Cooma Solar and Battery Project

Application Number: **02619** Commencement Date: **03/10/2024** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Cooma Solar and Battery Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Solar Farm

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/10/2058

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Project is a utility scale photovoltaic (PV) system with a 180 MW BESS facility and ancillary infrastructure, such as storage units, substation, switchyard, laydown area and other associated buildings. The 100 MW alternating current (AC) solar project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power approximately 45,000 homes. The Project is intended to be connected to an existing 132 kV line approximately 0.7-1.2 kilometres west of the solar project site. An easement for the transmission line will be

created within 1/DP1190826. There are two options to access the project site via a dedicated track off public roads, which would run through 1 DP1190826 and 1/DP1269467 (northern access option), or 2/DP1259141, 53/DP750530 and 54/DP750530 (southern access option).

The Project site is located approximately seven kilometres northeast of the Cooma township and 110 kilometres south of Canberra. The project area covers approximately 290.54 hectares, across two properties comprising 11 separate lots. The site has historically been used for grazing and cropping. It is expected that grazing activities will continue during the operation of the solar project.

Construction

The proposed activities and their relevance to site establishment/enabling works, and then works to be conducted during construction of the facility, include:

Photovoltaic modules

- Approximately 200,000 PV modules (solar panels) using a single axis tracker racking system. The size and number of photovoltaic modules and inverters is yet to be finalised.
- The maximum height of the PV modules is anticipated to be up to 2.5 m in a one panel (1P) configuration or up to 5 m above ground level in a dual panel (2P) configuration. The panel height is dependent on the technology type which is yet to be finalised.
- The clearance of the base of the modules above the would typically range from 0.3 to 1.5 m.

Electrical infrastructure

- approximately 25 power conversion units (PCUs)
- an onsite substation containing main transformers and associated switchgear
- overhead and underground electrical reticulation connecting the solar project elements (underground cabling)
- BESS units, likely be approximately 3.5 m high, with an active gas-based fire protection systems would be installed in the BESS unit.

Other permanent onsite ancillary infrastructure is expected to include:

- an operational and maintenance facility
- a temperature-controlled spare parts storage facility
- supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) facilities for remote monitoring of the solar project
- a workshop and associated infrastructure
- access roads, both to the project area and internal access roads
- carparking area
- security fencing and landscaping.

Temporary construction ancillary infrastructure

- construction compounds
- laydown areas
- parking areas
- concrete batching plant
- access tracks and associated infrastructure, including gates and fencing.

The locations of all temporary infrastructure would be determined following detailed site investigations during preparation of the EIS and will be located within the proposed site development footprint. Where possible, areas that are to be disturbed through the temporary construction activities would be repurposed for operational uses to prevent further land disturbance and maximise use of the land available.

Grid connection

- To connect the project to TransGrid's network, a new 132 kV switching station will be built on site. A transmission line from the switching station will cut into the TransGrid existing 132 kV (Williamsdale

to Cooma) transmission line, approximately 1 km west of the indicative location of the project substation. The transmission line is expected to be above ground

Water required for construction would be preferentially sourced from:

- commercial suppliers of treated wastewater in the nearby region town water or underground licenced bores within the development site or nearby.

Access

- Currently studying two options to access the site.
- Option 1 is Access via Monaro highway/Rose Valley Road to the access easement within the project area.
- Option 2 is Access route via Monaro Highway/Polo Flat Road/Numeralla Road

Operation

The project would likely operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week with the operations and maintenance team attending site during standard working hours unless responding to an alarm, fault, or major maintenance works. Between 2 to 5 full time equivalent employees would be required to operate and maintain the project.

Ongoing monitoring and maintenance during operation would include maintenance of the solar panels, associated infrastructure, vegetation, and internal access tracks. Regular light vehicle access will be required throughout operation. Heavy vehicles would be required occasionally for replacing larger components of project infrastructure including inverters, transformers or components of the BESS facility.

The operational lifespan of the project is indicatively 30 years, with potential for upgrades, including repowering.

Decommissioning

At the end of its operational life, the project would be decommissioned and land that is impacted by the project would be appropriately rehabilitated in consultation with the affected landholders and regulatory authorities.

Project area

The project area is 290.54 ha in extent. The indicative development footprint, which is the area required for the solar arrays, the BESS and the transmission corridor, is 198.32 ha. The indicative development footprint for the solar panels and the BESS is 196.28 ha. The indicative transmission corridor is 2.04. Within the project area, access will be by existing farm tracks. Upgrades to these farm tracks may be required, but additional disturbance will be minimal. The avoided area within the project area is approximately 92.22 ha in extent.

For additional detail on the project area, see Att D - Field summary.pdf, section 1.1, pp. 1-6.

Additional information

Additional detail on the Project can be found in Att A - Scoping Report Pt 1.pdf, section 1, pp. 1-4.

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

No

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

The construction and operation of the Project requires assessment and approval under Commonwealth and State legislation. The Commonwealth and State approvals anticipated to be required for the Project are outlined below. This list is not exhaustive and further approval requirements may present themselves throughout detailed design and later stages of the Project.

Additional detail on relevant legislation and approval pathways can be found in Att D - Field summary.pdf, section 1.2, pp. 6-7 and section 1.5, pp. 10-12.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

The Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities, and heritage places, defined in the EPBC Act as Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Any works that have the potential to result in an impact on any MNES or on Commonwealth land are considered 'controlled actions' and require a referral to the Federal Minister for the Environment for approval.

This referral application has been prepared to seek a decision by the Minister for the Environment under the Commonwealth EPBC Act as to whether the Project is a 'controlled action' and requires approval pursuant to the EPBC Act.

Field survey carried out to date at the Project site has identified three MNES (two threatened species and one threatened ecological community (TEC)) as potentially impacted by the project. These MNES and potential impacts to them are discussed throughout this referral application.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)

The NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) establishes a framework for assessment and offsetting of development impacts on biodiversity values and facilitates investment in biodiversity conservation. Assessment takes place through the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and offsetting is carried out in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS). Entry into the BOS is triggered by development that meets one or more thresholds for significant impacts on threatened entities. Development of this Project triggers the BOS because it meets the criteria for State Significant Development (SSD), thus requiring a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) to be prepared. Extensive field surveys have been undertaken to support the required assessment. The results of this survey effort have informed this referral application.

NSW Assessment Bilateral Agreement (made under the Commonwealth EPBC Act)

The NSW Assessment Bilateral Agreement (Assessment Bilateral) is an agreement between the NSW and Australian governments to streamline the assessment process for major projects that require both NSW and Australian Government environmental approvals. It is made under the EBPC Act. Under the Assessment Bilateral, the NSW Government assesses development applications on behalf of the Australian Government. However, the Australian Government remains the decision-maker for the EPBC approval for any action that is determined to be a controlled action, considering an assessment report prepared by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in making its decision.

Because the Australian Government remains the decision-maker for any controlled action, a referral is still required for any proposed action that may have a significant impact on an MNES. However, NSW assessment processes may be used to assess impacts on threatened entities where those entities are listed under both NSW's BC Act and the Commonwealth EPBC Act. Where an entity is listed under the EPBC Act but not the BC Act, the Australian Government may set assessment requirements and consent conditions.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) is the primary statutory framework regulating development assessment in NSW. It provides the legal framework for the management, development and conservation of natural and built environments. Under the EP&A Act, large-scale solar projects are classified as State Significant Development (SSD) where:

- The total estimated development cost exceeds $30 million.
- The purpose of the development is to generate electricity from solar energy.

