectively.

The Project Area is primarily used for sheep grazing, with sections of the site used for cropping and grazing cattle. The carrying capacity of the land within the Project Area is limited as a result of the low annual rainfall and rocky hills. The condition of the native grasslands that cover much of the project site are dependent on the rainfall, and the availability of sufficient feed for stock. Weed and pest animal management varies across the Project Area which further effects the quality of vegetation associations in some locations.

The following native vegetation associations (VAs) were identified within the surveyed area as described in Section 3.2 of this referral:

VA A1 *Lomandra* Grassland (1,929.34 ha)

VA A2 *Maireana aphylla* shrubland (185.31 ha)

VA A3 *Eucalyptus porosa* Mallee Woodland (934.31 ha)

VA A4 *Callitris gracilis* Woodland (37.71 ha)

VA A5 *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *pruinosa* Woodland (386.97 ha)

VA A6 *Eucalyptus oleosa* ssp. *oleosa* / *Eucalyptus socialis* ssp. *socialis* Mixed Mallee (309.12 ha)

VA A7 *Austrostipa* spp. / *Rytidosperma* spp. Very Open Grassland (2646.87 ha)

VA A8 *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Sclerolaena obliquicuspis* Shrubland (14.43 ha)

VA A10 *Eucalyptus gracilis* woodland (6.69 ha)

VA B2 *Maireana aphylla* Shrubland (0.79 ha)

VA B7 *Austrostipa* spp. / *Rytidosperma* spp. Very Open Grassland (1.13 ha)

VA B11 Maireana brevifolia Shrubland (0.813 ha)

VA B14 *Enneapogon nigricans* Grassland (6.91 ha)

VA B15 *Maireana rohrlachii* Shrubland (0.18 ha)

An approximately 854.77 ha Environmental Stewardship Area (ESA) (MEC1_MDB_003 Ulooloo) exists within the Project Area. The ESA was set up in 2011 under Commonwealth ‘Caring for Our Country’ funding. The purpose of this ESA was to protect the Critically Endangered Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia (INTG) which is known to occur within the ESA. INTG is dominated by

Lomandra sp. which are also commonly referred to as Iron-grasses (see Section 5.1 of Attachment 1_Ecological Impact Assessment, for more information on INTG). The Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP) aimed to “maintain and improve the condition and extent of targeted high public value environmental assets on private land”. INTG was one of two nationally threatened South Australian endemic ecological communities targeted by the ESP’s Multiple Ecological Communities Project in South Australia. Implementation of the project commenced in 2010 – 2011 and provided market-based incentives for individuals and organisations that own or manage private land to undertake long-term protection and improvement of eligible Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland remnants. Funding for the ESA ceases in June 2026.

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

The existing land uses within the Project Area are predominantly sheep grazing, with minor areas of cropping on flatter sections of land to the southwest.

There are no proposed changes to land use following construction of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm, other than the addition of the renewable electricity generation.

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

There are no outstanding natural features of the Project Area however it contains steep and rocky terrain which limits access to vehicles and potentially livestock in places. It is likely that goats can access most areas and maintain grazing impact across the Project Area.

It is likely that the Project Area and ridges nearby have been under surveyed for flora and fauna historically.

A Commonwealth Caring for our Country funded Environmental Stewardship Area has been in place since 2011 over an area of Lomandra grassland in the southeast of the Project Area. Management funding of the Environmental Stewardship Area will cease in 2026. The project footprint does not impact this ESA area.

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 eastern side of the Project Area is generally steeper and rockier than the western side. The lowest point in the Project Area is on the eastern boundary at Ulooloo Creek which is 450 m above sea level. The highest point is 726 m above sea level towards the centre of the Project Area. Mount Scrub is further south within the Project Area and is 706 m above sea level.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

A Protected Matters Search Tool Report was originally generated on 28 November 2019 to identify nationally threatened flora and fauna, migratory fauna and TECs under the EPBC Act, relevant to a 10 km buffer around the Project Area. An updated PMST report was generated on 26 March 2025 and is included in **Attachment 1, Appendix 1.**

The following flora and fauna baseline conditions across the Project Area have been developed based on a suite of surveys and assessments undertaken by Umwelt (formerly EBS Ecology), including:

- baseline ecological studies undertaken between 2019 and 2020
- field surveys and supporting desktop assessments undertaken between spring 2019 and spring 2024 by NVC accredited consultants
- targeted surveys for the INTG TEC; and threatened species – PBTL (*Tiliqua adelaidensis*) and Flinders Ranges Worm-lizard (FRWL) (*Aprasia pseudopulchella*)
- eight seasonal bird and bat utilisation surveys (BBUS) between spring 2022 to winter 2024, undertaken in accordance with DCCEEW's draft *Onshore Wind Farm Guidance – Best practice approaches when seeking approval under Australia's national environmental law (2024).* Surveys also included the nearby Hiles Lagoon, which was surveyed for EPBC-listed migratory birds.

The results of these surveys are collated and summarised in the Ecological Impact Report (**Attachment 1**), the Targeted Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard Survey Report (**Attachment 5**), INTG Assessment Report (**Attachment 6**) and Bird and Bat Utilisation 2 Year Summary Report (**Attachment 7**).

Flora

Vegetation mapping has been carried out over the Project Area beginning in 2019, with follow up surveys in 2022-2025. **Attachment 1, Appendix 3** shows the vegetation mapping within the Project Area. Of the 10,066.63-ha Project Area, 6,983.14 ha has been surveyed (69.37%). In the surveyed area, the following broad vegetation types are present:

- ~45 % - Austrostipa/Lomandra grassland (4,546.45 ha)
- ~17 % woodland (1,676.92 ha) (another 928 ha is expected to be present within the Project Area which has not been surveyed which is approximately 9 % of the Project Area)
- ~5 % - cropping (490.04 ha)
- ~2 % - native shrubland (200.73 ha).

A total of 173 flora species were identified during the field surveys between 2019 and 2025. Of these, 125 are native species and 48 introduced/exotic species. See **Attachment 1, Appendix 4** for the full list of of all flora species recorded.

