Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project

Application Number: **03186** Commencement Date: **13/10/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (non-renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Transmission Line

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/06/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

30/08/2028

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Proposed action overview

Powerlink Queensland (Powerlink)*, a transmission entity under the *Electricity Act 1994* has been engaged by RWE Renewables Australia (RWE) to provide a connection for the Theodore Wind Farm project to the transmission network. The Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project (the proposed action) is in the Banana Shire Council local government area, Central Queensland, approximately 22 kilometres (km) east of the township of Theodore, 50 km south-west of Biloela and 150 km south-west of Gladstone.

The proposed action comprises the following components:

- A proposed 275 kilovolt (kV) substation, to be known as the Castle Creek Substation, located within the proposed Theodore Wind Farm. The substation footprint encompasses an area of 445 metre (m) x 270 m (12 hectares (ha)).
- Construction of a new double circuit 275kV transmission line extending approximately 55.4 km north of the Theodore Wind Farm to a new substation to be constructed at Mt Benn. The Mt Benn Substation is part of the Banana Range Wind Farm Connection Project (currently in the planning and approvals phase) and does not form part of Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project. The proposed transmission line will be positioned within a new 60 m wide easement.

Approvals for the proposed action are expected to be completed by Q2 2026. Subject to approvals, construction of the proposed action is proposed to commence in Q3 2026 and be completed in 2028. Typically, transmission lines are designed for a 50-year in-service life and substation equipment for a service life in excess of 40 years with refurbishment scheduled every 15 years. Powerlink will decide in the future on whether to decommission and remove all infrastructure or replace the existing infrastructure with new infrastructure.

*Powerlink Queensland is the registered business name of the Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (ABN: 82 078 849 233).

Proposed action justification

Powerlink needs to reinforce its transmission network in the Gladstone area over the next 10 years. This is important to ensure an ongoing reliable and secure electricity supply to the region, as the largest load centre outside of south-east Queensland.

The Gladstone area's role in the wider power system is changing significantly. The eventual retirement of the Gladstone Power Station and the potential for electrification of local industry, means more generation from other parts of the state is needed to power the local economy. Powerlink is currently planning for a critical program of transmission upgrades, to ensure the safety and reliability of the electricity network as the region prepares for changes in how and where electricity is generated and increasing demand on the network.

In addition to Powerlink's role in developing and operating the high voltage network and associated infrastructure, Powerlink also provides electricity transmission services. This can include connecting large industry and also electricity generation projects (such as wind, solar farms, battery storage and others) to the transmission network.

As the Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP) in Queensland, Powerlink operates under the National Electricity Rules (NER) which define its obligation to connect generation projects to Queensland's electricity network. This means that Powerlink is obligated to connect any proponent (such as a generator) to the transmission network, provided they meet the relevant technical and regulatory requirements.

The Theodore Wind Farm project has now met these requirements, and RWE has engaged Powerlink to connect the Theodore Wind Farm to the transmission network.

The Theodore Wind Farm is expected to generate approximately 1,100-megawatts (MW) of electricity which will have the capacity to supply electricity to around 500,000 Queensland homes. By connecting the Theodore Wind Farm to the electricity network, the proposed action will result in the following environmental and community benefits:

- the generation of clean energy from wind to create a strong generation profile complementing solar
- reliability of electricity generation by inclusion of storage infrastructure to the fringe of the grid
- support agricultural land use through collaborative design iterations with landholders to minimise impacts on existing practices
- employment opportunities (both direct and indirect) - the Project will require a workforce of up to 145 jobs during construction at peak periods and support employment and economic growth during operations
- local materials and skills utilised where practical
- potential for training and business opportunities in the region.

Proposed action activities

Activities in undertaking the proposed action will include:

- Transmission line construction activities:
    - geotechnical investigations
    - site survey and set out
    - flora and fauna surveys
    - mobilisation, including establishment of accommodation camps, laydowns and offices
    - installation of gates, grids, clean down bays and access tracks
    - vegetation clearing
    - tower site benching
    - foundation installation
    - structure assembly and erection
    - conductor and earth wire stringing
    - road crossings
    - watercourse crossings
    - laydown areas
    - site rehabilitation
    - demobilisation.
- Castle Creek Substation construction activities:
    - a detailed geotechnical survey to allow detailed structure and substation design
    - vegetation clearing
    - earthworks and levelling for the substation platform and access road
    - site fencing
    - installation of a site drainage system
    - installation of a substation cable trench and conduit system
    - installation of the substation earthing mat
    - installation of the substation structure and building foundations
    - buildings, structure and electrical equipment erection
    - conductor and earth wire stringing
    - site rehabilitation.
- Temporary infrastructure requirements for the proposed action will include:
    - site office and laydown area (300 m by 250 m) (including concrete batch plant)
    - staging laydown for each structure (included within the clearance footprint for each structure)
    - conductor brake and winch sites (60 m by 50 m).

Additional details describing the proposed action are provided in **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Section 2, Pages 14-33.**

Direct and indirect impacts

The Study area for the terrestrial ecological assessment comprises the 1 km wide and approximately 56.8 km long final corridor for the proposed transmission line as presented in the Final Corridor Selection Report (CSR) (Powerlink 2025). The Study area covers approximately 5,866.8 ha of which 5,232 ha (89.2 percent) has been previously cleared for agriculture and grazing, leaving a landscape dominated by pasture grassland with scatter native trees and regrowth vegetation present as small, isolated pockets of vegetation.

Nested within the Study area, the Project area for the proposed action is approximately 55.4 km in length within a 60 m wide easement and covers a total area of 401.7 ha* (including the substation, off easement access tracks and ancillary infrastructure locations) (*Note the slight difference between this value and the value generated in Section 2.1 is likely due to a projection issue). Of this Project area approximately 35.4 ha is associated with field verified regulated vegetation (remnant and high-value regrowth regional ecosystems). Design of the proposed action and development of the Disturbance footprint (extent of the Project area where ground disturbance or vegetation clearing will occur) has considered measures to minimise impacts to regulated vegetation including scalloping or spanning over sensitive vegetation. The result of these measures has been a reduced impact on regulated vegetation. The Disturbance footprint covers a total area of 167.4 ha of which 7.7 ha consists of field verified regulated vegetation. The disturbance footprint has reduced the clearing of regulated vegetation by 27.7 ha, achieved through ongoing practices to ensure impacts are either avoided or minimised.

This referral addresses the potential for direct and indirect impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) resulting from Powerlink undertaking the proposed action. Activities associated with the proposed action resulting in direct impacts include vegetation clearing, earthworks and vehicle/machinery interactions. Indirect impacts from the proposed action include habitat fragmentation and edge effects, soil erosion and sedimentation of waterways, dust inhibiting plant pollination, spread of invasive species and pests, and increased noise activity.

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

Yes

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

No

1.2.4 Related referral(s)

EPBC Number	Project Title
2024/09842	Theodore Wind Farm

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

The double circuit 275kV transmission line and Castle Creek Substation, which is the subject of this referral, is one of two separate proposed actions required for the development and delivery of the Theodore Wind Farm. The Theodore Wind Farm has been referred separately under the EPBC Act (2024/09842).

Theodore Energy Development Pty Ltd (TED) proposes to develop, construct and operate the Theodore Wind Farm. TED is a wholly owned subsidiary of RWE Renewables Europe & Australia GmbH (RWE).

The proposed Theodore Wind Farm consists of up to 170 turbines, a 240-megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) facility, ancillary buildings and infrastructure. It is located approximately 22 km east of the township of Theodore and approximately 50 km south of Biloela in the Banana Shire Council local government area, Central Queensland.

On 9 July 2024, it was determined by the Environment Assessment Queensland Branch of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) that the Theodore Wind Farm project was a controlled action requiring assessment and approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) before it can proceed. This assessment and approval will be made separately by RWE (i.e. the works do not form part of this action).

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

Commonwealth legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) – MNES are protected under the EPBC Act. The proposed action has been referred under this Act as a precautionary measure given the presence of MNES.

Queensland legislation

State land use approval for the proposed action is being sought via the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) process under chapter 2, part 5 of the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act). Through the MID assessment process, the proposed action will be assessed against the applicable State interests and constraints ordinarily made assessable under the Planning Act. For infrastructure designations under the Planning Act (section 36) the Minister must be satisfied that adequate environmental assessment, including adequate consultation has been carried out in relation to the proposed action. A Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Proposal Report has been developed to address the requirements prescribed under the Planning Regulation 2017 to satisfy the requirements of the Planning Minister.

Other State legislation relevant to the proposed action includes:

- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (ACH Act) – Under the ACH Act, Powerlink is required to exercise a duty of care to take all reasonable and practical measures to avoid harming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.
- *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Biosecurity Act) – The proposed action will be required to meet the General Biosecurity Obligations under the Biosecurity Act, managed through the general requirements for biosecurity matters as outlined in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP): Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project (Project EMP) (**Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Appendix F**) and the development and implementation of Biosecurity Plan as a sub-plan to the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- *Electricity Act 1994* (Electricity Act) – As a transmission entity, Powerlink is required to promote a safe, efficient and reliable supply and use of electricity while also properly considering the environmental effects of its activities under the transmission authority.
- *Electricity Safety Act 2002* (Electricity Safety Act) – As a transmission entity Powerlink must seek to prevent death, injury and destruction that can be caused by electricity.
- *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024* (Energy Act) – The proposed action is declared as an eligible Priority Transmission Investments (PTI) under the Energy Act.
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) and Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 (EP Regulation) – Powerlink will comply with the general environmental duty in the EP Act, particularly when undertaking activities with the potential to cause environmental harm.
- *Fisheries Act 1994* (Fisheries Act) – Potential fisheries habitat (e.g., waterways) protected under the Fisheries Act are present within the area. Powerlink will seek to minimise impacts to waterways and carry out works in accordance with the Accepted Development requirements for operational work that is constructing or raising waterway barrier works. Where not possible appropriate development permits will be sought.
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) – The NC Act provides for the creation and management of protected areas, the protection of native wildlife and regulates the clearing of native plants. The proposed action will require Species Management Programs (low-risk and high-risk) to protect and manage animal breeding places.
- *Stock Route Management Act 2002* - The Act provides a framework for management of Queensland's stock routes. The proposed action intersects stock routes and will seek to minimise impacts to the operation of existing stock routes.
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (QH Act) – The QH Act provides for the conservation of Queensland’s cultural heritage for the benefit of the community and future generations. Should the proposed action unearth an archaeological artefact that is an important source of information about

an aspect of Queensland history, it must be reported to the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI).