The consent authority for SSDs is the NSW Minister for Planning or the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC). The IPC would be the consent authority in the event there is considerable community opposition, the local council objects or a reportable political donations disclosure has been made.

The Cooma Project meets the criteria to be classified as SSD. Under the approval pathway for SSDs, ACEN Australia is required to lodge an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which must also be accompanied by a BDAR. On 21 August 2024, the Planning Secretary issued Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Cooma Project, which further required that biodiversity impacts of the Project be assessed in accordance with the BC Act and documented in a BDAR.

Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)

An objective of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 is to recognise and protect native title. Section 8 states that the *Native Title Act 1993* is not intended to affect the operation of any law of a State or a Territory that is capable of operating concurrently with the Act. Native title cannot be claimed on freehold land, as it is extinguished over the area. However, protection is required on freehold land under State and federal legislation for the protection of sacred sites.

Based on a preliminary search of Native Title Vision undertaken on 10 April 2024, no Native Title claims apply to the Project site (Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2, Table 4.2, p. 24) .

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

The EIS process requires project applicants to undertake detailed consultation with affected landowners surrounding the project, the local community and local council. The formal process of consultation commenced during the scoping phase will continue in support of the EIS process and in accordance with requirements described in the SEARs and the relevant guidelines. In addition to DPHI, Council and local community organisations, stakeholders will include, but not be limited to:

- local members of the State and Federal Parliaments
- local community groups
- Cooma Chamber of Commerce
- local businesses
- Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils
- Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Cth DCCEEW)
- NSW DCCEEW, including the Biodiversity and Conservation and Science Department (BCS)
- Transport for NSW
- Rural Fire Service (RFS)
- Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW).

ACEN Australia plans to conduct a range of activities to allow the community to understand the project and to ensure there are opportunities to provide feedback and suggestions that will help shape the project through the EIS process. These include:

- continued presence through community updates and announcements using a variety of communication media to provide visibility on the project for the local, regional and wider community, and an opportunity to hear about the project and provide feedback
- continued dialogue with surrounding neighbours
- maintaining the project website, including providing up to date project details, an opportunity to register for project updates and a mechanism for feedback
- one-on-one meetings with the ACEN Australia project representatives as required.
- Community information sessions to present project updates. Note: A community information drop-in session was held on 3 July 2024 to introduce the project to community members and provide an initial opportunity for feedback. The session was held at a central point in the Cooma Central Business District, at the Alpine Hotel, from 10 am to 6 pm to maximise opportunity for community members to attend and to accommodate a broad spectrum of community. Twenty-six community members attended the session, including nearby project neighbours, councillors and representatives of the Cooma Monaro Progress Association, Climate Action Monaro, the Chamber of Commerce and NSW Farmers Association.

Additional consultation activities will be conducted in accordance with Att B - ACEN Australia's Social Participation and Communications Policy.pdf.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	76104485289
Organisation name	ARCADIS AUSTRALIA PACIFIC PTY LTD
Organisation address	16/580 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

Referring party details

Name	Brendan Fletcher
Job title	Senior Ecologist
Phone	0418988262
Email	brendan.fletcher@arcadis.com
Address	Level 16, 580 George Street

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	27616856672

Organisation name	ACEN AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 7004

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Cédric Bergé
Job title	Project Development Manager
Phone	0447 033 404
Email	cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au
Address	Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade Battery Point, Hobart Tasmania, Australia 7004

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. *

The person proposing the action has a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management. ACEN Australia has a number of renewable energy assets (including Stubbo Solar, New England Solar and Robbins Island Wind). No proceedings relating to environmental protection and conservation matters have been brought against ACEN Australia. Based on its previous performance, robust environmental and sustainability framework and successful construction activities to date, it is considered that ACEN Australia has a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management.

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

ACEN Australia is a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments. This charter sets out voluntary commitments by Clean Energy Council members to engage respectfully with the communities in which they plan and operate projects, to be sensitive to environmental and cultural values and to make a positive contribution to the regions in which they operate.

ACEN Australia operates under an Environmental Policy, which is attached as Att C - ACEN Environmental Policy.pdf. ACEN Australia is also guided by its Social Participation and Communications Policy to create an enduring and positive impact in the communities in which it operates (see Att B - ACEN Social and Communications Policy.pdf).

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	27616856672
Organisation name	ACEN AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 7004

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Cédric Bergé
Job title	Project Development Manager
Phone	0447 033 404

Email	cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au
Address	Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade Battery Point, Hobart Tasmania, Australia 7004

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	76104485289
Organisation name	ARCADIS AUSTRALIA PACIFIC PTY LTD
Organisation address	16/580 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
Representative's name	Brendan Fletcher
Representative's job title	Senior Ecologist
Phone	0418988262
Email	brendan.fletcher@arcadis.com
Address	Level 16, 580 George Street

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

ABN/ACN	27616856672
Organisation name	ACEN AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 7004
Representative's name	Cédric Bergé
Representative's job title	Project Development Manager
Phone	0447 033 404
Email	cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au

Address	Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade Battery Point, Hobart Tasmania, Australia 7004

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

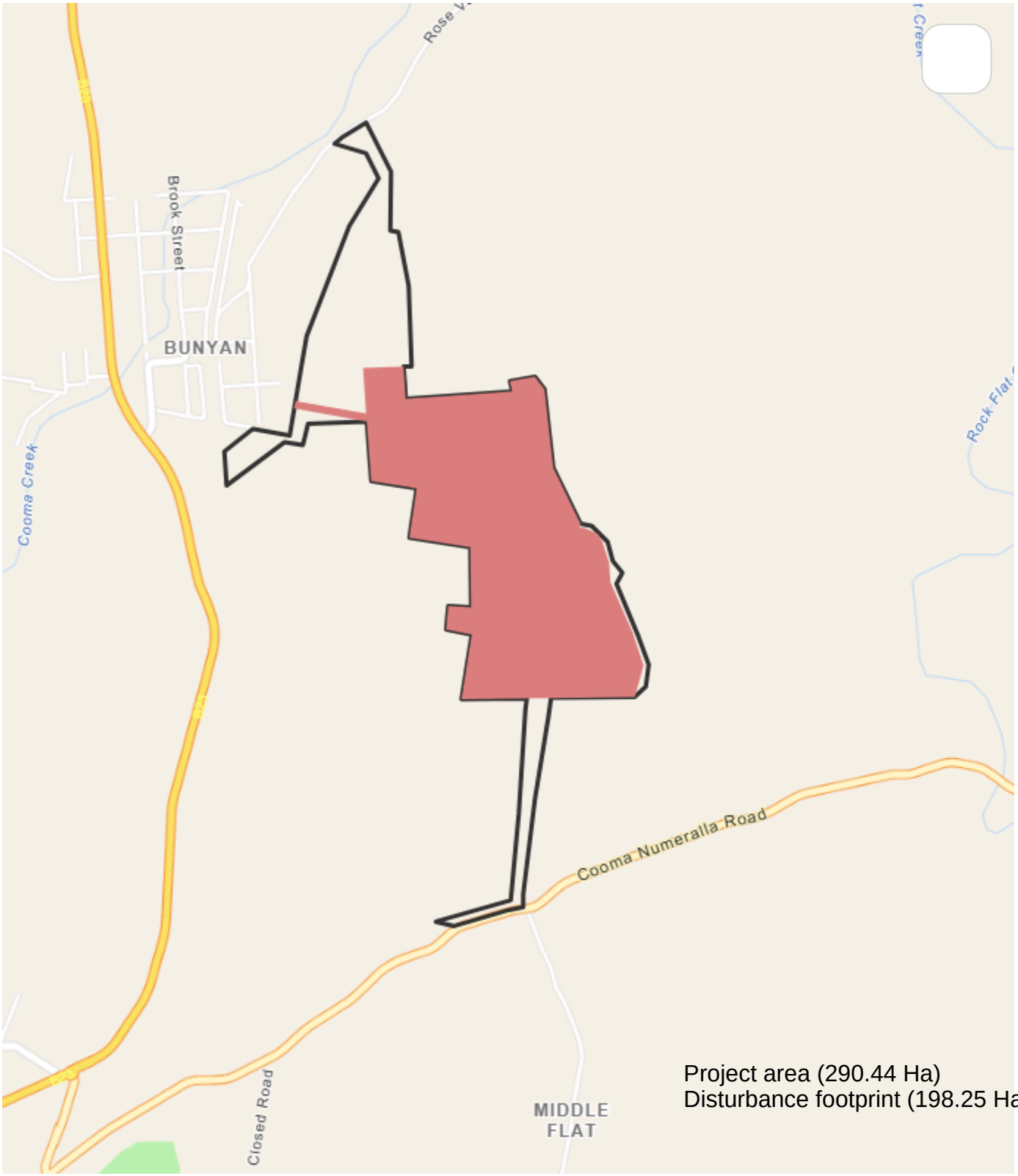
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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



