

Yanco Delta Wind Farm

Application Number: **02859**

Commencement Date: **04/04/2025**

Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Yanco Delta Wind Farm

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Wind Farm

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/01/2063

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Proposed Action details

Yanco Delta WF Project Pty Ltd as trustee for the Yanco Delta WF Project Trust (**Proponent**) has existing State and Commonwealth approvals for the construction, operation and decommissioning and associated infrastructure of the Yanco Delta Wind Farm (YDWF/Project), located approximately 10km north-west of Jerilderie in New South Wales within the South-West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

YDWF was approved on 21 December 2023 under section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) as a State Significant Development (SSD) consent SSD 41743746, granted by a delegate of the NSW Minister for Planning. The SSD Consent was subsequently modified on 13 June 2024 to clarify specific turbine coordinates (Modification 1). The project was determined to be a controlled action and obtained approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 21 February 2024 (the **Approved Action**). The Approved Action was assessed in accordance with the New South Wales and Commonwealth Government EPBC Act assessment bilateral agreement.

The Proponent intends to modify the Approved Action to improve and optimise the constructability of the approved YDWF and incorporate changes to infrastructure layout and the associated disturbance footprint, while retaining the same number of wind turbine generators (WTGs) WTGs (**Proposed Action**).

A separate application to modify the SSD Consent for the YDWF so as to authorise the Proposed Action under the EP&A Act will be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

The Proposed Action is proposed to include construction, operation and (where required) decommissioning of the following key components:

- Up to 208 WTGs with a total generating capacity of approximately 1,500 megawatts (MW), each with a maximum tip height of approximately 270 metres and an associated hardstand and laydown areas
- A 800MW/800 megawatt hour (MWh) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Electrical reticulation infrastructure including:
 - A central primary substation
 - Four collector substations and associated 330 kilovolt (kV) power lines to connect to the central primary substation
 - Associated infrastructure
- A temporary workers accommodation facility and associated infrastructure which is intended to accommodate up to 710 workers during the peak construction period
- Permanent ancillary infrastructure including:
 - operation and maintenance facility
 - internal access tracks
 - underground and overhead cabling
- Wind monitoring masts
- Temporary construction facilities including:
 - a main construction compound which incorporates site offices, parking, water storage, wastewater treatment plant, water treatment plant for potable water, laydown area, diesel storage tanks for fueling construction vehicles and equipment and other construction compound requirements
 - Additional site compounds, laydown areas, stockpiles, concrete batch plants and temporary roads for construction purposes
- Upgrades to local roads, including local intersection widening works on oversize and/or over mass (OSOM) routes, limited to works within the Project Area.

The Proposed Action includes potential staging to allow the delivery of project infrastructure including road and intersection upgrades, the temporary workers accommodation facility and other enabling works to occur ahead of the main construction program.

The Proposed Action will also be seeking to update clearing limits for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) and allow for the staged delivery of biodiversity offsets to align with potential staged delivery of the Project.

The Project Area within which the Proposed Action will be carried out is approximately 25,700ha. The Project Area includes the property boundaries of all land parcels within which works would occur. The Disturbance Footprint for the Proposed Action is an estimated 1,459 ha and consists of the construction and operational footprint of the Project. For the purposes of the Project Referral, the Disturbance Footprint is a preliminary estimate of the expected extent of all

ground disturbance. It is anticipated that the location and footprint of Project components will change in response to the outcomes of technical and environmental investigations undertaken as part of the assessment process, refinements in project design, along with outcomes of stakeholder and community consultation activities.

The Proposed Action excludes the following infrastructure or transport routes:

- A proposed 30 km, 330 kV transmission line to connect the YDWF's central primary substation to Transgrid's Dinawan Substation, which is the subject of a separate EPBC Act referral to be lodged by the Proponent, noting that the connection to the central primary substation is located within the Project Area.
- Expansion of Transgrid's Dinawan Substation to include two additional 330 kV bays and auxiliary services to support the connection of the YDWF to the National Electricity Market, which is subject of a separate EPBC referral.
- OSOM routes between the Project and the Port of Geelong, Port of Newcastle and Port of Adelaide. These works will seek to avoid any significant impacts to MNES. Where this is not possible, these works will be the subject of a separate referral under the EPBC Act.

The Proposed Action excludes surveys and investigations to inform environmental assessment and Project design including but not limited to geotechnical surveys, ecological surveys and environmental monitoring programs, to the extent these activities can be undertaken in a manner which avoids any significant impact on any MNES.

The Proponent estimates that construction of the Proposed Action would commence in 2027 and be completed in 2031. The expected commercial life of the Project will be up to 30 years. Decommissioning of the Proposed Action would occur following the cessation of operations.