- *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* (TI Act) – The TI Act provides a regime that allows for and encourages effective integrated planning and efficient management of a system of transport infrastructure.
- *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VM Act) – The VM Act regulates and manages the process and impacts of native vegetation clearing. The proposed action will require the removal of regulated vegetation under the VM Act. Powerlink is afforded exemptions under the VM Act given the proposed action is for electricity infrastructure associated with a MID.
- *Water Act 2000* (Water Act) – This Act provides a framework to deliver sustainable water planning, allocation, management and supply processes to provide for the improved security of water resources in Queensland. Where required, Powerlink will obtain the relevant water licenses and permits required to take or interfere with water.

Also relevant is the State Planning Policy (SPP) – The SPP outlines State interests that serves as the overarching policy for regional and local planning schemes. The MID assessment process will consider the SPP against the proposed action.

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. *

Community Engagement Strategy:

Powerlink is committed to effective and genuine engagement practices with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the wider community and other stakeholders.

Powerlink's activities are guided by their Stakeholder Engagement Framework which is underpinned by the key principles of integrity, openness, responsiveness, accountability and inclusiveness. Powerlink's Community Engagement Strategy also underpins our engagement planning approach and commitments to ensure we remain focused on undertaking respectful and transparent engagement across all stages of our infrastructure lifecycle. These framework documents are available online.

The aim of Powerlink's engagement for the Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project is to:

- provide timely, relevant and meaningful information about the proposed action, reflective of the scale and complexity of the project activities
- ensure landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the wider community and other stakeholders are aware of key project activities and how they can provide input within the scope of consultation processes
- utilise a range of engagement activities to facilitate two-way information sharing with identified target stakeholder groups.

Stakeholders for the proposed action:

Identified stakeholders for the Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project are:

- Federal and State elected representatives
- Banana Shire Council
- Directly affected landholders
- Renewable energy developers
- Adjacent landholders
- Traditional Owner Groups – Gaangalu Nation People (GNP), Wulli Wulli People (WWP) and Wulli Wulli People #3 (WWP#3)
- Community groups
- Local business, industry groups and government
- Volunteering and school-based communities
- Local emergency services
- Environmental groups
- General public.

Engagement activities to date:

Engagement activities undertaken for the proposed action to date have included:

- October 2024: Project introduction with key stakeholders and landholders. This involved:
    - Targeted consultation to introduce the Project and gain early understanding of key issues and interests.
    - Advise landholders of the proposed recommended corridor.
- 28 October 2024: Release of Draft Corridor Selection Report (CSR). Powerlink released the Draft CSR, identifying an appropriate route for the transmission line, for public comment. This involved:
    - Consultation with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders, to support the release of the Draft CSR.
    - Project web page established on Powerlink website.
- February 2025: Release of the Final CSR. This involved:
    - Communication with Project stakeholders, to generate awareness of the Final CSR, which confirms the final corridor to be progressed to planning and environmental approvals.

    - The Final CSR includes a summary of feedback received during Draft CSR consultation, and Powerlink's response. This is to demonstrate transparency and close the feedback loop before progressing to the next phase.
- Late 2024 - current: Consultation with landholders and other stakeholders to inform the planning and approvals process. This involved:
    - Targeted consultation with landholders along the final corridor and other key stakeholders (including Traditional Owners).
    - Engagement with directly impacted landholders about:
        - Land Access Protocol and Project Participation and Access Allowance (PPAA), and facilitating access for field studies
        - understanding their concerns and priorities
        - understanding land use in-detail, including any property-specific or commercial land activities that may be impacted or will co-exist with the Project
        - infrastructure placement, including transmission towers and supporting infrastructure such as access tracks.
- 5 August - September 2025: Consultation with landholders and other stakeholders to inform announcement of the Castle Creek Substation. This involved:
    - Targeted communication with directly impacted and adjacent landholders to announce the substation at the Theodore Wind Farm, referred to as the Castle Creek Substation.
    - A Project newsletter was distributed to landholders and other key stakeholders (including Traditional Owner groups) to announce the Castle Creek Substation and provide information regarding the upcoming MID lodgement and EPBC referral.

Traditional Owner consultation:

Powerlink has dedicated team members for engaging with Traditional Owner groups about legislative cultural heritage requirements, as well as engagement on Project milestones and other partnering opportunities. Engagement with Traditional Owner groups has been ongoing since September 2024 through numerous meetings and emails.

Project engagement to-date with Traditional Owner groups has included:

- From September 2024: Commenced high level Project introduction with Traditional Owner Groups during Renewable Energy Zone community information sessions run by the Queensland Government.
- October 2024: Continued engagement with Traditional Owner Groups along the Project corridor, coinciding with public introduction of the Project.
- Late 2024-current: Ongoing, regular engagement with Gangula Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee (GCHCC), representing the Gaangalu Nation People, and Wulli Wulli National Aboriginal Corporation (WWNAC) representing the Wulli Wulli People, through Powerlink's Indigenous Partnerships team to:
    - scope, schedule and undertake cultural heritage surveying works
    - discuss Project design as well as cultural heritage assessment and management strategies over the Project area.
    - GCHCC (Gaangalu Nation People):
        - November 2024: Meeting with Gaangalu Nation People representatives to provide a Project update, discuss the Renewable Energy Zone and provide an update on other projects in the area.
        - December 2024: Meeting with GCHCC representatives about the Project Draft CSR timeframes and milestones.
        - February 2025: A second meeting with the GCHCC representatives to receive feedback on the Draft CSR and discuss the upcoming release of the Final CSR, as well as discuss the Renewable Energy Zone and provide updates on other projects in the area.

        - September 2025: Meeting with GCHCC representatives to discuss the commencement of cultural heritage assessment of the portion of the Project area that lies within their traditional Country, under the existing Powerlink-GNP ‘Whole-of-Claim’ Cultural Heritage Management Agreement (CHMA).
    - WWNAC (Wulli Wulli People):
        - November 2024: Meeting with WWNAC representatives about the Project Draft CSR, timeframes and milestones.
        - November 2024: Feedback on the Project Draft CSR was received by the WWNAC representatives.
        - February 2025: An email was sent to WWNAC regarding the release of the Final CSR.
        - March 2025 to present: Powerlink and WWNAC are drafting a CHMA over the portion of the Project area that lies within their traditional Country.
    - Wulli Wulli People #3:
        - August 2025: Meeting with Wulli Wulli People #3 representatives to present and discuss the proposed action, including Draft CSR and Final CSR as well as timeframes and milestones. Wulli Wulli People #3 were satisfied with the information provided and provided no further feedback on the proposed action.
        - August 2025 to present: Powerlink and Wulli Wulli People #3 are drafting a CHMA over the portion of the Project area that lies within their traditional Country.

Ongoing engagement with landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and other stakeholders remains a key focus during all phases of Powerlink projects. This ensures Powerlink has the opportunity to strengthen and leverage relationships with key groups throughout the project lifecycle.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	82078849233
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Organisation address	4014 QLD

Referring party details

Name	Samantha Pintara
Job title	Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone	0473 501 432
Email	samantha.pintara@powerlink.com.au
Address	33 HAROLD STREET VIRGINIA QLD 4014

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	82078849233
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Organisation address	4014 QLD

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Samantha Pintara
Job title	Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone	0473 501 432
Email	samantha.pintara@powerlink.com.au
Address	33 HAROLD STREET VIRGINIA QLD 4014

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. *

Powerlink is a Queensland Government Owned Corporation that owns, operates and maintains the Queensland high voltage transmission network.

Powerlink has a formidable record of responsible environmental management. Powerlink is committed to the protection of the environment as it seeks to expand and upgrade its network to ensure reliable electricity supply and to progress renewable energy development.

Powerlink has not and is not currently subject to any Commonwealth, State or local proceedings with respect to environmental impacts.

Powerlink has previously referred actions to the Department, see list below (note: this is not an exhaustive list):

- 2024/10044: Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project
- 2021/9060: Powerlink Queensland Genex Kidston Connection Project.
- 2019/8416: CopperString Transmission line Project, Nth Qld.
- 2011/5801: Paynes Road, Ebenezer - Construction of a Linesman Training Facility.
- 2010/5615: Springdale to Blackwall Transmission Line Project.
- 2010/5346: 275/132kVTransmission Line Replacement Project.
- 2009/5229: Construction of Calliope River 275kV and 132kV Bulk Supply Substation.
- 2009/4840: 275 kV Double-Circuit Transmission Line - Woolooga Substation and New Substation. 2008/4479: Larapinta to Algester Transmission Line and Larapinta Substation.
- 2008/4390: 275kV Transmission Line from Ross Substation to Strathmore Substation.
- 2007/3230: Spring Gully to Braemar High Voltage Transmission Line Development.

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

Powerlink's environmental management framework addresses all phases of asset lifecycle.

Powerlink activities must be undertaken in accordance with all relevant Commonwealth, State and local government legislation. Any commitments and requirements identified within a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Assessment Report, referral under the EPBC Act, or any other approval process and resultant conditions, must be followed and undertaken. All approval commitments and requirements must be documented within Powerlink's Centralised Document Management System for Asset Specific (Functional Location) Environmental Information for referencing purposes, along with any relevant geospatial data recording.