Maptaskr © 2024 -36.192449, 149.272895

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2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

254 Rose Valley Road, Bunyan NSW 2630

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

New South Wales

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

No

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

The land within the referral area is freehold land. ACEN Australia has entered into agreements with all of the landowners of the freehold parcels in the referral area. The Project will include an upgrade to state and local public roads in consultation with the relevant road authorities and Crown Land.

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 is approximately seven kilometres northeast of the Cooma township and 110 kilometres south of Canberra. It covers approximately 290.54 hectares, across two properties comprising 11 separate lots. The project area has historically been used for grazing and cropping. It is expected that grazing activities will continue during the operation of the project.

There are currently two potential options to access the site. Option 1 is access via the Monaro highway/Rose Valley Road to the access easement within the project area. Option 2 is access via the Monaro Highway/Polo Flat Road/Numeralla Road. The final preferred option will be selected at a later date. Road improvements may be required for access. The disturbance footprint for the project will be updated as required if or when any required road improvements are designed.

The project area is located within the Snowy Monaro Regional Council Local Government Area and is zoned as RU1 – Primary Production under the *Cooma-Monaro Local Environmental Plan 2013* (Cooma-Monaro LEP). Among the objectives for this zone are 'To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base' and 'To encourage diversity in primary industry enterprises and systems appropriate for the area'. As mentioned grazing activities will continue during the operation of the project, maintaining the natural resource base. The project will diversify the enterprises occurring within the project area and is a 'system appropriate for the area'.

Zoning for the project area is shown in Att H - Zoning.jpg for the project area.

The project area is bounded by:

- Rose Valley Road to the north
- Numeralla Road to the south
- Middle Flat Creek to the east, and
- pastoral land to the west, with the Monaro Highway approximately 300 m west of the westernmost extent of the project area.

All land directly adjacent to the project area, except for a small length of the rail corridor to the west of the project area, is also mapped as RU1 – Primary Production.

The Monaro Highway and the rail corridor between Cooma and Queanbeyan, both of which are directly to the west of the project area, are zoned SP2 – Infrastructure. The objectives for this zone are 'To provide for infrastructure and related uses' and 'To prevent development that is not compatible with or that may detract from the provision of infrastructure' (Cooma-Monaro LEP). The project is compatible with and will not detract from the provision of infrastructure.

The project area includes three NSW landscape regions, known as Mitchell Landscapes, which were developed for conservation planning and reserve establishment purposes to provide consistent statewide ecological units finer than bioregions and subregions. Each Mitchell Landscape describes the topography, soils and vegetation typical of the landscape.

The three Mitchell landscapes within the project area are:

- The Monaro Plains Basalts and Sands, which is present over most of the subject land and project area. This landscape area consists of extensive tablelands and rolling hills on basalts with associated sands and gravel, with elevations from 600 to 950m.

- The Monaro Plains Meta-sediments, which is present in the far western part of the project area. This landscape consists of low block faulted ranges on Ordovician quartzite, phyllite, mudstone, slate and schist, with elevations 1000 to 1200m and 500 to 900mm rainfall.
- The Upper Murrumbidgee Valley, which is present along Middle Flat Creek and at the access point to the northern part of the project area along Cooma Creek. This landscape comprises the narrow valley and channels system of the Murrumbidgee above Cooma in montane and subalpine communities.

The project area is within the Cooma Creek catchment, which sits within the Murrumbidgee River catchment. However, the project area itself does not include formal watercourses. Two first-order streams have been mapped within the NSW Hydrography dataset within the development footprint (see Attachment D - Field survey.pdf, Figure 2-1, p. 15; see also NSW Hydrography (State Government of NSW and Spatial Services (DCS) 2024) (linked)). However, during the field survey period from October 2023 to April 2024 there was no flow or bed and banks where watercourses are mapped despite above-average precipitation. Similarly, four first-order watercourses are mapped outside the development footprint in the northern portion of the project area; none of these exhibited flow or bed and banks. A second-order watercourse is mapped as crossing the project area at the potential southern access; this watercourse flowed intermittently over the survey period. Middle Flat Creek borders the eastern boundary of the project area and flowed throughout the survey period.

Vegetation, topography and levels of development/disturbance are highly variable across the project area. The northern and western portion of the project area comprises a long ridge running north-south, with basalt outcrops common along the ridge, and to a lesser degree, on the flanks. This ridge and its flanks have not been improved for agriculture or fodder crops, but the exotic *Eragrostis curvula* (African Lovegrass) is highly dominant. Native vegetation is sparse, and in places non-existent. The southern and eastern portion of the project area, with the exception of an access corridor south of the development footprint, consists of flat pastureland that is sowed periodically. Generally this land is dominated by exotic flora. Where land has been left fallow for a period of time, some native species have established, and in some parts of the fallow land, these native species are the predominant groundcover.

Additional detail on the environment of the project area can be found in Att D - Field survey.pdf, section 2, pp. 13-20.

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

The proposed development within the project area is for a utility scale photovoltaic (PV) system with a BESS facility and ancillary infrastructure, such as storage units, substation, switchyard, laydown area and other associated buildings. The 100 MW alternating current (AC) solar project is expected to generate sufficient electricity to power approximately 45,000 homes. The Project is intended to be connected to an existing 132 kV line approximately 0.7-1.2 kilometres west of the solar project site.