Potential Impacts

Much of the Project Disturbance Footprint is unavoidably located in vegetated areas that support Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or provides habitat for threatened or migratory species listed as MNES under the EPBC Act. The Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains TEC occurs in large patches comprising around 10,000 hectares within the Project Area. Despite chronic disturbance, many of these areas may satisfy the condition thresholds for classification as a critically endangered TEC. Given the extent of grassland communities in the Project Area, impacts on this TEC are considered unavoidable.

Based on currently available information (**Attachment 1 – YDWF EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report, Section 2.1, page 9**) the Project would disturb approximately 418.1 ha of the grassland TEC (Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains) and approximately 158.6 ha of the Weeping Myall Woodlands TEC. These impacts represent a small fraction of both TECs on a regional scale.

Based on currently available information (**Attachment 1 – YDWF EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report, Section 5.1.1, page 25**) the Project Disturbance Footprint (1,459 ha) of the Proposed Action is expected to result in the following impacts during the construction phase:

- disturbance of approximately 1,398.2 ha of native vegetation, some of which provides potential habitat for listed threatened flora and fauna species (e.g. Grey Snake which has 527.57 ha of potential habitat within the Project area)
- disturbance of approximately 576.7 ha of vegetation associated with listed threatened ecological communities (Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains and Weeping Myall Woodlands TEC).

Avoidance and minimisation of impacts on MNES has been a key driver of Project design and will guide all Project activities. However, a range of direct and indirect impacts on MNES remain possible, including:

- Direct impacts on ecosystems, flora and fauna habitat due to vegetation clearing, other site preparatory works and construction activities
- Potential indirect impacts including:
 - edges effects
 - collisions and electrocution of fauna with transmission lines
 - noise, vibration, and light pollution

Offsets

The residual biodiversity impacts of the Project will be offset under the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme, which is an accredited process for the purposes of the EPBC Act. Accordingly, the Project may be required to retire the required biodiversity offset credits in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy prior to impacts occurring.

Project Need

The YDWF's role in diversifying the energy generation mix, reducing the carbon emissions intensity of the grid and providing energy security and reliability has been acknowledged in the NSW DPHI's State Significant Development Assessment Report (December 2023) (which related to the **Approved Action**) which noted:

- The YDWF would have the capacity to generate up to 1,500 MW of renewable energy, sufficient to power around 700,000 homes per year, and provide 800 MW of energy storage to dispatch to the grid when the energy generation from renewable resources is limited. The YDWF would save between 2.8 million and nearly 5 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year, depending on the fossil fuel source it replaces. This would assist NSW in achieving the targets established by the *Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023*.
- The proposed BESS at 800MW is among the largest proposed in NSW. The YDWF would allow dispatchable resources to firm up support during peak loads or when renewable production is low.
- In terms of energy security, the YDWF is in the public interest as it would play an important role in increasing renewable energy generation and providing dispatchable resources to firm supply during peak loads or when renewable production is low.

The above benefits apply equally to the Proposed Action.

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
2022/09214	Yanco Delta Wind Farm

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

A separate and related action being referred by the Proponent is a transmission line connection of approximately 30 km in length from the Project to the Dinawan Substation. The Transmission Line Proposed Action comprises a 330 kV transmission line to connect the central primary substation to Transgrid's Dinawan Substation via McLennons Bore Road, Cadell Road and a short connection to the terminal station (Dinawan Connection).

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

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The YDWF, being the Approved Action, was determined to be a controlled action, assessed under the bilateral agreement with NSW and was approved in February 2024 (**EPBC 2022/09214**) (refer to **Attachment 3 – YDWF EPBC Approval**).

A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is currently being prepared for the Proposed Action in accordance with the requirements of the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM 2020). An assessment of the impact of the Proposed Action as a whole on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) recorded or predicted to occur in the Project Area has been prepared based on field surveys completed in keeping with the BAM, previous surveys for the Approved Action and desktop assessments. The assessment has been prepared in consideration of the self-assessment process described in Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (DoE 2013) against the significant impact criteria for each identified potential MNES (**Attachment 1 – YDWF EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report, Appendix A, page 39**).

The Proposed Action will also proposing changes to existing approval conditions to update clearing limits for MNES and allow for the staged delivery of biodiversity offsets to align with potential staged delivery of the Project.

State

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)

State Significant Development Consent (SSD 41743746) was granted on 21 December 2023 for the construction, operation and decommissioning of up to 208 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 270 m AGL and associated infrastructure. An administrative modification (Modification 1) was submitted to clarify wind turbine coordinates and development layout mapping detailed in Appendix 1 of the Instrument of Consent and was approved by the Director, Energy Assessments on 13 June 2024.