Powerlink's Environmental Management Process involves the following steps:

- Step 1 - Acquisition of Approvals: Powerlink's Environmental Management Plan (EMP): Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project (**Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Appendix F**) is included as a supporting document for acquisitions of Commonwealth and State approvals. The environmental controls contained within this EMP specify Powerlink's minimum requirements for the management of environmental aspects relevant to activities undertaken by Powerlink and it's Contractors.
- Step 2 - Contract Document Development: Powerlink's Environment and Sustainability Specification is issued as part of Contract engagement documentation. The Specification defines Powerlink's environmental management requirements relating to Work Under Contract (WUC) for a project. An Environmental Annexure is also developed and issued as part of Contractor engagement. The Environmental Annexure details Project-specific environmental management requirements related to WUC. Environmental Work Plans (EWPs) provide a geospatial representation of key land and water- based data sets which are of relevance to Powerlink's assets. EWPs are used by Powerlink staff, Contractors, relevant sub-Contractors and relevant management service providers (MSPs) for the identification of key environmental features and/or constraints which have been highlighted to enable works to be undertaken on, or in association with, a Powerlink asset.
- Step 3 - Project Delivery: The Contractor is required to develop, and implement through Project delivery, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP must, at a minimum, meet the requirements as outlined within the Environment and Sustainability Specification and Environmental Annexure and all relevant legislative requirements. Roles and responsibilities must be nominated in the Contractor's CEMP including timing/frequency for undertaking environmental management activities where applicable.
- Step 4 - Operation and Maintenance: Activities undertaken by Powerlink and Contractors during the operation and maintenance phase are managed in accordance with Powerlink's Environmental Management System documentation, including the EMP. EWPs are also used by Powerlink staff, Contractors, relevant sub-Contractors, and relevant MSPs for the identification of key environmental features and/or constraints which have been highlighted to enable works to be undertaken on, or in association with, a Powerlink asset.
- Step 5 - Decommissioning: Activities undertaken by Powerlink and Contractors during the decommissioning phase are managed in accordance with Steps 2 and 3 above. As the operational life of a transmission line and substation is typically 50 years, specific measures relating to decommissioning (removal and replacement of an asset) have not been included in the EMP. Environmental regulations, understanding of environmental impacts and community expectations will have changed over this length of time and will need to be considered as part of the environmental assessment process current at the time of decommissioning. Any agreements, requirements or conditions relating to an asset removal or replacement (e.g. conditions of a development approval) will be retained within the relevant Objective site folder, to ensure that such measures are not overlooked at the end of the asset's life.

Environmental audits, against the EMP or other requirements (e.g. Project Environmental Annexure requirements, permits, approval conditions), may be conducted by a Powerlink Environmental Representative at any given time throughout the Project. The frequency of environmental inspections is dependent on the environmental risk determined for the work.

Independent audits may be required as a condition of Project approvals or at the request of the Regulator. The frequency of external auditions will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Project approval conditions, or as directed by the Regulator.

The identification of non-conformance may be a result of an environmental incident, inspections/audits/monitoring against the EMP, or other requirements (e.g. Project Environmental Annexure requirements, permits, approval conditions).

Powerlink's Corporate Health, Safety and Environment Management System (HSEMS) includes processes and procedures for responding to environmental incidents or non-conformances, including notification requirements and implementation of corrective actions.

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? *

No

1.3.3.2 Is Proposed designated proponent an organisation or business? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	82078849233
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Organisation address	4014 QLD

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Ariane Ponting
Job title	Manager Environment
Phone	0400 707 475
Email	ariane.ponting@powerlink.com.au
Address	33 Harold Street Virginia 4014 QLD

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	82078849233
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Organisation address	4014 QLD
Representative's name	Samantha Pintara
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone	0473 501 432
Email	samantha.pintara@powerlink.com.au
Address	33 HAROLD STREET VIRGINIA QLD 4014

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.

ABN/ACN	82078849233
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Organisation address	4014 QLD
Representative's name	Ariane Ponting
Representative's job title	Manager Environment
Phone	0400 707 475
Email	ariane.ponting@powerlink.com.au

Address 33 Harold Street Virginia 4014 QLD

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? *

Yes

1.4.10 Enter purchase order number *

2125382

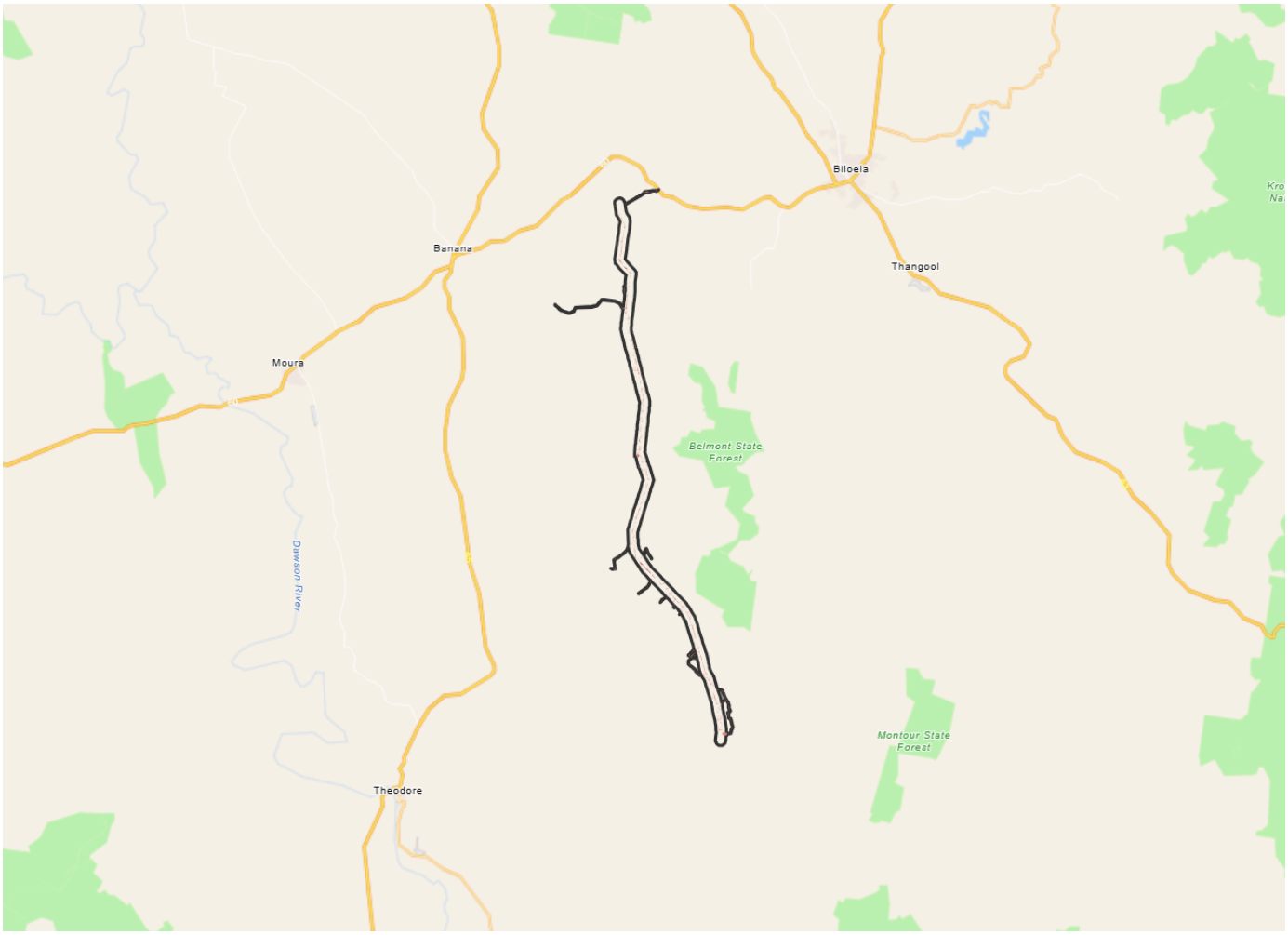
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 5870.69 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 167.69 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Lot 47SP232217, 14678 Dawson highway, Banana QLD.

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

Queensland

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

No

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

The proposed action is located over 18 freehold land parcels, 1 lands lease and 8 road parcels as follows from south to north:

- Lot 18 DW550 (freehold)
- Lot 8 DW2 (freehold)
- Unnamed Road parcel (road reserve)
- Lot 1 RP617748 (freehold)
- Lot 2 RP617749 (freehold)
- Lot 4 SP131475 (freehold)
- Coates Road, road parcel (road reserve)
- Shawlands Road, road parcel (road reserve)
- Lot 3 SP131475 (freehold)
- Sewells Walloon Road, road parcel (road reserve)
- Lot 11 SP322234 (freehold)
- Lot 2 SP131475 (freehold)
- Lot 20 DW286 (freehold)
- L Anderson Road, road parcel (road reserve)
- Lot 6 DW447 (freehold)
- Lot 16 DW284 (freehold)
- Unnamed road parcel (road reserve)
- Lot 12 FN294 (freehold)
- Lot 11 FN293 (freehold)
- Lot 1 RL3869 (lands lease)
- Lot 12 FN321 (freehold)
- Coupes Road, road parcel (road reserve)
- Lot 9 FN319 (freehold)
- Lot 10 FN802236 (freehold)
- Lot 47 SP232217 (freehold)
- Lot 43 PM375 (freehold)
- Dawson Highway, road parcel (road reserve).

All land parcels traversed by the proposed action are freehold tenure, apart from:

- Lot 1 RL3869, which is Lands Lease and subject to a Road Licence
- Lot 12 FN294, in the vicinity of Banana Creek, which is freehold but also profit à prendre tenure belonging to Banana Range Wind Farm
- Lot 12 FN321, which is freehold but also lands lease tenure
- Lot 8 DW2 south of Castle Creek, which is freehold but also subject to a Grazing Homestead Perpetual Lease.