The PV system and BESS facility will be limited to the indicative development footprint for solar panels and the BESS shown in Att D - Field summary.pdf, Figure 1-1, p. 5. the connection to the grid will be limited to the indicative transmission corridor shown in Att D - Field summary.pdf, Figure 1-1, p. 5, or a similar area as the Project is developed. Native and exotic vegetation and threatened species habitat outside the development footprint is to be avoided, except for minor impacts where existing tracks will be upgraded to provide access. Of the 198.31 ha of vegetation within the disturbance footprint, 158.84 ha, or 80%, is dominated by exotic species. The avoided area within the project area is approximately 92.22 ha in extent.

The project area is currently and has historically been used for grazing and cropping. It is expected that grazing activities will continue during the operation of the solar project.

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

No formally designated outstanding natural features occur within the project area.

There are no wetlands recognised within the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. There are two small farm dams within the project area, but neither supports fringing wetland vegetation.

There are no formally recognised geological features within the project area. However, there are extensive areas of basaltic outcrops on the ridgeline in the northern portion of the project area and along the flanks of that ridgeline. In the lower portions of the project area and within the disturbance footprint there are areas of scattered rocks of small to moderate size (generally <20cm across). The outcrops and scattered stones constitute a habitat feature for area fauna, particularly reptiles.

Areas of native vegetation within the project area meet the criteria for inclusion within the EPBC-listed Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands Critically Endangered Ecological Community (NTG-SEH CEEC). This threatened ecological community is discussed in detail in Section 3.2.2 of this referral application and in Att D - Field summary.pdf, section 3.8, pp. 41-50.

Six species listed under the EPBC Act, or the NSW BC Act, were recorded within the project area during field survey:

- *Miniopterus australis* (Little Bent-winged Bat), listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act
- *Miniopterus orianae oceanensis* (Large Bent-winged Bat), listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act
- *Petroica phoenicea* (Flame Robin), listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act
- *Suta flagellum* (Little Whip Snake), listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act
- *Tympanocryptis osbornei* (Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon), listed as Endangered under the BC Act and the EPBC Act
- *Swainsona sericea* (Silky Swainson-pea), listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act.

No other natural features of the project area, besides those already discussed, have specific values that are protected or significant to the 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 project area is characterised by slope relief classes of undulating low hills and rises, with gently inclined rises stretching from north to south along the western boundary of the proposed disturbance footprint. A large north-south ridgeline runs along the western boundary of the disturbance footprint running roughly parallel to the Monaro Highway.

About one kilometre east of the indicative BESS facility and substation location, the ridgeline crest ranges from 810 to 815m AHD in elevation, descending to approximately 795 to 780m AHD to the northwest before further sloping down towards Rose Valley Road. Towards the eastern boundary of the project area, elevations decline to approximately 755m AHD, with the majority of the eastern side of the proposed site development footprint lying within 770m AHD and 760m AHD (Att A - Scoping Report Pt 1.pdf, section 2.2, pp. 8-10).

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.

The flora and fauna of the affected area are a mixture of native species and ecological communities associated with temperate grasslands and exotic species associated with cleared areas and pasture modified for grazing. The northern and western portion of the project area comprising a north-south ridge is dominated by exotic flora, particularly *Eragrostis curvula* (African Lovegrass). The southern and eastern portion of the project area consists of flat pastureland that is sowed periodically. Generally this land is dominated by exotic flora, with some small patches of native grassland. The potential southern access corridor is native grassland.

There are exotic planted trees (*Populus* spp. (cottonwoods and poplars) and *Pinus* spp. (pines)) along the boundaries of the project area, but there are no native trees on the site.

Threatened species

All threatened species identified in the EPBC Act Protected Matters Report (Att I - EPBC PMST report.pdf) or with NSW BioNet Atlas records within 10 km were assessed for their likelihood of occurrence. Att F - Fauna Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf and Att G - Flora Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf lists these species and the reasons they are or are not considered to be likely to occur. Significant Impact Criteria assessments were prepared for EPBC-listed species that were surveyed for and recorded, and for one EPBC-listed species that was not recorded but is considered to potentially use the site. Significant Impact Criteria assessments were not prepared for EPBC-listed species that were surveyed for and not recorded, or species that are considered unlikely to occur (see Att F - Fauna Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf and Att G - Flora Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf).

EPBC-listed species surveyed for

Species that were assessed as moderately likely to occur or higher were surveyed for if required under the BC Act. Significant Impact Criteria assessments were prepared for species surveyed for and recorded, and were not prepared for species surveyed for and not recorded (Att E - SIC assessments.pdf). Targeted surveys were conducted for these EPBC threatened flora:

- *Dodonaea procumbens* (Creeping Hop-bush)
- *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* (Silver-leafed Gum)
- *Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor* (Hoary Sunray)
- *Thesium australe* (Austral Toadflax).

None of these species were recorded within the project area during targeted surveys or incidentally. Accordingly, these species were not further assessed.

Targeted surveys were conducted for the following EPBC species credit fauna species:

- *Keyacris scurra* (Key's Matchstick Grasshopper)
- *Aprasia parapulch* (Pink-tailed Legless Lizard)
- *Delma impar* (Striped Legless Lizard)
- *Tympanocryptis osbornei* (Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon).

Additional information on field survey effort can be found at Sections 3.2, 4.4 and 4.5 of the attached Att D - Field summary.pdf, section 3.2 pp. 24-27, section 4.4 pp. 59-61, and section 4.5 pp. 62-65. No threatened flora species listed under the EPBC Act were recorded. One EPBC-listed threatened fauna species was recorded: the Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon.

A Significant Impact Criteria assessment has been prepared for the Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon and can be found at Att E - SIC assessments.pdf, pp. 5-12.

EPBC-listed species not required to be surveyed under the BC Act

In addition to EPBC-listed threatened species formally surveyed for, six EPBC-listed species are associated with the native vegetation community present within the project area within the NSW Threatened Biodiversity Database Collection (TBDC). This native vegetation community is classified by NSW as PCT 3414 Monaro Snowgrass-Kangaroo Grass Grassland. Under the BC Act, threatened species that are reliably associated with a PCT (known as ecosystem species) are not required to be surveyed. Instead, impacts to these species' habitat are assumed, and under the NSW BOS, proponents are liable for offsets to these impacts as calculated by the NSW BAM Calculator.

Ecosystem species associated with PCT 3414 that are also listed under the EPBC Act are:

- *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (Gang-gang Cockatoo)
- *Climacteris picumnus victoriae* (Brown Treecreeper)
- *Hirundapus caudacutus* (White-throated Needletail)
- *Melandrayas cucullate cucullate* (Hooded Robin)
- *Stagonopleura guttata* (Diamond Firetail)
- *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* (Spotted-tail Quoll).

None of these species were recorded during field survey. Only the Diamond Firetail is considered likely to occur, as a practical matter, due to the lack of trees, shrubs and useable habitat within the project area. A Significant Impact Criteria Assessment has been prepared for the Diamond Firetail, which is considered moderately likely to occur, is at Appendix E - SIC assessments.pdf, pp. 13-15. Significant Impact Criteria assessments were not prepared for the remaining species as they are considered to be unlikely to occur in the project area. Assessments of the likelihood of occurrence for the five EPBC-listed species considered unlikely to occur can be found at Att F - Fauna Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf.