The native vegetation associations mapped across the Project Area are detailed in Section 3.2.2 of this referral.

Of note within the Project Area is the 1929.34 ha of Lomandra grassland. The Disturbance Footprint has been iteratively designed to minimise impacts to the INTG TEC and also to minimise impact to the lower condition class (Class C). **Attachment 5** has been prepared to summarise the targeted survey effort completed for the INTG TEC and the results of the survey effort.

No EPBC threatened plants have been found in the Project Area (**Attachment 1, Section 4.2.2, p33).**

Attachment 1, Appendix 3 includes the Vegetation Mapping of the Project Area

Attachment 1, Appendix 4 includes a list of all Flora Species List identified within the Project Area during the ecology surveys.

Four state-listed (NPW Act) threatened flora species were identified within the Project Area during the field surveys. These include:

- *Cryptandra campanulata* (Long-flower Cryptandra) NPW Act Rare: this species was recorded in the northern part of the Project Area as well as a on a rocky hill on the eastern site of the Project Area.
- *Maireana excavata* (Bottle Fissure-plant) NPW Act Vulnerable: this species was recorded on lower slopes and flats within the Project Area in VA 2, VA 3, VA 4 and VA 7.
- *Maireana rohrlachii* (Rohrlach's Bluebush) NPW Act Rare: this species was recorded generally on lower slopes on the northern and western sides of the Project Area in all VAs other than VA 6.
- *Rumex dumosus* (Wiry Dock) NPW Act Rare: this species was recorded in several locations across the Project Area.

A number of introduced flora species were identified within the Project Area, including the following Declared weeds under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*:

- *Opuntia* sp. (Prickly Pear)
- *Lycium ferocissimum* (African Boxthorn)
- *Marrubium vulgare* (Horehound)
- *Echium plantagineum* (Salvation Jane).

Asphodelus fistulosus (Onion Weed), *Avena barbata* (Bearded Oat), *Erodium* sp. (Heron's-bill/Crowfoot) and *Vulpia* sp. (Fescue), whilst not Declared weeds, were also prevalent in some areas across the Project Area.

Fauna

Three nationally threatened fauna are known to occur within the Project Area as they have been recorded in field surveys since 2019, they are:
• Pygmy Blue–tongue Lizard (PBTL) (**Attachment 1, Section 5.2**)
• Southern Whiteface (SWF) (**Attachment 1, Section 5.3**)
• Blue–winged Parrot (**Attachment 1, Section 5.4)**.

Targeted surveys have found that EPBC listed Endangered Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard (*Tiliqua adelaidensis*) are relatively widespread in suitable habitat on the lower slopes which are not under crop. The survey effort is described in **Attachment 1, Section 3.7, Attachment 5, Section3.2)** and their occurrence in the Project Area is presented in **Attachment 1, Section 5.2.3, and Attachment 5 Section 4).**

Attachment 5 - Targeted Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard Survey Report has been prepared to detail the survey effort completed for the Pygmy Bluetongue lizard and the results of the survey effort.

Birds

Eight seasonal bird and bat utilisation surveys have been completed between November 2022 and July 2024 and targeted surveys for threatened species have been carried out as described in **Attachment 1, Sections 4 and 5**. A Bird Utilisation Monitoring Site Map is included in **Attachment 1, Appendix 2,** and the results of the BBUS are detailed in **Attachment 7 - Bird and Bat Utilisation 2 Year Summary Report, Section 4** and are summarised in **Attachment 1, Table 4.3 .**

The BBUS surveys undertaken across the Project Area identified 109 bird species; 8 of these having been opportunistically recorded, which include records outside of the Project Area.

Of the 109 identified species, the following threatened species were recorded:

- Black Falcon (*Falco subniger*) – NPW Act Rare
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) – EPBC Act Vulnerable, NPW Act Vulnerable
- Elegant Parrot (*Neophema elegans elegans*) – NPW Act Rare
- Little Eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*) – NPW Act Vulnerable
- Painted Buttonquail (*Turnix varius varius*) – NPW Act Rare
- Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) recorded at the nearby Hiles Lagoon inlet approximately 3 km north of the Project Area – EPBC Act Migratory

- Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis*) – EPBC Act Vulnerable
- White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*) – NPW Act Rare.

Eleven species of raptors were recorded in the Project Area since spring 2022. Species include:

- Black Falcon (*Falco subniger*) – NPW Act Rare
- Black Kite (*Milvus migrans migrans*)
- Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*)
- Brown Falcon (*Falco berigora*)
- Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus fasciatus*)
- Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus cirrocephalus*)
- Little Eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*) – NPW Act Vulnerable
- Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)
- Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*)
- Spotted Harrier (*Circus assimilis*)
- Wedge-tailed Eagle (WTE) (*Aquila audax audax*).

Fourteen nests of the top-order predator, WTE (*A. audax audax*) were identified within the Project Area; only one of which was deemed to be active (as of 2023).

Bats

Twelve bat species were identified within the Project Area based on review of sonograms recorded by AnaBat units at four sample sites:

- Chocolate Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus morio*)
- *Ozimops sp. 2*
- Free-tailed Bat (*Ozimops planiceps sp.3*)
- Gould's Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*)
- Inland Broad-nosed Bat (*Scotorepens balstoni*)
- Inland Forest Bat (*Vespadelus baverstocki*)
- Inland Free-tailed Bat (*Mormopterus petersi*)
- Lesser Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*)
- Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*)
- Southern Forest Bat (*Vespadelus regulus*)
- Southern Free-tailed Bat (*Ozimops planiceps sp. 4*)
- White-striped Free-tailed Bat (*Austronomus australis*).

None of the identified species are EPBC Act or NPW Act listed.

EPBC Threatened birds

EPBC listed Vulnerable Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) are widespread across the Project Area in woodland and shrubland and are one of the most common bird species recorded during the eight seasonal bird monitoring surveys.

A single pair of the EPBC listed Vulnerable Blue-winged Parrots (*Neophema chryostoma*) were recorded on the western side of the Project Area in winter of 2023. This species breeds in southerly coastal areas and moves north to feed in the winter.