Freehold land parcels vary in size throughout the locality with larger rural land holdings characterising much of the area adjacent to the Banana Range. These larger land holdings diminish to the west towards the Leichhardt Highway and north-west towards Banana.
The transmission line intersects an existing easement which is registered to Powerlink for a 132 kV transmission line between Moura and Biloela.
A search of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage (ATSICH) Database and Register identified the following cultural heritage parties for the proposed action:

- Gaangalu Nation People
- Wulli Wulli People
- Wulli Wulli People #3.

There are three native title claims in proximity to the proposed action:

- Wulli Wulli People #3 - QC2017/011 is active/accepted for registration

- Wulli Wulli People - QCD2015/009 is in effect-finalised (registered 29 January 2016)
- Gaangalu Nation People - QCD2024/001, part of the claim has not been accepted for registration (determined 30 April 2024). Balance of claim area is yet to be determined.

There are no current mining leases, mining lease applications, key resource areas or petroleum or gas pipelines within the Project area for the proposed action. However, the proposed action intersects granted exploration permits for coal and, minerals other than coal under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

Location

The Project area for the proposed action covers an area of approximately 401.7 ha and is where the permanent and temporary infrastructure required for the proposed action will be sited. It includes:

- the 60 m wide transmission easement between the proposed Castle Creek Substation and the proposed Mt Benn Substation (55.4 km long by 60 m wide)
- the Castle Creek Substation site, which is approximately 12 ha (445 m x 270 m)
- off-easement ancillary infrastructure (including access tracks, laydown area, brake and winch sites).

The Project area is located within the Banana Shire Council Local Government Area. The closest population centres to the proposed action are Banana (22 km west of the proposed Mt Benn Substation), Biloela (approximately 23 km east of proposed Mt Benn Substation) and Theodore (approximately 31.5 km west of the proposed Castle Creek Substation).

Zoning

Under the Banana Shire Council Planning Scheme 2021, the broader area is identified within the Rural Zone, the intent of which is to preserve land for agricultural purposes and protect the rural character and amenity of the region. It also recognises the need to provide opportunities for compatible non-rural uses and for areas to be managed for their contribution to the economy, landscape character and ecological values.

There are no changes proposed to the existing zoning of the Project area to facilitate the proposed action. As further discussed in section 1.2.6 of this referral, Powerlink will utilise the MID pathway under the *Planning Act 2016* (Qld) to obtain land use approval for the proposed action.

The current land use is transitioning from agricultural purposes to supporting renewable energy developments. The proposed action is located within the proposed Callide Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), one of 12 potential REZ's identified by the Queensland Government in July 2023, aimed at achieving renewable energy targets.

Access

The Project area for the proposed action will be accessed from existing State-controlled roads including the Dawson Highway and Leichhardt Highway and local roads.

The proposed action will leverage on existing road crossings and access tracks on host-landowner properties. Upgrading of some access tracks and creation of new access tracks as part of the proposed action will be required along some sections of the proposed transmission line. Powerlink is working closely with Banana Shire Council to identify any external road dedications or works required to support the construction process.

Current condition

The Project area for the proposed action is primarily located across land classified as Class C agricultural land under the agricultural land classification scheme, which is defined as land suitable for stock grazing. The northern section of the Project (Lot 11 FN293) traverses Class A agricultural land defined as land highly suitable for cropping. This area is a portion of the larger area of mapped strategic cropping land located
west of the Project area and is also identified as an important agricultural area by the Queensland Agricultural Land Audit. The Banana Range and (Belmont State Forest) lie to the east of the proposed action. The Project area for the proposed action also intersects existing linear infrastructure (distribution
lines and local roads) and an easement for a 132kV Powerlink transmission line.

Most of the Study area for the proposed action has been cleared for agriculture and grazing leaving a landscape dominated by exotic and native grasslands, with occasional Acacia and Eucalyptus regrowth and small, isolated pockets of remnant revegetation.

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

Existing land uses

The region surrounding the proposed action is characterised by rural agricultural holdings, small towns, native vegetation, and the Belmont State Forest. The current landscape surrounding the proposed action comprises:

- agricultural land, predominately grazing operations
- discrete areas of cropping land
- native vegetation
- watercourses
- scattered residential dwellings/out-buildings
- minor roads that connect smaller townships and residential areas to regional centres major highways that are popular tourist routes
- high voltage Ergon distribution lines and 132kV Powerlink transmission line
- rail corridors
- Belmont State Forest to the east
- Banana Range to the east.

Existing land uses within the Project area may continue during the operation and decommissioning phases of the proposed action.

Proposed land uses

The proposed transmission line and substation are in an area, that on the whole, currently has no similar structures or infrastructure and will likely impact the current rural character and amenity of the landscape. However, the landscape is currently undergoing a transition to support renewable energy development. As part of the proposed Callide REZ, the area is expected to accommodate several renewable energy projects, including the development of solar and wind farms. Three wind farms – the Theodore Wind Farm, Banana Range Wind Farm and Dawson Wind Farm are proposed for the area. Siting of the proposed action as maximised co-location opportunities with these proposed developments to minimise private landholder impacts. While both the Theodore Wind Farm and Banana Range Wind Farm have received state approval subject to conditions, an application for a minor change to the Banana Range Wind Farm has been lodged with the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA). All three projects are currently seeking approval under the EPBC Act.

Not only does the proposed action support the Theodore Wind Farm but it will not be incompatible for the proposed land uses for the region.

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

Protected areas

The proposed action does not impact any protected areas or outstanding natural features. The closest protected area to the proposed action is the Oxtrack Nature Refuge, approximately 25 km south-west of the proposed Castle Creek Substation. However, the proposed action traverses the foothills of the Banana Range within which the Belmont State Forest is located.

Remnant vegetation

Ten remnant field verified regional ecosystems are represented across the Study area, four of which also occurred as younger high value regrowth ecosystems. Detailed descriptions of each vegetation community or regional ecosystem are presented in **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Section 6.1, Pages 73 - 75**. The distribution of field-verified regional ecosystems across the Study area is presented in **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Figure 6.1, Pages 76 - 86**. None of the field-verified regional ecosystems are present on the proposed Cattle Creek Substation site.

Key notes on the dominant field verified vegetation communities within the Study area include:

- Most of the Study area has been cleared for agriculture and grazing leaving a landscape dominated by exotic and native grasslands, with occasional Acacia and Eucalyptus regrowth and small, isolated pockets of remnant revegetation.
- Within the regrowth and remnant vegetation communities, woodlands dominated by Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) and Silver-leaved Ironbark (*E. melanophloia*) (RE 11.12.1 and RE 11.12.2), were common on the hillslopes.
- River Red Gum (*E. camaldulensis*) and Black Tea-tree (*Melaleuca bracteata*) woodlands wereassociated with the alluvial terraces and ephemeral watercourses.
- Small, isolated patches of Brigalow open forest (*Acacia harpophylla*) and Semi-evergreen vine thicket were also scattered throughout the Study area.

Aquatic values

The proposed action is largely located within the Lower Dawson River Catchment in the southern portion of the Fitzroy Basin while the northern portion of the proposed action is located within the Callide Creek Catchment. The overall condition of the Callide Creek Catchment health was found to be good (Grade B - most water quality and biological health indicators meet desired levels) and the Lower Dawson River Catchment was found to be fair (Grade C - there is a mix of good and poor levels of water quality and biological health indicators) (Fitzroy Partnership 2024).

The proposed action crosses approximately 46 watercourses, 4 of which are third order (or higher) streams. Off-easement access tracks cross an additional 7 watercourses. The major watercourses (third order or higher) crossed by the proposed action include Castle Creek, Lonesome Creek, Banana Creek and several unnamed watercourses.

Most of the watercourses located within the Project area are intermittent, typically flowing during the wet season between November and April and return to base flow or, in most cases, stop flowing completely over winter. Watercourses can support an array of aquatic fauna and habitat suitable for semi-aquatic species, bird species and some mammals. Various waterways are mapped as being waterways for waterway barrier works, which include the following watercourses:

- Moderate (amber): Sawpit Creek, Ten Mile Creek, Camp Oven Creek, Nine Mile Creek
- High (red): Banana Creek, Lonesome Creek
- Major (purple): Castle Creek.

Numerous wetland areas are mapped within the Project area, mostly associated with Castle Creek, Lonesome Creek, Sawpit Creek, Tarramba Creek and Banana Creek. Types of wetlands include natural palustrine and riverine wetlands.

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 for the proposed action varies in elevation from approximately 230 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) on the alluvial plains to approximately 450 m AHD on the volcanic ridgetops (Queensland Government 2025). The landforms are predominantly flat to undulating, with some steeper slopes rising to the east of the Project area associated with the Banana Range. Areas of undulating topography contain waterways which are generally bordered by areas of remnant and regrowth vegetation.

The proposed Castle Creek Substation at the Theodore Wind Farm is at an elevation of approximately 415 mAHD. The transmission line from this substation travels north/northwest, decreasing to an elevation of 230 mAHD as it navigates through the foothills of Banana Range. It then crosses over the Banana Range, to the east of Mt Benn, at an elevation of approximately 450 mAHD. The elevation declines on the eastern side of the Banana Range to approximately 300 mAHD, where the transmission line connects into the proposed Mt Benn Substation (Queensland Government 2025a).

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.

Desktop and field assessments

To inform the assessment of the proposed action, comprehensive desktop analysis and field surveys have been undertaken. The desktop assessment included a review of literature, and searches of publicly available datasets and online mapping to broadly characterise and identify the MNES that may occur within the Study area. Field surveys were conducted across the Study area to field verify findings of the desktop assessment and confirm the presence / absence of MNES, and to identify those at risk of potential Project- related impacts. Field surveys were completed between 3 February and 29 May 2025, across three field events. These surveys were undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidelines and purposefully timed to align with the seasonal occurrence and peak activity period of threatened and migratory species potentially occurring within the Study area and surrounds.