In addition to species listed under the EPBC Act, several species listed under the BC Act but not the EPBC Act were recorded. One threatened flora species listed under the BC Act but not the EPBC Act was recorded: *Swainsona servicea* (Silky Swainson-pea). Four threatened fauna species listed under the BC Act but not the EPBC Act were recorded:

- *Miniopterus australis* (Little Bent-winged Bat), Vulnerable
- *Miniopterus orianae oceanensis* (Large Bent-winged Bat), Vulnerable
- *Petroica phoenicea* (Flame Robin), Vulnerable
- *Suta flagellum* (Little Whip Snake), Vulnerable.

No Significant Impact Criteria assessments are required for species listed under the BC Act but not the EPBC Act.

Other native flora and fauna species

A total of 39.47 ha within the 198.32 ha of the disturbance area, and 59.84 ha within the 290.54 ha of the project area, was identified as supporting native vegetation. A total of 97 flora species were identified in the project area, of which 52 were native and 45 were exotic. Native flora species generally comprised common grass and forb species of temperate grasslands. Grasses included *Austrostipa scabra* (Speargrass), *Austrostipa bigeniculata* and *Bothriochloa macra* (Red Grass), *Enneapogon nigricans* (Nine-awn Grass), *Rytidosperma caespitosum* (Ringed Wallaby Grass), *Chloris truncata* (Windmill Grass) and *Cynodon dactylon* (Couch). Forbs included *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Common Everlasting), *Vittadinia muelleri, Brachyscome dentata, Asperula conferta* (Common Woodruff), *Glycine tabacina* and *Scleranthus diander* (Tufted Knawel). Detailed descriptions of native flora can be found at Att D - Field summary.pdf, Section 3.4, pp. 31-36.

Native fauna recorded included a variety of grassland and open woodland species. Bird species included Brown Falcon (*Falco berigora*), Nankeen Kestrel (*Falce cenchroides*), Australian Raven *(Corvus coronoides*), Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) and Superb Fairy-wren (*Malarus cyaneus*). Amphibians included Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*), Spotted Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) and Whistling Tree Frog (*Littoria verreauxii*). Common reptiles were recorded during tile and rock surveys for threatened reptiles and included Grass Skink (*Lampropholis guichenoti*), Garden Skink (*Lampropholis delicata*) and Eastern Striped Ctenotus (*Ctenotus robustus*). The only marsupial recorded was the Eastern Gray Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*). No microbats were observed directly, but species recorded included Gould's Wattled Bat (*Chalinologus gouldii*), Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*) and Chocolate Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus morio*).

Non-native species and vegetation communities

Non-native vegetation dominates approximately 230.70 ha of the 290.54 of the project area (79%) and 86% of the development footprint.

Improved/exotic pasture is the largest single vegetation community within the project area, and it dominates the development footprint. This pasture is found in low-lying paddocks that have, in most cases, been improved in the past, sometimes very recently. The species present commonly include *Cirsium vulgare* (Spear Thistle), *Centaurea sostitialis* (St. Barnaby's Thistle), *Brassica* spp. and *Eragrostis curvula* (African Lovegrass) (see Att D - Field summary, Figure 3-9, p. 38).

The flanks of the ridge in the northern half of the project area are strongly dominated by African Lovegrass, which exceeds 90% coverage in many places (see Att D - Field summary.pdf, Figure 3-10, p. 38).This portion of the project area differs from the improved, exotic pasture in that (1) it has never been improved, and thus species composition is due to exotic invasion rather than mechanical (non-grazing) disturbance, and (2) a good variety of native forbs, albeit in very low coverages, can be found in the few spaces between Lovegrass tussocks. These native forbs are general among the most common species in the project area, such as *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Common Everlasting), *Vittadinia muelleri* and *Brachyscome dentata.*

The ridgeline/rocky habitat in the northern half of the project area is also dominated by Lovegrass, but the frequent occurrence of rocky outcrops and patches of bare or heavily grazed ground provide sufficient space for native forbs to occur more frequently in the spaces between tussocks (see Att D - Field summary.pdf, Figure 3-11. p.39). This vegetation community is where the vast majority of records of the BC Act-listed *Swainsona sericea* occur.

A number of non-native fauna species were recorded, including European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Domestic Sheep (*Ovis aries*), Domestic Cow (*Bos taurus*) and Domestic Horse (*Equus ferus caballus*).

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

Native vegetation was assessed and classified using the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM). A single Plant Community Type (PCT) recognised under the BAM, PCT 3414 Monaro Snowgrass-Kangaroo Grass Grassland, was identified within the project area. Three condition classes were identified for the native vegetation community PCT 3414: High, Moderate and Low.

In addition to native vegetation, three vegetation communities dominated by non-native species were identified. Although two of these vegetation communities were labelled as PCT 3414 in the attached Att D - Field summary.pdf, due to the presence of habitat for the threatened flora species *Swainsona sericea*, they are sufficiently dominated by exotic species that impacts to these communities will not incur offset liability under the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS).

All vegetation communities, native and non-native, are mapped in of Att D - Field summary.pdf, Figure 3-4, p. 30, and their extent within the disturbance area and project area. Areas of vegetation communities and condition classes for those communities are summarised in Att D - Field summary.pdf, Table 3-4, p. 29 and below.

Native vegetation communities

- PCT 3414: High: 13.29 ha within project area, 2.33 ha within development footprint
- PCT 3414: Moderate: 34.59 ha within project area, 31.60 ha within development footprint
- PCT 3414: Low: 34.59 ha within project area, 31.60 ha within development footprint
- **Total native vegetation: 59.84 within project area, 39.47 within development footprint**

Exotic-dominated vegetation

- PCT 3414: Ridgeline/rocky habitat: 44.52 ha within project area, 8,45 ha within development footprint
- PCT 3414: Lovegrass: 52.08 ha within project area, 20.12 ha within development footprint
- Improved/exotic pasture: 134.10 ha within project area, 130.27 ha within development footprint
- **Total exotic-dominated vegetation: 230.70 within project area, 158.84 within development footprint**

Total vegetation (native and exotic-dominated)

- **290.70 within project area, 198.32 within development footprint**

Detailed descriptions and mapping of the native vegetation communities within the project area can be found at Att D - Field summary.pdf, section 3.4, pp. 31-36.

Threatened ecological community

Field survey identified one EPBC Act listed-TEC within the project area: Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands (NTG-SEH) Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC).

Assessment of the native vegetation found that 7.87 ha of the grassland meets the criteria for inclusion within the TEC. Of this grassland, 3.72 ha meets that the criteria for High/Very High condition TEC, and 4.14 ha meets the criteria for Moderate to High condition (B) TEC.

Additional detail and mapping of NTG-SEH can be found at Sections 3.8 and 7.2 of the attached Att D - Field summary.pdf, section 3.8, pp. 41-50 and section 7.2, pp. 88-89.

A Significant Impact Criteria assessment for the NTG-SEH CEEC can be found at Appendix E - SIC assessments.pdf, pp. 1-4.

Hazelton Soil Landscapes

The project area is situated within four Hazelton soil landscapes which are summarised below and in Att D - Field summary.pdf, Table 2-1, pp. 18-19.