One EPBC listed species that possibly occurs but has not yet been recorded in the Project Area is the Endangered Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*).

The following wading bird species were recorded at the Inlet to the Hiles Lagoon, outside of the Project Area:

- Red-capped Plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) – EPBC Act Marine
- Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) – EPBC Act Migratory/Marine.

Refer to the **Attachment 1, Appendix 6** for Threatened BDBSA Fauna Records Within 10 km of the Project Area.

Refer to **Attachment 1, Appendix 7** for Mammals and Reptiles Recorded by the Field Surveys.

Introduced animals

The following introduced fauna species were identified within the Project Area:

- Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
- Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*)
- Domestic cat (*Felis catus*)
- Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis arvensis*)
- European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)
- Goat (*Capra hircus*)
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*)
- Red Fox(*Vulpes Vulpes*).
- Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)
- Sheep (*Ovis airies*).

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

The following native vegetation associations have been mapped across the Project Area:

- **VA A1, B2 *Lomandra* Grassland (1,929.34 ha, 0.79 ha):** This VA has no overstory or midstory, with an understory dominated by *Lomandra multiflora* ssp *dura* (Hard Mat-rush) or *Lomandra effusa* (Scented Mat-rush). Surveys identified that parts of this VA comprise Class A, Class B and Class C INTG; with Class A and Class B constituting INTG TEC protected under the EPBC Act. In addition, the EPBC listed PBTL (*Tiliqua adelaidensis*) and Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis*) were recorded within this VA. Whilst not recorded in this VA, the Blue-winged Parrot(*Neophema chrysostoma*) is considered likely to utilise it on occasion.
- **VA A2 *Maireana aphylla* shrubland (185.31 ha):** This VA has no overstory. The midstory is dominated by *Maireana aphylla* (Cotton-bush) and understory is commonly comprised of *Lomandra* spp. and *Dianella.* The NPW Act Rare *Maireana rohrlachii* (Rohrlach's Bluebush) and the NPW Act Vulnerable *Maireana excavata* (Bottle Fissure-plant) were both recorded within the VA, along with the EPBC listed Blue-winged Parrot(*N. chrysostoma*). The VA is also considered to potentially provide habitat for the Southern Whiteface (*A. leucopsis leucopsis*) and PBTL (*T. adelaidensis*), although neither were recorded in this VA during the surveys.
- **VA A3 *Eucalyptus porosa* Mallee Woodland (934.31 ha):** This VA is an open mallee woodland with a grassy understory with few shrubs over 0.5 m tall. The overstory is dominated by *Eucalyptus porosa* (Mallee Box), with some *Eucalyptus socialis* (Beaked Red Mallee) and *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *Pruinosa* (Inland South Australian Blue Gum). The midstory is mostly *Enchylaena tomentosa* (Ruby Saltbush) and *Maireana brevifolia* (Short-leaf Bluebush), and the understory comprised a mixed grasses and forbs such as *Vittadinia cuneata* (Fussweed) and *Austrostipa nitida* (Balcarra Spear-grass). This VA is considered likely to provide habitat to the Southern Whiteface (*A. leucopsis*). *M. rohrlachii* (Rohrlach's Bluebush) (NPW Act Rare) and *M. excavata* (Bottle Fissure-plant) (NPW Act Vulnerable) were both recorded within this VA.
- **VA A4 *Callitris gracilis* Woodland (37.71 ha):** This VA comprises a small patch of *Callitris gracilis* (Southern Cypress Pine) woodland and was found to have a relatively high species diversity. The over story comprises *C. gracilis;* with a midstory of *M. rohrlachii* (Rohrlach's Bluebush) and *M. excavata* (Bottle Fissure-plant) and understory of *L. effusa* (Scented Mat-rush) and *L. multiflora* (Hard Mat-rush). This VA provides habitat for the Southern Whiteface (*A. leucopsis leucopsis*) and may occasionally provide habitat for the Blue-winged Parrot (*N. chrysostoma*). *M. rohrlachii* (NPW Act Rare) and *M. excavata* (NPW Act Vulnerable) were both recorded within this VA.
- **VA A5 *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *pruinosa* Woodland (386.97 ha):** This VA is a woodland with an open grassy understory. The overstory is dominated by *E. leucoxylon* ssp. *Pruinosa*, which is not deemed to be overly common in South Australia. The VA has an absent midstory and very little understory; having been heavily grazed. The VA meets the meets the description of the South Australian provisionally listed Vulnerable TEC *E. leucoxylon* ssp. *pruinosa* +/- *E. odorata* Grassy Low Woodland on loams of hill slopes.
- **VA A6 *Eucalyptus oleosa* ssp. *oleosa* / *Eucalyptus socialis* ssp. *socialis* Mixed Mallee (309.12 ha):** This VA is a woodland with an open grassy understory. The overstory is dominated by *Eucalyptus socialis* ssp. *Socialis* (Red Mallee)*;* with a midstory comprising *Maireana enchylaenoides* (Wingless Fissure-plant), *M. brevifolia* (Short-leaf Bluebush), and *Sclerolaena diacantha* (Grey Copper Burr) and an understory comprising *Austrostipa* sp. (Spear-grass) and *Rytidosperma caespitosum.* The VA is likely to provide habitat for the Southern Whiteface (*A. leucopsis leucopsis*) and occasional habitat for the Blue-winged Parrot (*N. chrysostoma*). No threatened flora was recorded in the VA. The VA was found to be heavily impacted by grazing and also the declared weed Prickly Pear (*Opuntia* sp.) was found to be present.
- **VA A7, B7 *Austrostipa* spp. / *Rytidosperma* spp. Very Open Grassland (2,646.87 ha, 1.14 ha):** This VA is a grassland in varying conditions across the Project Area. It has no overstory. The midstory is dominated by *M. rohrlachii* (Rohrlach's Bluebush) and the understory is comprised of *Austrostipa* spp. (Spear-grass), *Aristida behriana* (Brush Wire-grass) and *L. effusa* (Scented Mat-rush). The Southern Whiteface (*A. leucopsis leucopsis*) was recorded in this VA.