Further details on the desktop and field assessments can be found in **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Section 4, pages 36 - 67.**

Flora

A total of 192 flora species were recorded within the Study area during the field surveys, including six special least concern, 150 least concern and 36 introduced species. No threatened flora species listed under the EPBC Act and/or NC Act were recorded during the flora surveys within the Study area.

The Study area is dominated by previously cleared, non-remnant grasslands, but also supports small, isolated pockets of remnant and high value regrowth ecosystems. The condition of the remnant and regrowth ecosystems varied according to grazing pressure, with only a few small, isolated pockets retaining moderate ecological integrity. Seven restricted invasive plants listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* were recorded within the Study area, including five species that are also listed as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS).

Fauna

A total of 81 fauna species were recorded within the Study area, including 8 amphibians, 42 birds, 22 mammals (including 13 species of microbat identified from microbat call analysis), 1 fish and 8 reptiles.

The Squatter Pigeon (*Geophaps scripta scripta*) (vulnerable under the EPBC Act and NC Act) was recorded adjacent to the Study area and personal communications with local landholders indicates they are a common occurrence in the area. The desktop assessment identified an additional seven threatened and/or migratory fauna species listed under the EPBC Act that were assessed as having a moderate likelihood of occurrence within the Study area, as detailed below:

- Recorded:
    - *Geophaps scripta scripta* (Squatter Pigeon (southern)) – vulnerable
- Moderate likelihood of occurrence:
    - *Apus pacificus* (Fork-tailed Swift) – migratory
    - *Hirundapus caudacutus* (White-throated Needletail) – vulnerable, migratory
    - *Nyctophilus corbeni* (Corben's Long-eared Bat) – vulnerable
    - *Petauroides volans volans* (Greater Glider (southern and central)) – endangered
    - *Petaurus australis australis* (Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)) – vulnerable
    - *Phascolarctos cinereus* (Koala (combined Qld, NSW, ACT)) – endangered

Five invasive pest animal species were recorded in the Study area, including Cane Toad, Indian Myna, European Hare, House Mouse and Rabbit, Feral cats and European foxes also have a high likelihood of occurring within the Study area.

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

Vegetation communities

Field verification surveys confirmed two distinct land zones mapped by the Queensland Herbarium as present within the Study area:

- Land zone 3: Recent Quaternary alluvial systems, including closed depressions, paleo-estuarine deposits currently under freshwater influence, inland lakes and associated wave-built lunettes.
- Land zone 12: Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks, forming ranges, hills and lowlands.

Within these two land zones, there were 10 remnant regional ecosystems represented across the Study area, four of which also occurred as younger high value regrowth ecosystems. Some areas mapped as remnant according to the Queensland Herbarium mapping were field verified as non-remnant due to the vegetation being dominated by non-native plants or not conforming to a particular regional ecosystem description.

Most of the Study area (89 percent) has been previously cleared for agriculture and grazing leaving a landscape dominated by pasture grasslands with scattered native trees and regrowth present as small, isolated pockets of vegetation.

Within the regrowth and remnant vegetation communities, grassy open woodlands dominated by *Eucalyptus crebra* (Narrow-leaved Ironbark) and *E. melanophloia* (Silver-leaved Ironbark) (RE 11.12.1 and RE 11.12.2) are the dominant vegetation communities and are common on the igneous hillslopes. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) and *Melaleuca bracteata* (Black Tea-tree) woodlands were associated with the alluvial terraces and ephemeral watercourses. Small patches of Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*) open forest and semi-evergreen vine thicket were also scattered throughout the Study area, present mainly as isolated patches. A detailed description of each field verified vegetation community or regional ecosystem is provided in **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment: MNES, Section 6.2, Pages 87 - 104.**

The desktop assessment identified five Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) that may occur within the Study area. Of these five TECs, only one corresponds to the field verified regional ecosystems within the Study area, namely RE 11.3.1 and RE 11.12.21 which are associated with the Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant) TEC listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act. This TEC was confirmed as being present within five patches of vegetation in the Study area.

The other four TECs revealed by the PMST are not present within the Study area, as no field verified regional ecosystems corresponding with these TECs, as listed by their Conservation Advice, were recorded within the Study area. Further information on the Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant) TEC is provided in Section 4.1.4.2 of this referral.

Soil

A desktop review identified a diversity of soil types across the Project area. Identified soils included rudosols, ferrosols, dermosols, tenosols, vertosols, chromosols and sodosols. Soils at the site of the proposed Castle Creek Substation are chromosols and sodosols. There is a low to extremely low probability of the Project area containing acid sulfate soils as the general topography of the area is above 100 mAHD.

While none of the properties intersected by the proposed action is listed on the Environmental Management Register (EMR)/Contaminated Land Register (CLR), the potential exists for contaminating land uses such as cattle dips, waste storage areas, fuel storage tanks or old machinery to be present.

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.

The proposed action does not directly or indirectly interfere with any Commonwealth heritage places overseas.

A search of the Australian Heritage Database returned no results within the Project area.

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

A cultural heritage due diligence assessment was prepared by Niche to identify the relevant Aboriginal Parties and cultural heritage values within the Project area (refer to Att_B.1 TWFC CH DDA Part1of2 and Att_B.2 TWFC CH DDA Part 2of2).

The Gaangalu Nation People, Wulli Wulli People and Wulli Wulli People #3 are listed as the Aboriginal Parties for the Project area. Desktop assessment suggests that the land may have been used previously by Aboriginal people as a connection route for Aboriginal people to traverse the landscape and likely as an
area with abundant food availability and resources.

Since colonial settlement of the area around the 1850s, a transformation of the landscape has occurred, predominantly towards agriculture use. As such, the region enveloping the Banana Shire Council has been significantly disturbed, especially in terms of the ground surface. As such, there is a lack of results in both statutory and non-statutory databases for the presence of Aboriginal or historical heritage sites.

A search of the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism (DWATSIPM) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage (ATSICH) Database and Register revealed that there are no previously recorded Aboriginal sites either in or within 100 m from the Project area. In addition, no registered Aboriginal or historical heritage sites were identified in any of the non-statutory databased utilised. Despite the lack of results in both the statutory and non-statutory databases, there is clear evidence that both sites of historic and Aboriginal significance are within the wider area suggesting the absence of evidence may be a result of a previous disturbance and/or a lack of previous archaeological assessments within the Project area.

The wider region is culturally significant to various Aboriginal groups, which is evident in the number and types of cultural sites. Rock shelters containing art are recorded within the wider region east and south of the Project area and have been associated with a range of cultural artefacts and hearths. The oldest dated site is in Carnarvon Gorge, approximately 200 km west of the Project area, and suggests an occupation date of at least ~19,000 years before the present day.

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. *

Surface water

The Project area is located in the Dawson River drainage sub-basin of the Fitzroy River Basin. Castle Creek is the only watercourse gazetted as a watercourse under the *Water Act 2000* (Water Act).

Impacts to hydrology or water quality of existing watercourses from constructing the new transmission line is expected to be low, as the infrastructure can be designed to span over constraints without the need to clear or disturb beds or banks.

Flooding

Stream flow in the Project area is highly variable and seasonal, with many watercourses being intermittent. The largest contribution to annual stream flow is expected to occur during the summer months of November to April. According to the Queensland Flood Plain Assessment Overlay (Banana Shire Council 2021), the alignment for the transmission line intersects a floodplain area as it traverses across Castle Creek. No other floodplain areas are mapped within the Project area.

Due to the transmission line traversing predominantly upper catchment creeks with relatively small catchments, out of bank flows are infrequent.

Water plans

Water plans developed under the Water Act set out requirements and frameworks for water availability and water entitlements including the taking and identifying of priorities and mechanisms for future water requirement. The Project area is located within water plan areas regulated by the Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011 (State of Queensland 2025).

Groundwater

The Queensland Groundwater Database (Queensland Government 2025) does not contain any groundwater monitoring bores information for the Project area. There is limited data available on local groundwater within the Project area.

The excavation and construction of foundations for the transmission line towers could result in a short–term localised interference with groundwater, if present. Minimal impact or interference with groundwater resources is expected to occur as a result of the proposed action. Activities will be managed in accordance with Powerlink's EMP for the Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project (refer **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Appendix F**).

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

—

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. *

The proposed action is not located directly within or in proximity to a World Heritage site.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

The proposed action is not located directly within or in proximity to a National Heritage site.

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.

—

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

No

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

The proposed action is not located directly within or in proximity to a Ramsar Wetland.

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	Arthraxon hispidus	Hairy-joint Grass
No	No	Cadellia pentastylis	Ooline
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Cossinia australiana	Cossinia
No	No	Dasyurus hallucatus	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]
No	No	Delma torquata	Adorned Delma, Collared Delma
No	No	Denisonia maculata	Ornamental Snake
No	No	Dichanthium queenslandicum	King Blue-grass
No	No	Dichanthium setosum	bluegrass
No	No	Egernia rugosa	Yakka Skink
No	No	Elseya albagula	Southern Snapping Turtle, White-throated Snapping Turtle
No	No	Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Furina dunmalli	Dunmall's Snake
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	Geophaps scripta scripta	Squatter Pigeon (southern)
No	No	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	Hemiaspis damelii	Grey Snake
Yes	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Leuzea australis	Austral Cornflower, Native Thistle

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda	Star Finch (eastern), Star Finch (southern)
Yes	Yes	Nyctophilus corbeni	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
Yes	Yes	Petauroides volans	Greater Glider (southern and central)
Yes	Yes	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
Yes	Yes	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	Polianthion minutiflorum	
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Rheodytes leukops	Fitzroy River Turtle, Fitzroy Tortoise, Fitzroy Turtle, White-eyed River Diver
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Solanum dissectum	
No	No	Solanum johnsonianum	
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Turnix melanogaster	Black-breasted Button-quail
No	No	Xerothamnella herbacea	

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	Yes	Brigalow (Acacia harpophylla dominant and co-dominant)
No	No	Coolibah - Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions
No	No	Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains
No	No	Weeping Myall Woodlands

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 proposed action involves activities that have the potential to directly or indirectly impact on threatened species and threatened ecological communities (TEC). These impacts are summarised below.