Maneroo

- Landscape: Gently undulating plain to undulating rises with flat summit surfaces on basalt. Local relief to <5-40m, altitude 750>1,100m, slopes 1-10% with long footslopes. Tussock grassland.
- Soils: Well-drained Chocolate Soils on crests, upper slopes and maximal slopes. Shallow, well-drained Chocolate Soils, shallow, imperfectly drains Brown Chernozems and imperfectly drained Black Chernozems on lower slopes
- Hazards and limitations: Shallow, rocky soils with low wet bearing strength and shrink-swell potential. Non-cohesive surfaces subject to wind erosion hazard.

Middle Flat

- Landscape: Gently undulating plain on Quaternary and Tertiary (Lake Bunyan) sediments. Local relief <25m, altitude 750-800m, slopes <5%. Grassland.
- Soils: Shallow (<40cm), moderately well-drained brown Duplex Soils on diatomite. Moderately deep to deep (>50cm), moderately well-drained Alluvial Soils and Massive Brown Earths on alluvium
- Hazards and limitations: Infertile soils subject to moderate sheet erosion hazard and moderate wind erosion hazard.

Bredbo

- Landscape: Undulating low hills on volcanics and sediments. Moderately long to long (200-750m), gently inclined (3-10%) slopes, footslopes and fans. Local relief 40m. Elevation 700-960m. Woodland to grassland.
- Soils: Very shallow (<25cm), well-drained Lithosols or well-drained Massive Brown Earths on crests and rocky upper slopes. Shallow (<40cm) well-drained Red Earths on slopes. Moderately deep 50-150cm) moderately well-drained Red Earths, imperfectly drained yellow Solodic Soils and Earth Sands on fans and lower slopes.
- Hazards and limitations: Infertile soils with low available water-holding capacity, locally shallow and stony, acid, sodic or saline, subject to severe gully and sheet erosion hazard and localised wind erosion.

Murrumbidgee variant b

- Landscape: Floodplains, recent alluvials and terraces of the Murrumbidgee and Numeralla Rivers. Slopes are mainly flat to very gently inclined (<3%). Vegetation almost completely altered. Dicontinuous, higher catchment floodplains.
- Soils: Very deep (>300cm), well-drained Red Podzolic Soils on terraces. Moderately deep to deep (>150cm) Alluvial Soils on fans. Deep (>200cm), well-drained Alluvial Soils on backplains, and deep (>200cm) well-drained Prairie Soils and Alluvial Soils on floodplains.
- Hazards and limitations: Subject to flood hazard, stream bank erosion hazard and wind erosion hazard. Soils often on stony, infertile, hardsetting or highly erodible.

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 listed Commonwealth heritage items or places within or adjacent to the project area.

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

Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council is the local land council representing the Aboriginal people inhabiting the areas within the project site. The project area is also located within the boundaries of the Ngarigo nation's territory. Some of the surrounding Aboriginal groups include the Walban and Djirngandj to the east of Cooma, and Djilamatang to the west (Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2.pdf, section 6.3.1, p. 50).

The Ngarigo nation territory is located within the mountainous region south of Canberra. Significant landscape features of the Ngarigo territory include the Bombala and Numeralla rivers, Lake Jindabyne and surrounding mountain ranges of Snowy Mountain Range to the west and Mount Wadbilliga to the east. The project area is located within the central southern part of the Ngarigo territory near Cooma.

A desktop search was undertaken to identify Aboriginal heritage sites in the project area for the Scoping Report for the project (Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2.pdf, section 6.3.1, pp. 50-53). Two Aboriginal heritage sites were identified within the project area boundary, though both sites are located outside the proposed site development footprint of the project. Both archaeological sites are located along the potential route of the northern access option (access from Rose Valley Road). Mapping showing the location of the two Aboriginal heritage sites is shown at Att A - Scoping Report Project Pt 2.pdf, Figure 6.3, p. 51.

Additional information on impact assessment for Indigenous heritage values and a description of further assessment to be undertaken can be found at Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2.pdf, section 6.3.1, pp. 50-53.

3.4 Hydrology

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

The Upper Murrumbidgee River Catchment, where the project is located, is home to numerous streams and creeks feeding into major local waterways like the Numeralla and Murrumbidgee rivers (Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2.pdf, section 6.3.1, pp. 50-53, pp. 68-69. Cooma Creek is the main perennial river running through the Cooma region. At its closest point, approximately 1.4 km north of the project area, Cooma Creek passes under the Monaro Highway and comes within 300 m of Rose Valley Road.

Middle Flat Creek is an ephemeral waterway located just outside the eastern border of the Middle Flat Creek comes within 20 m of the eastern site boundary in some places. The creek likely serves various purposes such as irrigation and supporting local ecosystems. Middle Flat Creek was observed to contain water throughout the field survey period; however, the habitat quality for fish appears to be poor (see Att D - Field summary.pdf, section 2.1.3 p. 14 and Figures 2-3 and 2-4 p.17).

Two first-order streams have been mapped within the NSW Hydrography dataset within the development footprint (see Attachment D - Field summary.pdf, Figure 2-1, p. 15; see also NSW Hydrography (State Government of NSW and Spatial Services (DCS) 2024 (linked)). However, during the field survey period from October 2023 to April 2024 there was no flow or bed and banks where watercourses are mapped despite above-average precipitation. Similarly, four first-order watercourses are mapped outside the development footprint in the northern portion of the project area; none of these exhibited flow or bed and banks. A second-order watercourse is mapped as crossing the project area at the potential southern access; this watercourse flowed intermittently over the survey period.

Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2.pdf, section 6.8, pp. 68-70 provides a preliminary indication of flood exposures and describes the detailed flood risk assessment to be undertaken during preparation of the EIS for the project.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no listed World Heritage items occur in the project area.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

No listed National Heritage items occur in the project area.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

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

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

No

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

No listed Ramsar Wetlands occur in the project area or will be affected by the Project,

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	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
No	No	Aprasia parapulchella	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo
No	No	Calotis glandulosa	Mauve Burr-daisy
No	No	Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
No	No	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
No	No	Delma impar	Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard
No	No	Dodonaea procumbens	Trailing Hop-bush
No	No	Eucalyptus pulverulenta	Silver-leaved Mountain Gum, Silver-leaved Gum
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Lepidium aschersonii	Spiny Peppercress
No	No	Lepidium hyssopifolium	Basalt Pepper-cress, Peppercress, Rubble Pepper-cress, Pepperweed

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor	Hoary Sunray, Grassland Paper-daisy
No	No	Litoria castanea	Yellow-spotted Tree Frog, Yellow-spotted Bell Frog
No	No	Maccullochella macquariensis	Trout Cod
No	No	Maccullochella peelii	Murray Cod
No	No	Macquaria australasica	Macquarie Perch
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
No	No	Polytelis swainsonii	Superb Parrot
No	No	Pomaderris pallida	Pale Pomaderris
No	No	Prasophyllum petilum	Tarengo Leek Orchid
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Rutidosis leiolepis	Monaro Golden Daisy
No	No	Rutidosis leptorhynchoides	Button Wrinklewort
No	No	Senecio macrocarpus	Large-fruit Fireweed, Large-fruit Groundsel
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Synemon plana	Golden Sun Moth
No	No	Thesium australe	Austral Toadflax, Toadflax
No	Yes	Tympanocryptis osbornei	Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon

Ecological communities

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

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

Yes

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

Threatened ecological community

The project will impact 39.47 ha of native vegetation, all of which is classified under the NSW BioNet Vegetation Classification as PCT 3414: Monaro Snowgrass-Kangaroo Grass Grassland. Of this native vegetation, 7.87 ha meets condition thresholds for inclusion in the EPBC-listed Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands (NTG-SEH) Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC). There are 3.72 ha of High to Very High condition NTG-SEH and 4.14 ha of Moderate to High condition NTG-SHE within the disturbance area.