- **VA A8 *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Sclerolaena obliquicuspis* Shrubland (14.43 ha):** this VA is a grassland with a midstory comprised of *Ptilotus obovatus* (Cotton Bush) and *Sclerolaena obliquicuspis* (Limestone Copperburr).
- **VA A10 *Eucalyptus gracilis* woodland (6.69 ha):** This VA is a woodland with an open grassy understory. The overstory is dominated by *Eucalyptus gracilis* (White Mallee) and the understory is dominated by mixed grasses and forbs. The midstory was found to be mostly absent. The VA has been heavily grazed by feral goats and kangaroos, and adjoins a larger area of degraded woodland (unsurveyed). No threatened species were observed during the survey; however the VA is likely to provide habitat for the Southern Whiteface (*A. leucopsis leucopsis*) and possibly the Blue-winged Parrot (*N. chrysostoma*).
- **VA B11 *Maireana brevifolia* Shrubland (0.81 ha)** Short-leaf Bluebush
- **VA B14 *Enneapogon nigricans* Grassland (6.91 ha)** Black-head Grass
- **VA B15 *Maireana rohrlachii* Shrubland (0.18 ha)** Rohrlach's Bluebush shrubland

Attachment 1, Appendix 3 shows the vegetation mapping within the Project Area.

The quality of vegetation varies significantly across the Project Area. This is in large part due to the grazing of livestock as well as feral goats and kangaroos. The Project location has a mean annual rainfall of between 377 millimetres (mm) and 432 mm with mild wet winters and hot dry summers. The low rainfall can affect the ability of grass cover to grow in drier years, and the hot dry summers presents annual fire risk, with the Project Area falling under a ‘Hazards (Bushfire – General Risk)’ Planning Overlay of the South Australian Planning and Design Code.

The following other land covers occur in the Project Area:

- Cropping;
- Exotic shrubland:
- Existing infrastructure (e.g. roads and tracks); and
- Area not surveyed.

For further information refer to **Attachment 1, Section 4.2.3**.

The EPBC Critically Endangered INTG Threatened Ecological Community has been mapped within the Project Area (refer to **Attachment 1, Section 5.1, and Attachment 6 - INTG Assessment Report, Section 4.1 and Figure 4.1, p13** for details).

No Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) Woodland has been recorded within the Project Area.

Soils

A review of the soils and geology conditions of the Project Area was undertaken, using a review of the Department of Mines (1964) 1: 250 000 geological map of the Burra area (Mapsheet 1 54-5) and SARIG 100k map sheet layer, as well as review of a preliminary desktop assessment undertaken by consultants WGA.

The review identified that the Project Area is typically expected to be underlain by weathered rock consisting of shales and siltstones, tillite, dolomite, sandstone and quartzite. Alluvial and colluvial soil deposits are expected along drainage lines on the ranges.

The weathered bedrock which outcrops in areas, typically comprising thinly laminated and bedded, highly fractured siltstone, is likely to be overlain by silty sand topsoil and residual red-brown silty high plasticity clay soils of hard consistency to a depth of 0.5 m, and clayey and sandy gravel with boulders.

WGA and the Department of Mines (1964) 1:250 000 geological map of the Burra area (Mapsheet 1 54-5) also notes that the geological maps indicate there is evidence of mining activities for copper in the area which may include *“underground shafts, tunnels or adits, excavations and fill locally”,* although none have been identified during on-site surveys and other site visits.

3.3 Heritage

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

There are no known Commonwealth heritage places within the project area.

There are two State Heritage Places within the Project boundary:

- Mungibbie Homestead (SHP14877) &
- Ulooloo Homesteads, Dairies & Hut (SHP14348)

The Ulooloo Homesteads, Dairies & Hut (SHP14348) are located 2 km away from any wind turbines, and no project infrastructure is proposed in their vicinity.

The Mungibbie Homestead (SHP14877) is a significantly dilapidated former homestead located near the eastern boundary of the project site. The project does intend to upgrade the existing council fire track that passes near the former homestead, and so a heritage consultant was engaged to prepare a heritage impact statement for the site.

The preferred transport route for project components from the Port of Adelaide to the site would use Copperhouse Road/Copperhouse St which is a recognised bypass of the Burra township for oversize/overmass vehicles. The town of Burra is recognised as national heritage listed place and a state heritage area. The use of Copperhouse St is consistent with the intended use of the bypass, and no impacts to heritage values in Burra are anticipated from this preferred route.

The project will not be visible from Burra and so will not impose a visual impact on the Burra National Heritage Place.

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

The project is wholly situated on the traditional lands of the Ngadjuri Peoples.

A Level 1 search of the of South Australian Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation’s (AAR’s) central archives register identified eight Aboriginal heritage sites within the search area which extended beyond the Project Area.

While the project infrastructure is not anticipated to impact any of these identified locations, Wind Prospect is working with relevant traditional owners (Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation) to coordinate assessment of the heritage values of the Project Area. This will include further assessment of the project with respect to the heritage sites, and a survey of sections of interest within and around the project’s proposed Disturbance Footprint.

Following the survey of the Disturbance Footprint, micro-siting of project infrastructure will occur to avoid impacts to any identified Aboriginal sites, wherever possible. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan would also be prepared and include site specific management measures as well as an accidental finds procedure to manage the potential for impacts to previously unidentified heritage values.

The project is wholly within the Ngadjuri Nation#2 Native Title Determination Area, however the project is on freehold land, exempt from Native Title.

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. *

A flood modelling assessment has been completed for the project (refer to **Attachment 8 - Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Flood Modelling**).

The project sits near the famed Goyder line and receives an average rainfall of 363.0 mm/year (taken from the nearest measurement station at Yongala 1881-2024).

The project site contains several unnamed drainage channels as well as ephemeral creeks. These include:

- Ulooloo Creek: broadly flows south to northeast along the eastern boundary of the Project Area.
- Banbury Creek: flows north from southern Project boundary and flows into Ulooloo Creek.
- Terowie Creek: broadly flows north to southeast within the central portion of the Project Area, eventually flowing into Ulooloo Creek.
- Pigeon Box Creek: flows north to south along the western Project boundary in the central portion of the Project Area.