Direct impacts

The Project area is 401.7 ha of which 35.4 ha consists of remnant and high value regrowth regional ecosystems. The remaining 366.3 ha are non-remnant, predominantly mixed woody grassland. The Project Disturbance footprint covers 167.4 ha of which 7.7 ha is associated with field verified regulated vegetation (regional ecosystems).

Threatened species habitat loss

The 167.4 ha Disturbance footprint includes a variety of habitats for a range of species including some listed under the EPBC Act as well as a diverse assemblage of common flora and fauna species. The removal of habitat may displace native fauna into adjacent habitats and place some species at risk of direct Project-related impacts and potential mortality.

The extent of impact to habitats for threatened fauna species listed under the EPBC Act, either recorded or with a moderate likelihood of occurring within Project area is as follows:

- Squatter Pigeon (southern) *(Geohaps scripta scripta)* (recorded)– 167.4 ha of modelled habitat consisting of 0.3 ha of potential breeding habitat, 0.1 ha of potential foraging and roosting habitat and 167.1 ha of potential dispersal habitat.
- Corben's Long-eared bat *(Nyctophilus corbeni)* – 2.3 ha of modelled roosting and foraging habitat.
- Greater Glider (southern and central) *(Petauroides volans volans)* – 0.33 ha of modelled habitat consisting of 0.3 ha of denning and foraging habitat and 0.03 ha of potential future denning, foraging and dispersal habitat.
- Yellow-bellied Glider *(Petaurus australis australis)* – 0.33 ha of modelled habitat consisting of 0.3 ha of denning and foraging habitat and 0.03 ha of dispersal habitat.
- Koala *(Phascolarctos cinereus)* – 167.5 ha of modelled habitat consisting of 0.5 ha of climate refugia (dry season habitat), 7.2 ha of potential breeding and foraging habitat and 159.8 ha of dispersal habitat.
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) - 7.7 ha of remnant high value regrowth woodland vegetation potential used for foraging and dispersal.

Other potential direct impacts to threatened fauna species include:

- mortality or injury from vegetation clearing, construction activities or vehicle / machinery interactions
- impacts to wildlife corridors and connectivity.

These impacts are further discussed in **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Section 7.2, Pages 135 - 139.**

Brigalow* (*Acacia harpophylla dominant and co-dominant*) *TEC

Brigalow (A*cacia harpophylla* dominant or co-dominant) TEC (Endangered under the EPBC Act) was field-verified within five separate patches within the Study area comprising regional ecosystems RE 11.3.1 (*Acacia harpophylla* and/or *Casuarina cristata* open forest on alluvial plains) and RE 11.12.21 (*Acacia harpophylla* open forest on igneous rocks. Colluvial lower slopes).

A total of 43.3 ha of Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant or co-dominant) TEC is present within the Study area, of which 1.4 ha (associated with Patch 4 - RE 11.3.1) is within the Project area. The proposed action has been designed to avoid direct impacts to this patch (i.e. vegetation can be spanned without clearing) and as such none of this patch is within the Disturbance footprint. As such the Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant or co-dominant) TEC will not be directly impacted by the proposed action.

Indirect impacts

Indirect impacts occur when Project-related activities affect vegetation or habitat in a manner other than a direct loss or clearing. Potential indirect impacts that may result from construction and/or operational phase of the Project to the threatened fauna species and TECs listed above include:

- Weed invasion and colonisation
- Dispersal of pest animals
- Reduced water quality
- Soil erosion and sedimentation
- Disruption of pollination cycle from dust generation
  Displacement of native fauna from noise and light generation.

These are discussed further in **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Section 7.3, Pages 140 - 141.**

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

No

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

Significant Impact Assessments (SIA) in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – MNES (Department of the Environment 2013) were undertaken for the Squatter Pigeon, Corben's Long-eared Bat, Greater Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider and Koala. The SIAs are included in **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Appendix H**. The SIAs determined that the proposed action will not result in a significant residual impact on MNES threatened species within the meaning of the Significant Impact Guidelines. While the White-throated Needletail may fly over the Disturbance footprint, the species is almost exclusively aerial and unlikely to regularly utilise terrestrial habitat within the Disturbance footprint, which would be primarily used for aerial foraging while moving through the Study area. The impact to this species is discussed further in Section 4.1.5.2 of this referral form.

Squatter Pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*)

The proposed action will result in direct impacts to field verified Squatter Pigeon (southern) habitat suitable for breeding, foraging and roosting, and dispersal, comprising:

- 0.3 ha suitable for breeding, roosting and foraging, comprised of remnant and regrowth grassy open woodland habitats within 1 km of water
- 0.1 ha suitable for roosting and foraging (but not breeding), comprised of remnant and regrowth grassy open woodland habitats within 1-3 km of water
- 167.1 ha of habitat suitable for dispersal between patches of breeding and foraging habitat, comprised of non-remnant grasslands with scattered trees or grassy open woodland >3 km from water present between patches of breeding, foraging and roosting habitat.

This species was recorded during field surveys adjacent to the Study area. The Study area does not contain a recognised important population of the Squatter Pigeon. The Study area is also not situated at the edge of the species' range. Of the 167.1 ha of impacts to dispersal habitat 159.8 ha (95.6 percent) is associated with non-remnant areas predominantly pasture grassland with scattered eucalypts. The linear nature of the proposed action is unlikely to result in significant fragmentation or functional loss of this habitattype, particularly given that pasture grassland can be retained under the transmission line, and the SquatterPigeon's nomadic behaviour and capacity for sustained flight. Given the availability of suitable habitat withinand surrounding the Study area, the linear nature of the proposed action, and the high mobility of the Squatter Pigeon, the proposed action's clearing of 167.4 ha of habitat, will not result in a significant impact on the species within the meaning of the Significant Impact Guidelines.

Corben's Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*)

The proposed action will result in a permanent loss of 2.3 ha of potential Corben's long-eared bat breedingand roosting habitat, however no important populations have been identified within the Study area. Extensive areas (144.4 ha) of adjacent remnant eucalyptus woodland within the Study area will be retained and will continue to provide habitat opportunities for the Corben's Long-eared Bat during the breeding season if any local populations are present. When compared to the species total range, and availability of habitat throughout this range, and availability of suitable habitat directly adjacent at Belmont State Forest, the proposed action is not likely to modify, destroy, remove or isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline. Given the availability of suitable habitat surrounding the Disturbance footprint and the mobility of the Corben's Long-eared Bat, the proposed action is will not result in a significant impact on the species, within the meaning of the Significant Impact Guidelines.

Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans volans*)

The proposed action will clear up to 0.33 ha of potential denning and foraging habitat for the Greater Glider comprising:

- 0.3 ha of denning and foraging habitat - mapped with large contiguous patches on riparian zones and floodplains, containing preferred habitat tree species, and where trees containing large hollows were present or potentially present

- 0.03 ha of foraging habitat - mapped within the same habitat types, although where large hollow trees were not recorded.

Despite nine nights of spotlighting surveys (total of 15.8 person hours) and an additional three nights of thermal drone surveys (total 6.6 hours over 216 ha), the Greater Glider was not recorded in the Disturbance footprint or broader Study area. Although the Disturbance footprint may occasionally support individuals at low densities, it is unlikely that the Disturbance footprint supports a local population of the species, due to the small amount of denning and foraging habitat available and a very low abundance of hollow-bearing trees suitable for denning. Following construction of the proposed action, much of the remaining denning, foraging and dispersal habitat within the broader Study area will remain intact.

Given the relatively low quality of Greater Glider microhabitat, lack of evidence of the species within the Disturbance footprint, and high availability of suitable habitat surrounding the Disturbance footprint, the proposed action will not result in a significant impact on the species within the meaning of the Significant Impact Guidelines.

Yellow-bellied Glider (*Petaurus australis australis*)

The proposed action will result in approximately 0.33 ha of impacts to field verified Yellow-bellied Glider habitat suitable for denning and foraging, comprising:

- 0.3 ha of habitat suitable for denning and foraging
- 0.03 ha of additional dispersal habitat.

Despite potentially suitable habitat being available within the Study area, no individuals were recorded during the surveys which included a combined effort of spotlighting surveys and thermal drone surveys. The habitat present within the Disturbance footprint has the potential to support the Yellow-bellied Glider, however, it is unlikely that they are regularly occupying this habitat due to the lack of evidence during surveys, lack of records within the locality, and more suitable habitat available directly adjacent. The proposed action is not within the locality of a recognised important population for the species.

Given the relatively low quality of Yellow-bellied Glider microhabitat, lack of evidence of the species within the Disturbance footprint, and high availability of suitable habitat surrounding the Disturbance footprint, the proposed action will not result in a significant impact on the species within the meaning of the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines.

Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

Construction of the proposed action will result in approximately 7.6 ha* of impact to field verified Koala habitat suitable for breeding and foraging, comprising:

- 0.5 ha of climate refugia (dry season habitat), suitable for breeding and foraging
- 7.2 ha of breeding and foraging habitat, that is not also dry season habitat.

*Note: the non-rounded Disturbance footprint area is 7.17 ha breeding and foraging, and 0.47 ha climate refugia, totalling 7.6 ha for these two habitat types. However once both numbers are rounded up, a rounding error occurs. This report assesses the impact to the more accurate non-rounded numbers, being a total of 7.6 ha for these two combined habitat types.