Although installation of solar panels within the areas of NTG-SEH will undoubtedly have an impact on the TEC, however, it will not require total removal of all native vegetation. During construction and installation, vegetation will need to be removed for access to panel sites and for the footings of the solar panels. Following construction and installation of the solar panels, native grasses and forbs will continue to occur within the disturbance area, both in areas between the panels and areas shaded by the panels. It is understood that the NSW Government has prepared but not yet publicly released guidelines for the assessment of partial loss on native vegetation communities, including retained vegetation beneath utility scale solar arrays. If available, these guidelines will be utilised in the BDAR.

Detailed assessment of NTG-SEH against Significant Impact Criteria can be found in Appendix E - SIC assessments.pdf. The assessment concludes that the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on NTG-SHE because it is unlikely to substantially reduce the extent and quality of the TEC and is unlikely to have significant fragmentation, critical habitat, abiotic or invasive species impacts.

Threatened and migratory species

Two threatened fauna species under the EPBC Act were assessed for potential impact against significant impact criteria guidelines (DEC 2013) (Appendix E - SIC assessments.pdf). These species were derived from a list of over 42 EPBC Act listed species that could potentially occur. A likelihood of occurrence table was used to determine which species should receive further assessment. Any species with a moderate or higher likelihood of occurrence was assessed further (Appendix F - Fauna Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf and Appendix G - Flora Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf.), except for species that were surveyed for and not recorded.

The two terrestrial fauna species assessed included one recorded within the project area during surveys:

- Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon (*Tympanocryptis osbornei*).

The other terrestrial species. Diamond Firetail, (*Stagonopleura guttata*), was assessed against significant impact guidelines, despite not having been recorded during field survey, due to being assessed as having a moderate or higher likelihood of occurrence.

Detailed assessments for the listed threatened species can be found at Appendix E - SIC assessments.

The assessment for Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon concludes that the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species because the species was recorded outside the disturbance area and habitat for the species within the disturbance area is considered marginal. However, should the southern access corridor be required for the Project, and the existing farm tracks near the Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon record are upgraded, it is considered likely that the Project would reduce the area of occupancy of the Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon and would potentially have a significant impact on the species.

The assessment for the Diamond Firetail concludes that the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species because the species was not recorded over 32 days of field survey (albeit not targeted species-specific survey), the project area includes no roosting or breeding habitat, and to the extent that the species may infrequently visit the project area to forage, the surrounding area has comparable habitat that could make up for any impacts within the disturbance area.

More detailed assessments of all species assessed against significant impact criteria are in Appendix E - SIC assessments.pdf.

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

No

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

The Significant Impact Criteria assessment at Appendix E, pp. 1-4 to this referral application concludes that the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on NTG-SHE because it is unlikely to substantially reduce the extent and quality of the TEC and is unlikely to have significant fragmentation, critical habitat, abiotic or invasive species impacts.

The assessment for the Diamond Firetail at Appendix E, pp. 13-16 concludes that the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species because the species was not recorded over 32 days of field survey (albeit not targeted species-specific survey), the project area includes no roosting or breeding habitat, and to the extent that the species may infrequently visit the project area to forage, the surrounding area has comparable habitat that could make up for any impacts within the disturbance area.

The Significant Impact Criteria Assessment at Appendix E, pp. 5-12 concludes that the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon if impacts are limited to the disturbance area as currently defined, but potentially likely should the southern access corridor be required for the Project.

Although the Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon was recorded within the project area, the species was not recorded within the disturbance area. The species is considered unlikely to occur, or to occur infrequently, within the area of disturbance because the pasture within the disturbance area is heavily grazed and the habitat for the species is degraded. The Project is unlikely to have significant fragmentation, critical habitat, abiotic or invasive species impacts. With standard environmental mitigation measures in place, it is considered unlikely that impacts to potential habitat for the Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon will significantly impact this endangered species if impacts are limited to the disturbance area as currently defined.

However, should the southern access corridor be required for the Project, and the existing farm tracks near the Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon record are upgraded, it is considered potentially likely that the Project would interfere with the recovery of the species. In this case, the existing higher quality habitat would be impacted by clearing and construction required for access road improvements, and construction and operational traffic would pass through areas of known habitat, creating risk of vehicle strike and potentially isolating one area of habitat from another.

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

No

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

As per section 4.1.4.6, assessments of significance for all listed threatened ecological communities and threatened and migratory species concluded that the Project would not have a significant impact, unless the southern access corridor is required for the Project. Detailed assessments of significance are at Att E - SIC assessments.pdf.

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. *

Impacts to listed threatened species and ecological communities have been avoided and will be minimised through Project location and design.

Initial scoping for the Project included a much wider area with higher habitat values and potential for native vegetation. Ecolink Consulting provided a due diligence assessment and Striped Legless Lizard surveys over a larger area than is within the current development footprint (Att J - Ecolink report, Figure 1, p. 4). Ecolink did not record the Striped Legless Lizard, but did record a Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon. As a result, Ecolink recommended that habitat for the Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon be avoided if possible (Att J - Ecolink report, p. 2).

Following the Ecolink report, the Project was relocated and redesigned to occupy a much smaller footprint (Att D - Field summary, Figure 1-1, p. 5). The project area was decreased, and large areas of rocky ridgeline habitat, included the location of the initial recording of the Monaro Grassland Earless Dragon, were excluded from the project area.

Areas of clearing required for the solar farm and the BESS were refocused to concentrate on the most disturbed areas of the project area, the improved lowland pastures. NSW State Vegetation Type Mapping (SVTM) was used initially for the infrastructure design of the project. As can be seen in Att D - Field survey.pdf, Figure 3-1, p.23, initial site selection and boundaries of the development footprint, designed

using the SVTM, largely excluded areas mapped as containing native vegetation. The disturbance area was located in an area of improved pasture with relatively little native vegetation mapped. Areas of exotic vegetation were prioritised for impact, followed by non-TEC native vegetation.

Although full vegetation assessment subsequently identified native vegetation in some areas not mapped on the SVTM, it remains the case that the majority of the Project is located in areas of exotic, low biodiversity value pasture. Of the 198.31 ha of vegetation within the disturbance footprint, 158.84 ha, or 80%, is dominated by exotic species.

The indicative corridor for the transmission connection was located to disturb as little land as possible, extending from the BESS area to the nearest western project area boundary. Total clearing will not be required for the transmission connection and will be minimised to impact only footings for the transmission towers and ancillary facilities.

Access roads are to use one of the two existing public roads leading to the site, Rose Valley Road or Numeralla Road. Access roads within the project area will use existing farm tracks to the greatest extent feasible. Where access road upgrades will be required, impacts will be minimised as feasible.

All native and exotic vegetation and threatened species habitat outside the indicative development footprint for the solar panels and the BESS and the indicative transmission corridor is to be avoided, except for minor impacts where existing tracks will be upgraded to provide access. This area can be seen in Att D - Field summary, Figure 1-1, p. 5.