None of these creeks are identified as a priority watercourse under the Northern and Yorke Water Affecting Activities Control Policy.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

No World Heritage MNES occur within 10 km of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Project; therefore, no World Heritage MNES are likely to be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the 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.

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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. *

No National Heritage MNES occur within 10 km of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Project. No National Heritage MNES are likely to be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the action.

A Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) was prepared for the Project's Renewable Energy Infrastructure Licence application under the South Australian Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act. Two state heritage places were identified within the Project boundary, namely: Ulooloo Homesteads, Dairies & Hut (state heritage ID:14873) and Mungibbie Homestead (state heritage ID:14877). The Ulooloo site is a private residence that is being maintained by the owner and occupant, while the Mungibbie homestead is a dilapidated and unoccupied building that is has suffered a partial structural collapse.

The Project is not in the vicinity of the Ulooloo Homestead, however the HIS noted the project will will introduce a new context to the horizon and the setting of the state heritage place.

The Project will involve the development of an access track in close proximity of the Mungibbie Homestead (SAHR 14877), and turbines are proposed on the hills surrounding the dilapidated homestead which will create a visual impact on the heritage listed site. The Project will implement management measures to avoid the further degradation of the Mungibbie Homestead State Heritage Place.

The primary traffic route identified by the project's Traffic Impact Assessment passes through the outskirts of Burra, using the designated Oversize/Overmass route that bypasses the town. Burra is an historic Australian Cornish Mining town and is listed on the National Heritage List (Place ID 106304). The Project's intended use of the Oversize/Overmass route bypassing the town will not impact the heritage values of the town. The Project site is approximately 35km from Burra and will not be visible from the historic township.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

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

No

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

No Ramsar Wetland MNES occur within 10 km of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Project, therefore no Ramsar Wetland MNES are likely to be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the 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	Acacia menzelii	Menzel's Wattle
Yes	No	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
No	No	Aprasia pseudopulchella	Flinders Ranges Worm-lizard
No	No	Caladenia tensa	Greencomb Spider-orchid, Rigid Spider-orchid
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Codonocarpus pyramidalis	Slender Bell-fruit, Camel Poison
No	No	Dodonaea procumbens	Trailing Hop-bush
No	No	Dodonaea subglandulifera	Peep Hill Hop-bush
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Galaxias rostratus	Flathead Galaxias, Beaked Minnow, Flat-headed Galaxias, Flat-headed Jollytail, Flat-headed Minnow
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (eastern), Eastern Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Olearia pannosa subsp. pannosa	Silver Daisy-bush, Silver-leaved Daisy, Velvet Daisy-bush
No	No	Pedionomus torquatus	Plains-wanderer
No	No	Pterostylis xerophila	Desert Greenhood

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Senecio macrocarpus	Large-fruit Fireweed, Large-fruit Groundsel
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Swainsona pyrophila	Yellow Swainson-pea
Yes	Yes	Tiliqua adelaidensis	Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard, Adelaide Blue-tongue Lizard

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes	Yes	Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia
No	No	Peppermint Box (Eucalyptus odorata) Grassy Woodland of South Australia

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 primary risk to the protected matters identified within the Project Area is associated with direct impacts in relation to the clearance of the TEC and of clearance of habitat during construction of the Proposed Action.

Of the 24 EPBC threatened species and two EPBC TECs identified by the PMST, the Proposed Action may directly and/or indirectly impact on two threatened species and one threatened ecological community, known to occur in the Project Area.

These are:

Two EPBC threatened species:

- Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard (*Tiliqua adelaidensis*) (EPBC Act Endangered)
- Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) (EPBC Act Vulnerable).

The following threatened ecological community:

- Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia (EPBC Act Critically Endangered).

Despite design efforts to avoid and minimise impacts to nationally threatened species and ecological communities, some residual direct impacts from the earthworks and vegetation clearance associated with construction activities are unavoidable.

Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard (*Tiliqua adelaidensis*) (EPBC Act Endangered)

Impact pathway

The Project will impact up to 450.72 ha of known, likely or potential PBTL habitat that falls within the Disturbance Footprint. Impacts will include habitat loss and degradation as a result of the development of Project infrastructure. There is also a potential for the introduction of weeds through construction impacting potential habitat for PBTL.

Details of the survey effort and survey results for PBTL are detailed in **Attachment 5, Sections 3 and 4. Section 4.1** describes the extent of the direct impact on PBTLs. A Significant Impact Assessment for PBTL is included in **Attachment 1 (Section 5.2.7, p61).**

Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) (EPBC Act Vulnerable)

Impact pathway

The Project proposes to impact 139.61 ha of potential Southern Whiteface habitat during construction. This will include the clearance of vegetation to enable construction of access tracks, hardstands, wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure like underground cabling.

Details of the bird surveys completed for the Project and the results of the 2 years of bird surveys completed are provided in **Attachment 7. Section 4.1.1** discuses the Southern Whiteface, and **Table 4.4, p26** includes a Significant Impact Assessment.

Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia (EPBC Act Critically Endangered)

Impact pathway

Construction of Project will include the clearance of vegetation within the Disturbance Footprint. This includes 69.09 ha of Lomandra Grassland, 49.31 ha of which qualifies as the INTG TEC (Class A, B vegetation). This will lead to reduction of the TEC, and could contribute to fragmenting patches of the TEC.

Details of the survey effort and survey results for INTG are detailed in **Attachment 6, Sections 3 and 4.**

Attachment 6, Table 4.1, p11 provides a summary of the extent of INTG impacted by the Disturbance Footprint.

The Significant Impact Assessment for INTG can be found in **Attachment 6, Table 4.3** as well as **Attachment 1, Section 5.1.6, p50.**

No other MNES are likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project as the Project Area has been adequately surveyed and no other MNES have been detected during ecological surveys.

Consideration of other listed EPBC Act threatened species and TECs are presented in **Attachment 1 (Sections 5 and 6).**

Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*)

A single pair of Blue-winged Parrots was recorded within the Project Area, foraging on the ground in *Maireana aphylla* Low Open Shrubland in spring 2023. A Significant Impact Assessment was completed for the Blue-winged Parrot **(Attachment 1, Table 5.17, p80)** and concluded that no direct or indirect impacts are expected for the species.