159.8 ha of habitat suitable for dispersal will also be impacted by the proposed action. Impacts from the proposed action upon dispersal habitat, would not result in isolation of Koala populations due to habitat fragmentation. The species is highly mobile and known to readily disperse large distances, including across cleared areas and will continue to do so despite the proposed clearing of dispersal habitat within the 60 m wide easement corridor (note in areas sensitive habitat the clearing has been reduced to 10–30 m, with some waterway woodland vegetation completely avoided). Connectivity within, and to, suitable intact contiguous habitat directly adjacent to the east of the proposed action (within and around Belmont

State Forest) will be largely maintained, and the extent of clearing would not result in a barrier to movement for
the species.

Despite seven nights of spotlighting surveys (total of 15.8 person hours) and three nights of thermal drone surveys (total of 6.6 hours over 216 ha) no Koala or evidence of Koala (scat, scratches) were recorded within the Study area, suggesting the habitats are not preferred and/or threatening process are substantial. This conclusion is supported by other ecological field assessments completed in the area for the Theodore Wind Farm, Banana Range Wind Farm and Dawson Wind Farm (refer further to Section 4.1.4.9 of this referral form).

The species was assessed as having a moderate likelihood of occurring within the Study area, based on the presence of potential breeding, foraging and climate refugia habitat within Eucalypt riparian and floodplain woodlands, Melaleuca riparian open forest with vine thicket understorey, and Ironbark woodland on floodplains and rocky hills. Although the Disturbance footprint may occasionally support individuals at low densities, it is unlikely that the Disturbance footprint supports a local population of the species. The proposed action would result in the removal of 7.6 ha of Koala habitat suitable for breeding, foraging and climate refugia (dry season habitat) and 159.8 ha of habitat suitable for dispersal. Even though this habitat meets the criteria of habitat critical to the survival of the Koala, it was determined that this will not result in a significant impact to the Koala. Further justification for this determination is provided in Section 4.1.4.9 of this referral form.

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. *

While the Project would result in the removal of 7.6 ha of Koala habitat suitable for breeding, foraging and climate refugia (dry season habitat), and 159.8 ha of habitat suitable for dispersal, that meets the criteria of habitat critical to the survival of the Koala, it was determined that this will not result in a significant impact to the Koala on the basis that:

- The vegetation removal is not significant when considering the small scale (7.6 ha) and low impact nature (linear transmission line) of the proposed action. The Project will not result broad scale clearing of entire habitat patches but rather removes small sections of vegetation from the edges of habitat that is highly disturbed with a patchy distribution.
- No Koalas or evidence of Koalas were recorded within the Study area during targeted surveys, and the Disturbance footprint is likely to only occasionally support individuals at low densities and not a local population of the species. This habitat utilisation level is consistent with the finding from three other local Koala assessments prepared for the Theodore Wind Farm (ERM 2024), Dawson Wind Farm (GreenTape 2025) and Banana Range Wind Farm (NGH 2019). The ecological field surveys for the Banana Range Wind Farm did not record the Koala. Targeted Koala surveys for the Theodore Wind Farm project found that Koala use of the Theodore Wind Farm study area was limited and that the species was generally absent from large areas of suitable habitat (ERM 2024). The Koala was recorded from the Theodore Wind Farm study area based on two observations of single faecal pellets in the south-east corner of the study area, approximately 30 km from the proposed Castle Creek Substation. Another scat observation was recorded in 2021 during surveys for the Dawson Wind Farm Project, approximately 5 km from the Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project Study area, indicating that Koalas occur within and adjacent to Belmont State Forest, in proximity to the Disturbance footprint. Similar conclusions were made to those of the Theodore Wind Farm project (ERM 2024), in that due to the limited number of Koala scat records given the large survey effort, Koalas were likely to occur only in low densities, and/or be widely dispersed within the region (GreenTape 2025).
- The nature of the proposed action is linear, associated with overhead transmission lines. As such, it does not create movement barriers for the Koala or fragmentation of habitat and will not prevent species dispersal through the landscape.
- The scale and circumstantial nature of the impact is minor (7.6 ha) within the context of the wider regional habitat availability, with the Disturbance footprint connected to >800 km2 of higher quality habitat within the region.

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. *

Powerlink has implemented the hierarchy of management principles in the planning for and development of the proposed action. These principles and order in which they have been applied are as follows: avoid, minimise, mitigate, remediate and rehabilitate, offset (where necessary). The avoid, minimise, and mitigate (and manage) approaches have been summarised below.

Avoid and minimise

Development of the proposed action as progressed from the recommended 1 km wide corridor (Study area) through to an initial assessment of impacts based on total clearing of the Project area (full 60 m wide easement, substation site and off-easement infrastructure). Design refinements have resulted in the development of a smaller Disturbance footprint to avoid and minimise impacts to field verified ecological values. Development of the Disturbance footprint has involved considerable design measures (e.g. locating structures outside of remnant vegetation, raising structure heights and reducing the extent of vegetation clearing within the easement) to avoid and minimise impacts to native vegetation/habitats and watercourses. In particular, development of the Disturbance footprint has:

- located structures such as transmission towers and access tracks outside of remnant vegetation, and within areas of lowest biodiversity (such as non-remnant pasture grasslands) to the greatest extent possible
- prioritised the avoidance and minimisation of impacts to the following areas:
    - Brigalow TEC
    - vegetation communities that comprise habitat for threatened species
    - waterways and waterway vegetation, including the Eucalypt riparian and floodplain woodlands and Melaleuca riparian open forest with vine thicket understorey, and particularly around Castle Creek
- utilised existing access tracks such as landholder tracks and local roads, in preference to clearing for new access tracks
- reduced easement clearing width where assessment has determined there will be adequate electrical safety clearances to the conductor.

Implementation of these avoidance and minimisation measures has reduced the direct impact (vegetation clearing) to remnant and high value regrowth vegetation by 27.7 ha (to 7.7 ha) and to non-remnant areas by 206.6 ha (to 159.7 ha).

Key vegetation and habitat avoidance and minimisation measures implemented during the design of the Project have included:

- Placing tower pads on non-remnant cleared grasslands and avoiding areas of high ecological significance to the maximum extent possible
- Spanning vegetation where possible (i.e. in areas of high terrain and waterway crossing containing riparian vegetation corridors) taking into consideration vegetation violations and bushfire risk.
- Avoiding and minimising impact to vegetation and habitat within the Project area through spanning and scalloping resulting in a Disturbance footprint that is much narrower than the allocated 60 m easement, now between 10 – 30 m for most of the alignment, as well as large areas where no ground disturbance is required at all.
- Giving consideration to high value habitat areas such as riparian areas along waterways, and Brigalow TEC, where clearing has been greatly reduced during the final Disturbance footprint design.
- Using existing access tracks such as landholder tracks and local roads to the greatest extent possible, in preference to clearing for new access tracks.

Mitigate and manage

General mitigation and management measures and MNES-specific mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure that direct and indirect impacts associated with the proposed action are mitigated and minimised. Detailed measures for mitigating impacts to flora and fauna are included in the EMP: Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project (refer **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES,**

Appendix F). The measures contained in the EMP are Powerlink's minimum requirements for the management of environmental aspects relevant to activities undertaken by Powerlink and its Contractors. Specifically, for flora and fauna the EMP includes measures to:

- minimise the impacts on native flora and fauna
- control weeds and pest animals
- prevent erosion and transport of sediments into retained habitat, including the development of a Project specific erosion and sediment control plan (ESCP), which will take into consideration potential runoff into surrounding waterways and wetlands including downstream effects
- reduce light pollution impacts on threatened fauna
- control and suppress noise, vibration and dust that may interfere with surrounding wildlife.

These measures will be further developed prior to commencement of construction through preparation of the Environmental Work Plans (EWPs) for the Project as well as the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) prepared by the construction contractor.

To minimise the disturbance of native vegetation, consistent with the safe and reliable operation of the asset, the following measures, as outlined in the EMP, will be applied:

- The extent of vegetation clearing areas will be nominated on the EWPs and made available for the vegetation clearing activity.
- The EWPs will nominate any areas that have specific management requirements (e.g. no-go zones, vegetation to be retained).
- Prior to commencing initial vegetation clearing, the extent of clearing (work area) will be delineated on site, both geospatially, as well as using high visibility barriers or taping to ensure that clearing will not occur in areas to be preserved. The delineated limits of clearing must be maintained for at least the duration of clearing and earthworks.
- An unexpected finds protocol will be implemented if a previously unidentified threatened plant individual or population is observed during future surveys for the Project (e.g. targeted surveys of any new areas established during detailed design, pre-clearance surveys).

The Project EMP includes measures to reduce the risk of direct mortality to native fauna during construction. These include:

- tampering within an animal breeding place may only be carried out in accordance with a Damage Mitigation Permit or an approved Species Management Program (refer below)
- prior to commencement of site activities where interactions with native fauna is expected (e.g. vegetation clearing), measures to recover and rehabilitate injured or orphaned native animals unavoidably impacted will be implemented
- a fauna spotter-catcher, who holds a valid Rehabilitation Permit (fauna spotter-catcher), will be engaged to undertake pre-clearing habitat searches and be present during vegetation clearing activities and during any disturbance to habitat features (i.e. trees containing hollows, trees containing nests, hollow logs) to minimise fauna harm
- an authorised carer (holding a valid Rehabilitation Permit (rehabilitation and release a protected animal)) will be engaged to care for and rehabilitate injured or orphaned native animals
- vegetation clearing will be undertaken in a staged and sequential manner, moving away from environments, such as roads, which may potentially cause injury to fleeing fauna
- excavations will be secured to prevent access from native fauna
- vehicles will be restricted to approved and mapped access tracks and only those vehicles required for the safe, efficient and essential construction activities will be allowed in the work area construction work hours will be limited to between 6.30 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Saturday (excluding public holidays) unless authorised through an approval or in response to exceptional circumstances including an emergency

- any unplanned interactions with native fauna or fauna habitat will be immediately reported to Powerlink.