Where impacts cannot be avoided, relevant mitigation measures have been provided to ensure that any adverse indirect or compounding impacts do not occur for the listed threatened species and ecological communities. Mitigation measures for construction and operation can be found at Att D - Field survey.pdf, section 8, pp. 90-96. In addition, all direct impacts to native vegetation (including but not limited to threatened ecological communities) and all threatened species (including but not limited to EPBC-listed species) will be offset according to the requirements of the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS). These impacts will be calculated and included within the BDAR that will accompany the EIS for the Project.

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

Offsets for the project are being assessed as part of the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) under the BAM. Offset obligations will be met by the acquisition and retirement of the appropriate number and class of like-for-like biodiversity credits, as required under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS).

Although final offsets for the Project have not been determined, it is likely that offsets for PCT 3414: Monaro Snowgrass-Kangaroo Grass Grassland will be required for impacts to that vegetation community within the development footprint. All patches of native vegetation determined to meet listing thresholds for NTG-SEH are included within the community to be offset.

In addition to offsets for NTG-SEH, offsets will be required for the flora species *Swainsona sericea* (Silky Swainson’s Pea), which is listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act but is not listed under the EPBC Act.

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	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail

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

No

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

No migratory species were identified during field surveys, and no listed migratory species are likely to use or occur in the project area. For further details, see Appendix F - Fauna Likelihood of Occurrence.

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. *

Nuclear is not associated with this project.

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 are located in the project area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The Great Barrier Reef is not in the project area.

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

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

No

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

The Project is not a large coal mining development or for coal seam gas.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

No Commonwealth land occurs in the project area.

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. *

No Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas occur in the project area.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)

- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

The Project was designed to contribute to meeting Commonwealth, state and local renewable energy targets. It will support the strengthening of energy security in NSW and through the National Electricity Market by reducing forecast electricity generation shortfalls, providing reliability and reducing transmission congestion. It will enhance the economic development of the local government area and the region.

These benefits would not be available through alternative activities, such as the development of non-renewable electricity generation resources.

For more information on consideration of alternatives, see Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2.pdf, section 3.5, pp. 19-21.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Scoping Report Pt 1.pdf Part 1, Scoping Report: Cooma Solar and Battery Project	08/07/2024	No	High
#2.	Document				

		Att D - Field summary.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application	12/12/2024	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att D - Field summary_REDACTED.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application (with redaction)	12/12/2024	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2.pdf Part 2, Scoping Report: Cooma Solar and Battery Project	08/07/2024	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2_REDACTED.pdf Part 2, Scoping Report: Cooma Solar and Battery Project (with redaction)	08/07/2024	No	High
#3.	Document	Att D - Field summary.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application	12/12/2024	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Att D - Field summary_REDACTED.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application (with redaction)	12/12/2024	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B - ACEN Social and Communications Policy.pdf ACEN Australia's Social and Communications Policy	31/10/2023	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 B - ACEN Social and Communications Policy.pdf ACEN Australia's Social and Communications Policy	31/10/2023	No	High
#2.	Document	Att C - ACEN Environmental Policy.pdf ACEN Australia's Environmental Policy	31/10/2023	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att D - Field summary.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application	12/12/2024	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att D - Field summary_REDACTED.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application (with redaction)	12/12/2024	No	High

#3.	Document	Att H - Zoning for the project area.jpg Map showing land use zoning for the project area	08/12/2024	No	High
#4.	Link	NSW Hydrography https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/nsw-hyd..			High

3.1.3 Natural features, important or unique values that applies to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitive	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att D - Field summary.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application	12/12/2024	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att D - Field summary_REDACTED.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application (with redaction)	12/12/2024	No	High

3.1.4 Gradient relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitive	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Scoping Report Pt 1.pdf Part 1, Scoping Report: Cooma Solar and Battery Project	07/07/2024	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitive	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att D - Field summary.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application	12/12/2024	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att D - Field summary_REDACTED.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application (with redaction)	12/12/2024	No	High
#3.	Document	Att E - SIC assessments.pdf Significant Impact Criteria assessments for MNES	04/10/2024	No	High
#4.	Document	Att F - Fauna Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf Likelihood of occurrence assessments for threatened fauna	12/12/2024	No	High
#5.	Document	Att G - Flora Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf Likelihood of occurrence assessments for flora	12/12/2024	No	High
#6.	Document	Att I - EPBC PMST report.pdf EPBC Act PMST report	05/07/2024	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitive	Confidence
#1.	Document				

		Att D - Field summary.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application	12/12/2024	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att D - Field summary_REDACTED.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application (with redaction)	12/12/2024	No	High
#3.	Document	Att E - SIC assessments.pdf Significant Impact Criteria assessments for MNES	03/10/2024	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2.pdf Part 2, Scoping Report: Cooma Solar and Battery Project	07/07/2024	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2_REDACTED.pdf Part 2, Scoping Report: Cooma Solar and Battery Project (with redaction)	07/07/2024	No	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2.pdf Part 2, Scoping Report: Cooma Solar and Battery Project	07/07/2024	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2_REDACTED.pdf Part 2, Scoping Report: Cooma Solar and Battery Project (with redaction)	07/07/2024	No	High
#3.	Document	Att D - Field summary.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application	12/12/2024	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Att D - Field summary_REDACTED.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application (with redaction)	12/12/2024	No	High
#5.	Link	NSW Hydrography https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/nsw-hyd..			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 E - SIC assessments.pdf Significant Impact Criteria assessments for MNES	03/10/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att F - Fauna Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf Likelihood of occurrence assessments for threatened fauna	12/12/2024	No	High

#3.	Document	Att G - Flora Likelihood of Occurrence.pdf Likelihood of occurrence assessments for flora	12/12/2024	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att E - SIC assessments.pdf Significant Impact Criteria assessments for MNES	03/10/2024	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att E - SIC assessments.pdf Significant Impact Criteria assessments for MNES	03/10/2024	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 D - Field summary.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application	12/12/2024	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att D - Field summary_REDACTED.pdf Field survey and impact summary for EPBC referral application (with redaction)	12/12/2024	No	High
#3.	Document	Att J - Ecolink report.pdf Letter report describing Striped Legless Lizard Surveys	01/12/2020	Yes	High
#4.	Document	Att J - Ecolink report_REDACTED.pdf Letter report describing Striped Legless Lizard Surveys (with redaction)	01/12/2020	No	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2.pdf Part 2, Scoping Report: Cooma Solar and Battery Project	07/07/2024	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att A - Scoping Report Pt 2_REDACTED.pdf Part 2, Scoping Report: Cooma Solar and Battery Project (with redaction)	07/07/2024	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	76104485289
Organisation name	ARCADIS AUSTRALIA PACIFIC PTY LTD
Organisation address	16/580 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
Representative's name	Brendan Fletcher
Representative's job title	Senior Ecologist
Phone	0418988262
Email	brendan.fletcher@arcadis.com
Address	Level 16, 580 George Street

☑ 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, **Brendan Fletcher of ARCADIS AUSTRALIA PACIFIC PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	27616856672
Organisation name	ACEN AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 7004
Representative's name	Cédric Bergé
Representative's job title	Project Development Manager

Phone	0447 033 404
Email	cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au
Address	Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade Battery Point, Hobart Tasmania, Australia 7004

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

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

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☑ I, **Cédric Bergé of ACEN AUSTRALIA 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. *