The proposed action will impact on potential Blue-winged Parrot foraging habitat, however given the species broad habitat preferences for foraging, removal of foraging habitat (equating to ~0.06% of the species' Area of Occupancy) is unlikely to cause the species to decline. Blue-winged Parrots do not breed within the Project Area, but breed in Tasmania, Victoria (south of the Great Dividing Range) and far southeastern Australia. Therefore Project will not disrupt the breeding cycle of the species.

Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*)

A Significant Impact Assessment was completed for the Hooded Robin **(Attachment 1, Table 5.20, p86)** and concluded that no direct or indirect impacts are expected for the species.

While the Project Area contains more than 5,000ha of potentially suitable habitat for the Hooded Robin, none have been observed during any of the surveys conducted. Given they are generally sedentary and given the low number of records of Hooded Robin within 10 km of the Project Area (two records), it was concluded that the proposed action is unlikely to to have direct or indirect impacts on the Hooded Robin.

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. *

A detailed significant impact assessment was undertaken for the four species and one threatened ecological community that are known or likely to occur (INTG, Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard, Southern Whiteface, Blue-winged Parrot and Hooded Robin), with this impact assessment being presented in **Attachment 1, Section 5**.

It is considered that the primary risks to these species is in relation to the direct removal of potential habitat during construction of the Proposed Action, with the risks in relation to the operation of the Proposed Action being assessed as low.

The Disturbance Footprint currently impacts on:

- INTG TEC (EPBC Act Critically Endangered) – 49.31 ha of mapped INTG.
- Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard habitat (EPBC Act Endangered) – 450.72 ha of Known, Likely or Potential habitat.
- Southern Whiteface (EPBC Act Vulnerable) – 139.61 ha of potentially suitable habitat.

Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 5.1.6, 5.2.7 and 5.3.7** for assessment against the significant impact criteria for these species.

INTG TEC

As per the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1, the Proposed Action is likely to reduce the extent and increase fragmentation of INTG. Whilst the Disturbance Footprint has been designed to minimise fragmentation of large patches of INTG where possible and utilise existing disturbed areas such as existing tracks, it will not be possible to avoid all INTG.

The Disturbance Footprint may impact a maximum of 49.31 ha of INTG TEC which is 2.97% (**Attachment 6, Table 4.1, p11**) of the Threatened Ecological Community present in the Project Area. It should be noted that a proportion of INTG proposed to be impacted is along the arbitrarily mapped edges of INTG patches which is likely to be already disturbed by previous clearance for access tracks and roads and may not be INTG.

While the Disturbance Footprint has been designed to minimised fragmenting large patches of INTG where possible, particularly Class A INTG, there are instances where it has not been possible to avoid passing through the middle of a patch of Class B INTG.
Construction contractors will follow measures outlined in a CEMP such as clearly delineating the area to be cleared to ensure that no clearance or other disturbance occurs outside of the approved Disturbance Footprint.

Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard

The Proposed Action is likely to reduce the area of occupancy and adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard. The Proposed Action may reduce the overall Area of Occupancy (AOO) by 0.90 %. The AOO is calculated based on 2 x 2 km squares
encompassing all records. The impact area will be linear, however PBTL records may also be linear, following a drainage
line. Therefore, it is possible that the Project could reduce the AOO of the species.

Habitat critical to the survival of PBTL consist of untilled grasslands and shrublands with spider burrows within their known distribution.
As per the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1, ‘Habitat critical to the survival of a species or ecological community’ refers to areas that are necessary:
• for activities such as foraging, breeding, roosting or dispersal;
• for the long–term maintenance of the species or ecological community (including the maintenance of species essential to the survival of the species or ecological community, such as pollinators);

• to maintain genetic diversity and long–term evolutionary development, or
• for the reintroduction of populations or recovery of the species.
A loss of up to 450.72 ha of potential habitat within the Project Area may adversely affect habitat which is critical to the survival of the species.

It is possible that construction activities could disrupt the breeding activities of PBTL in parts of the Project Area. This is likely to be temporary during construction and conducted in a staged approach as different aspects of the Project are built (e.g., internal tracks , hardstands, etc.).

The Proposed Action may also indirectly fragment existing populations by the inclusion of infrastructure. The construction of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm, including access roads, may lead to minor fragmentation in habitat. PBTL are known to move around, typically 20 m but occasionally up to 200 m. The Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm access roads will be all weather unsealed roads that are likely to have a raised profile and sheeted with gravel. It is possible that PBTL would be reluctant to cross wider raised access roads or may be vulnerable to predation or vehicle impact whilst doing so. This may therefore fragment an existing population without mitigation measures.

Southern Whiteface

The Proposed Action may adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of Southern Whiteface. It may also disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population of Southern Whiteface.

As per the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: 'Habitat critical to the survival of a species or ecological community' refers to areas that are necessary:
• for activities such as foraging, breeding, roosting or dispersal;
• for the long–term maintenance of the species or ecological community (including the maintenance of species essential to the survival of the species or ecological community, such as pollinators);
• to maintain genetic diversity and long–term evolutionary development, or
• for the reintroduction of populations or recovery of the species.

The Project proposes to impact 139.61 ha of woodland that could provide suitable habitat to Southern Whiteface therefore the Project may adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the species. The Disturbance Footprint impacts on ~5 % of the suitable Southern Whiteface habitat within the Project Area. However, given the ability of Southern Whiteface to move and the potential for micro– siting some areas of the Disturbance Footprint the impact may be minimised.

Approximately 27 % of the Project Area is suitable habitat for Southern Whiteface **(Attachment 7, Section 4.1.1.3, p23)**.

Disturbance from construction activities may disrupt the breeding cycle of sedentary bird groups in the Project Area.
However, given the species' extensive AOO, it is unlikely the Proposed Action would disrupt the breeding cycle at a population level.