As the Project has potential to impact the breeding places of fauna species listed under the NC Act, a specific *Species Management Program – high-risk of impacts* (High-risk SMP) will be required to be approved by the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation prior to construction commencing. Species requiring a High-risk SMP include wildlife listed as threatened species or recognised as Least Concern (colonial breeder) species under the *Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020* (Animals Regulation).

Species listed under the Animals Regulation, that are also listed as Endangered or Vulnerable under the EPBC Act, and recorded have a moderate or higher likelihood of having breeding places within the Disturbance footprint include:

- Squatter Pigeon
- Corben's Long-eared Bat
- Greater Glider
- Yellow-bellied Glider.

It should be noted that although the Disturbance footprint contains Koala habitat, a High-risk SMP is not required for this species, as they do not have a 'habitual breeding place' (e.g., hollow or nest). As such, Koalas are managed under the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan, 2017* (Koala Plan).

Further details on the avoidance and mitigation measures to be adopted for the proposed action are outlined in **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Section, 8.2, Pages 143 - 146**.

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

The proposed action has been assessed as not having a significant residual impact on MNES, and as such offsets are not required.

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
Yes	Yes	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	Cuculus optatus	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey

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

Yes

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

The proposed action involves activities that have the potential to directly or indirectly impact on the following EPBC listed migratory species: the White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus)* and Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*).

Both species may fly over the Disturbance footprint. They are exclusively aerial and unlikely to regularlyutilise terrestrial habitat within the Disturbance footprint, which would primarily be used for aerial foraging while moving through the Study area. Both species primarily fliy over dry or open habitats and are also found over treeless grassland and open farmland (DCCEEW 2025b), which occur within the Study area.

The Project will result in the removal of up to 7.7 ha of remnant and high value regrowth woodland vegetation suitable for foraging and dispersal for these species.

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

No

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

The risk of impact assessment undertaken for the Fork-tailed Swift and White-throated Needletail determined that neither species would be significantly impacted by the proposed action (refer **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment Report MNES, Section 9.3, Page 150 - 152**).

Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)

The species may fly over the Disturbance footprint. It is almost exclusively aerial and unlikely to regularly utilise terrestrial habitat within the Disturbance footprint, which would primarily be used for aerial foraging while moving through the Study area. The species primarily flies over dry or open habitats and are also found over treeless grassland and open farmland (DCCEEW 2025b), which occur within the Study area.

The Project will result in the removal of up to 7.7 ha of remnant and high value regrowth woodland vegetation, which will not significantly alter suitable foraging and dispersal habitat for the species. Therefore, the species is at low risk of Project-related impacts from the construction phase of the Project.

There are no significant threats listed for this species in Australia, with potential threats including habitat destruction and predation by feral animals (DCCEEW 2025b). However, risk of collision with overhead transmission lines should be considered for the operational phase as mortality due to collision is a general risk for all birds and bats.

The Draft referral guideline for migratory birds (DoE 2015) states that an ecologically significant portion (1%) of the population is 1,000 individuals for this species. The Project is unlikely to cause injury or mortality from transmission line collision to this amount of individuals, given the likelihood of occurrence is only moderate, and they have not been recorded within the Study area for this Project or during ecological surveys undertaken for other surrounding projects (ERM 2024, GreenTape 2025, NGH 2019). There are also no listed significant migration route for the species within inland Australia (DCCEEW 2025b).

White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

The species may fly over the Disturbance footprint. It is almost exclusively aerial and unlikely to regularly utilise terrestrial habitat within the Disturbance footprint, which would be primarily used for aerial foraging while moving through the Study area. The species most often flies over wooded areas, as well as pastures and farmland.

A flock of 35 birds and two lone individuals were recorded during surveys for the adjacent Banana Range Wind Farm (NGH 2019). The species was not recorded during ecological surveys for this Project, or for other adjacent projects (ERM 2024; GreenTape 2025)

The Project will result in the removal of up to 7.7 ha of remnant and high value regrowth woodland vegetation, which will not significantly alter suitable foraging and dispersal habitat. No suitable roosting habitat is present within the Study area. Therefore, the species is at low risk of Project-related impacts from the construction phase of the Project.

The Conservation Advice for the species (TSSC 2019) states that the risk direct mortality from collision with overhead transmission lines is of low severity and affects a small number of birds. The Draft referral guideline for migratory birds (DoE 2015) states that an ecologically significant portion (1%) of the population is 100 individuals for this species. The Project is unlikely to cause injury or mortality from transmission line collision to this amount of individuals either in a single event or cumulatively, and there is no listed significant migration route for the species within inland Australia (DCCEEW 2025b).

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

No

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

Given the both the Fork-tailed Swift and White-throated Needletail are non-breeding migrants to Australia, the widespread distribution of both species, the generalist nature of their habitat preferences, and the low-risk of transmission line collision impact, both species are considered to be at low risk from potential Project-related impacts.

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

In addition to measures outlined in Section 4.1.4.10 of this referral form, the Powerlink EMP: Theodore Wind Farm Project (refer **Att A_Theodore Ecological Assessment MNES, Appendix F**) also includes the requirement to identify areas of the transmission line that are potentially of higher risk for bird collision, to determine where installation of diverters may be required, further reducing risk of collision impact to bird species. Therefore, the species is at low risk of potential Project-related impacts during the operational phase.

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

The proposed action has been assessed as not having a significant impact on MNES, and as such offsets are not required.

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

The proposed action does not involve or include nuclear actions.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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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. *

The proposed action is not directly located within Commonwealth Marine Areas.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The proposed action is located upstream of the Great Barrier Reef, approximately 115 km northeast of theMt Benn Substation. Construction works upstream of the Great Barrier Reef will be managed through the stringent application of industry standard erosion and sediment control measures to avoid any impacts to water quality consistent with the requirements of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan.

These measures are outlined in the EMP: Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project (refer **Att A_Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES, Appendix F**) the objectives of which are to which include that there are no impacts on water bodies as a result of soil disturbing activities.

In particular, the EMP: Theodore Wind Farm Connection Project requires compliance with the IECA Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines 2008 and the preparation of a Project Erosion and Sediment control Plan prior to construction. The EMP also requires the development and implementation of a Water Quality Monitoring Plan to minimise the risk of sediment and/or contaminants from site entering waterways.

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

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

No

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

The proposed action will not involve coal seam gas developments or large coal mining developments.

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 proposed action will not be located on Commonwealth land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

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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 proposed action is not located on a Commonwealth heritage place overseas.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

As part of the initial project planning, RWE conducted a preliminary desktop analysis to evaluate transmission corridor alternatives, considering landholder engagement, environmental factors, and constructability. This process led to the identification of a preferred corridor. Building on RWE's earlier work, Powerlink undertook technical assessments to confirm the corridor's suitability for the proposed transmission line. Natural and physical constraints such as the Banana Range, Belmont State Forest, major highways, and the Moura rail line helped define the boundaries of the investigation area and shaped the corridor selection process. As a result, the corridor identification efforts concentrated on land west of the Banana Range, south of the Moura rail line, and east of the Leichhardt Highway. This approach involved careful consideration of the number, type, and current land uses of affected properties, with particular attention given to parcels already designated for renewable energy development to support infrastructure co-location. In February 2025, the Final Corridor Selection Report (CSR) was released, identifying a 1 km- wide corridor. This corridor provides a relatively direct connection between the proposed Theodore Wind Farm and Mt Benn Substation, involves a limited number of properties, minimises impacts on agricultural land, maintains distance from townships and major highways, and supports co-existence with other renewable energy projects in the region.

The outcomes of the stakeholder consultation along with the results of the ecological field surveys were used to refine the focus area for the proposed transmission corridor and inform development of the 60 m- wide easement alignment for the Project. Key factors considered when determining the easement alignment were proximity to residences, land use impacts and impact on ecological values.

Throughout the course of this impact assessment a Disturbance footprint has been developed to minimise impacts to remnant vegetation to the greatest extent possible.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	13/10/2025	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 Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	12/10/2025	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 A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	12/10/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts	12/10/2025	No	High

upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	12/10/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	12/10/2025	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B.1 TWFC CH DDA Part1of2.pdf Cultural heritage due diligence assessment for the proposed action Part 1 of 2.	17/10/2025	Yes	High
#2.	Document	Att B.2 TWFC CH DDA Part2of2.pdf Cultural heritage due diligence assessment for the proposed action Part 2 of 2.	17/10/2025	Yes	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act,	12/10/2025	No	High

which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.

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 A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	12/10/2025	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 A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	12/10/2025	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 A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	12/10/2025	No	High

4.1.5.6 (Migratory Species) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	Att A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	12/10/2025	No	High

4.1.5.10 (Migratory Species) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	12/10/2025	No	High

4.1.8.3 (Great Barrier Reef) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Terrestrial Ecological Assessment MNES.pdf Confirms the presence or likely absence of MNES listed under the EPBC Act, which have been identified by desktop/field assessments. It evaluates the significance of potential impacts upon the relevant MNES from the proposed action.	12/10/2025	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	82078849233
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Organisation address	4014 QLD
Representative's name	Samantha Pintara
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Advisor
Phone	0473 501 432
Email	samantha.pintara@powerlink.com.au
Address	33 HAROLD STREET VIRGINIA QLD 4014

- [x] Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

- [x] Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

- [x] By checking this box, I, **Samantha Pintara of QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

Same as Referring party information.

- [x] Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

- [x] Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

☑ I, **Samantha Pintara of QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

☑ I, **Samantha Pintara of QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**, the Person proposing the action, consent to the designation of **Ariane Ponting of QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED** as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	82078849233
Organisation name	QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
Organisation address	4014 QLD
Representative's name	Ariane Ponting
Representative's job title	Manager Environment
Phone	0400 707 475
Email	ariane.ponting@powerlink.com.au
Address	33 Harold Street Virginia 4014 QLD

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

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

☑ I, **Ariane Ponting of QUEENSLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the

Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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