Significant impact assessments were also conducted for the other EPBC threatened species recorded or likely to occur within the Project Area, that is:

- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) (EPBC Act Vulnerable) (refer to **Attachment 1, Section 5.4, and Attachment 7 Section 4.1.2.7)**
- Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*) (EPBC Act Endangered) (refer to **Attachment 1, Section 5.5)**.

Significant impacts are unlikely to occur to either species as a result of the Proposed Action (**Attachment 1, Sections 5.4.6, and 5.5.6)**.

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. *

The Proposed Action is likely to be a Controlled Action due to the unavoidable residual impacts to INTG, Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizards and Southern Whiteface after avoidance and mitigation measures are implemented.

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. *

Ecological surveys were initially used to inform project layout through avoiding identified ecological constraints. Ecologists have since conducted more extensive surveying and assessment of the Project Area and have continued to apply the Mitigation Hierarchy throughout design refinement, to avoid impacts to areas of MNES and ecological value.

The Proponent is committed to ongoing application of the Mitigation Hierarchy through detailed design and construction planning phases to further reduce the current upper limit estimate of disturbance and impacts as summarised in this EPBC Referral submission.

The following avoidance and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Project's development:

- Design iteration to avoid and minimise impacts to patches of INTG, with no turbines located in areas of Class A vegetation and turbines microsited out of Class B INTG vegetation where practicable. Alignments of access tracks have been adapted to reduce impacts on INTG patches where the engineering has allowed.
- Design iteration to avoid and minimise impacts to known PBTL where practicable.
- Use of existing local roads that cross the Project Area, as well as upgrading existing farm tracks in the development of the Project's access track design **(Attachment 6, Figure 4.1, p 24)**. The use of these existing access routes limits the impacts of the Project by using infrastructure that already exists, or upgrading infrastructure where the quality and condition of vegetation is already affected by the presence of access tracks.

The following avoidance and mitigation measures have been committed to as part of the referral:

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) will implement standard procedures for minimising impacts such as:

- Clearly delineating the area to be cleared to ensure that no clearance occurs outside of the approved Disturbance Footprint (CEMP).
- Procedures to minimise the impact on surface water flows through the construction of the linear Disturbance Footprint (CEMP).
- Weed hygiene measures and other biosecurity measures to ensure that invasive species, including introduced plants and pathogens, do not become established (CEMP and OEMP).
- Limit and prevent the movement of chemicals and pollutants (CEMP).

Of the 645.814 ha Disturbance Footprint, 125 ha is estimated to be required for the operational stage footprint. This means 81% of the Disturbance Footprint will be rehabilitated to a condition consistent with the surrounding grazing lands.

See **Attachment 1, Section 7** for mitigation measures recommended by the Project's ecologists.

Further management and mitigation measures to minimise and avoid impacts to ecology matters which have been committed by the Proponent include:

- Detailed design and micro-siting will seek to further minimise impacts to native vegetation; particularly INTG TEC, PBTL habitat and recorded locations, and VAs associated woodland and mallee habitat.
- Where possible, WTGs will be micro-sited away from known (active and inactive) WTE nests to reduce the risk of rotor strike. A 750 m WTG exclusion buffer will be implemented around known active nests, where possible.
- No clearance of native vegetation will occur until the appropriate government authorisations are in place.
- Construction, operation and rehabilitation will be undertaken in accordance with any conditions applied under native vegetation clearance approval.

- The CEMP and OEMP for the Project will include standard procedures for minimising impacts to native vegetation and fauna, including (but not limited to) clearly delineating the area to be cleared minimising the risk of clearance occurring outside of the approved disturbance footprint.
- During and after construction, any cleared areas that are not required to be used for the operational phase of the Project will be rehabilitated as soon as practical.
- If required as a result of the EPBC referral process, impacts to INTG TEC and PBTL will be offset in accordance with DCCEEW requirements, including INTG TEC and PBTL Offset Strategy and Management Plans. This may include additional systematic PBTL surveys within the PBTL habitat in the proposed construction footprint being carried out to gain a firmer understanding of PBTL numbers that may be directly impacted or required translocating for the Project.
- Implement a CEMP, associated construction management measures and targeted threatened species management plan which includes specific protocols for relocation of residually impacted PBTL individuals, to address any potential direct or indirect impacts. Management measures may include erection of physical no-go zones around known populations of PBTL or sensitive areas where practicable, requirement for dust suppression activities along heavily trafficked roads and implementation of a sediment and erosion management plan, and waste management during construction.
- The CEMP will include controls that require that chemicals or other mechanisms used to eradicate weeds in known population areas do not have a significant adverse effect on the species.
  Weed and biosecurity measures will be documented in the CEMP and OEMP and will be developed to comply with legislative requirements. This will include management measures to control the establishment and dispersal of weeds and disease throughout the Project Area. Targeted control of isolated priority weed occurrences will be undertaken, as required.
- The construction contractor will be required to seek a permit under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* for the transportation of declared weeds on public roads, should plant matter or soil contaminated by plant matter (including seeds) from declared weeds require offsite disposal.

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

An offset proposal has not yet been prepared for the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm.

An initial survey was carried out from 28 October 2024 to 1 November 2024 to investigate potential offset areas for the clearance associated with the proposed Project. The proponent is working with landowners in the vicinity of the Project to determine the potential to secure land for ecological offsets for State and Commonwealth protected ecological matters.

The proponent is committed to preparing an offset proposal for the Project, in consultation with DCCEEW.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
No	No	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	Myiagra cyanoleuca	Satin Flycatcher

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. *

There are no major permanent watercourses or water bodies within the Project Area, however there are numerous drainage channels that descend from the hills across the site. Several ephemeral creek beds extend from the Project Area, including Pidgeon Box Creek, Terowie Creek and Ulooloo Creek.

Targeted surveys for migratory bird species were undertaken twice at Hiles Lagoon (summer 2023 and summer 2024), located approximately 3 km north of the Project Area. Hiles Lagoon has been found to be dry during the summer when migratory shorebirds are present in Australia.

Two *Calidris ruficollis* (Red-necked Stint) (EPBC listed Migratory and Marine) were recorded in the inlet to Hiles Lagoon during one summer bird survey.

No other EPBC migratory species have been recorded in the eight seasonal bird surveys undertaken between November 2022 to July 2024, therefore it is unlikely that the Proposed Action will directly or indirectly impact on EPBC Act Migratory species.

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

No Nuclear MNES occur within 10 km of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Project, therefore no Nuclear MNES are likely to be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

No Commonwealth Marine Areas occur within 10 km of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Project; therefore, no Commonwealth Marine Areas are likely to be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the action.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The Great Barrier Reef is not within 10 km of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Project and will not be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the action.

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

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

No

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

The Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Project is not associated with a Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas, therefore this matter is not impacted.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Project is not on Commonwealth Land, therefore this matter is not impacted.

A dismantled rail line under the Australian National Railways Commonwealth Land falls within 10 km of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Project, running along the western side of the Barrier Highway, however it is not expected to be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Project does not impact a Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas, therefore this matter is not impacted.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- 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. *

No feasible alternatives are available for the development of the Project.

The location of the site was selected following an extensive project site selection process across the entire state of South Australia.

The site was selected as a highly suitable location for further feasibility assessment primarily due to the wind resource, proximity to a point of connection to the electricity network, good road access, and relatively low density of dwellings.

Following engagement with landowners, extensive assessments of environmental values, and advances in wind turbine technology, the proposal has evolved to the current proposed design.

Alternate timeline

The proponent is seeking to develop the Project as quickly as it can post approvals so as to maximise the value of the project to the developer, and the National Electricity Market.

Australia is in an energy transition, moving away from fossil fuels, towards an energy system based on renewable energy sources. To achieve the timelines established by state and federal governments, Australia needs to accelerate the development of renewable energy projects. Delaying the project would not be beneficial to these aims.

There is potential to accelerate the battery component of the project such that it is connected to the grid prior to the connection of the wind farm. Consideration of this possibility is based on the relatively simple construction methodology required for the development of a BESS when compared to a wind farm.

A staged development of the wind farm is not proposed.

Alternate location

Wind Prospect identified the proposed Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm site following an extensive project site selection process across the entire state of South Australia.

The site was selected as a highly suitable location for further feasibility assessment primarily due to the wind resource, proximity to a point of connection on the electricity network, very good road access, low density of dwellings, and relatively low risk of significant environmental effects (based on preliminary assessments).

An iterative risk-based approach has been implemented from the outset of the project’s development, incorporating both company and industry learnings, and outcomes from constructed wind farm projects across the mid-north of South Australia. As a result, the project’s infrastructure design already responds to numerous environmental and planning requirements by implementing various measures, such as suitable buffers and exclusion areas around sensitive values (e.g., neighbouring homes, ecological values, etc).

Alternate activities

Wind Prospect specialise in the identification and development of wind farm sites across Australia.

The site was identified as being a potentially suitable location for a wind farm that can co-exist with the existing land use of sheep grazing and crop farming. The site has a strong reliable wind resource and is in an area of low dwelling density. It is also well connected via the Barrier Highway and is relatively close to the existing electricity grid.

The project referred has been iteratively developed to respond to stakeholder and consultant input, including the ecological survey information gathered across four years of survey work.

The referred project is a result of these environmental assessments, the engineering requirements of a modern wind farm project and the balance of impacts against project objectives to develop renewable electricity.

Environmental assessments are ongoing in preparation of the project's Development Application and these assessments will further contribute to the refinement of the project design.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_EIA_V5 (Redacted).pdf Ecological Impact Assessment report - Redacted	23/05/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 1_EIA_V5 (Unredacted).pdf Ecological Impact Assessment report	23/05/2025	Yes	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 4_Consultation Plan.pdf Consultation Plan for the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm	11/11/2024	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2_Wind Prospect Environmental Policy.pdf Eind Prospect's environmental policy	25/05/2022	No	High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3_Land tenure table_Rev0.pdf List of all land parcels involved or proposed to be involved in the project.	23/05/2025	Yes	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 8_Flood modelling.pdf Flood modelling assessment of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm	18/11/2024	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	Att 1_EIA_V5 (Redacted).pdf Ecological Impact Assessment report - Redacted	22/05/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 1_EIA_V5 (Unredacted).pdf Ecological Impact Assessment report	22/05/2025	Yes	High

#3.	Document	Att 5_PBTL Report_V5.pdf Results of targeted surveys for PBTL. Not redacted. Not for public exhibition.	23/05/2025	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Att 5_PBTL Report_V5_redacted.pdf Targeted survey results for PBTL. Redacted	23/05/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Att 6_INTG Assessment V4.pdf INTG Assessment Report	22/05/2025	No	High
#6.	Document	Att 7_BBUS_SummaryReport_V4.pdf 2 year summary report of Bird and Bat surveys	23/05/2025	No	High

4.1.4.5 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_EIA_V5 (Redacted).pdf Ecological Impact Assessment report - Redacted	22/05/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 1_EIA_V5 (Unredacted).pdf Ecological Impact Assessment report	22/05/2025	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att 6_INTG Assessment V4.pdf INTG Assessment Report	23/05/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att 7_BBUS_SummaryReport_V4.pdf 2 year summary report of Bird and Bat surveys	22/05/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_EIA_V5 (Redacted).pdf Ecological Impact Assessment report - Redacted	22/05/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 6_INTG Assessment V4.pdf INTG Assessment Report	22/05/2025	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	55622889294
Organisation name	WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM PTY LTD
Organisation address	PO Box 110, Fitzroy VIC 3065
Representative's name	Patrick Deveney
Representative's job title	Development Manager
Phone	+61(03)90059075
Email	patrick.deveney@windprospect.com.au
Address	PO Box 110, Fitzroy VIC 3065

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

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

☑ By checking this box, I, **Patrick Deveney of WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

Same as Referring party information.

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

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

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

☑ I, **Patrick Deveney of WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM PTY LTD**, the Person proposing the action, consent to the designation of **Patrick Deveney of WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM PTY LTD** as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☑ I, **Patrick Deveney of WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM PTY LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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