A request to modify SSD 41743746 will be submitted to the DPHI under section 4.55(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) (Modification Application 2), to seek approval for the Proposed Action, in mid-2025. For modifications to SSD approvals, it must be demonstrated that the change, if carried out, would result in a development that would be substantially the same development as the original development for which consent was originally granted.

As there will be a change in the potential impact on biodiversity values, including MNES, a BDAR will be prepared to support the Modification Application.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is currently being prepared for the Proposed Action in accordance with the requirements of the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM 2020). An assessment of the impact of the Proposed Action as a whole on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) recorded or predicted to occur in the Project Area has been prepared based on field surveys completed in keeping with the BAM, previous surveys for the Approved Action and desktop assessments.

Offsetting requirements for residual impacts to MNES will be identified in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme which is an accredited process under the EPBC Act.

Local Environmental Plans (LEPs)

The Project would be located on land zoned as RU1 – Primary Production under both the Conargo Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and the Jerilderie LEP. The Project would be located on rural land with agricultural land use, including for grazing, cropping and irrigated cropping.

The Project meets the definition of ‘electricity generating works’ under the Standard Instrument – Principal Local Environmental Plan (Standard Instrument), being a building or place used for the purpose of ‘making or generating electricity’. The Project would be located in land zoned RU1 – Primary Production where electricity generating works are not permissible under the Conargo LEP and Jerilderie LEP.

However, Section 2.36(1) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 provides that ‘development for the purpose of electricity generating works may be carried out by any person with consent on any land in a prescribed rural, industrial or special use zone’. Land which is zoned RU1 – Primary Production is prescribed rural

zone for the purposes of 2.36(1) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021. Therefore, the Project would be permissible with consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

Renewable Energy Zone Policy

The Proposed Action is located within and forms a key component of the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW REZ), one of the five REZs in the NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, declared in November 2021 under the NSW *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*. The REZ will enable the connection of multiple renewable energy generator projects and battery storage projects with existing and new transmission network infrastructure.

The South West REZ was formally declared by the Minister for Energy under section 19(1) of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* and published in the NSW Gazette on Friday 4 November 2022.

As Infrastructure Planner, EnergyCo will make decisions such as assessing and recommending REZ network infrastructure projects and, if needed to maintain community support for the REZ, preventing generation or storage projects from connecting in a specified area within the REZ (if those projects have not received development consent).

The access rights network, which is a subset of the REZ declaration network infrastructure, is specified in the South West REZ Access Scheme.

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. *

DPE Consultation – EIS consultation

The (then) NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) publicly exhibited the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Approved Action from 18 November 2022 until 15 December 2022, and advertised the exhibition in The Australian, Hay Riverine Grazier, Deniliquin Pastoral Times and the Leeton Irrigator and notified landowners in proximity to the Project Area.

DPE received only eight public submissions (two objections, four supporting and two comments). Advice was received from 15 State or Commonwealth government agencies, and one local council (Murrumbidgee Council) provided comments on the project. DPE consulted with government agencies and Murrumbidgee Council on key issues and inspected the site on two occasions. No agencies, councils or utility providers objected to the project, with a number recommending the implementation of mitigation and management measures. The DPE also met with residents located near the site, none of which objected to the project.

Previous proponent engagement

Community and stakeholder engagement for the project commenced in 2020 and has been ongoing. During the preparation of the EIS, the following consultation and stakeholder activities were undertaken:

- Dedicated project website, email address and phone number to provide project updates and capture any concerns or feedback
- Face-to-face meetings with neighbouring landowners within 10 kilometres of a proposed WTG
- Two community drop-in sessions
- Distribution of project factsheets to the wider community
- Meetings with the Jerilderie Country Women's Association and Jerilderie Police
- Consultation with the Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Cummeragunja Local Aboriginal Land Council and registered Aboriginal parties
- Meetings, briefings and correspondence with government agencies and stakeholders including local councils, NSW DPE, the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), NSW Biodiversity Conservation and Sciences, Transgrid - Lumea, AirServices Australia and NSW Rural Fire Service.

Consultation since acquisition

Since acquiring the YDWF in April 2024, the Proponent has participated in monthly meetings with NSW DPHI with respect to the existing SSD Consent and has also undertaken engagement with the DCCEEW in relation to proposed changes to YDWF.

Engagement with host landowners and neighbours has also been a critical part to project development. The proponent has worked to strengthen relationships with host landowners and neighbours through various engagements in person, on-site and through other mediums (including emails, phone calls, text messages). The following is a summary of the key matters that Origin has discussed with host landholders to date:

- the location of turbines and other associated infrastructure required for YDWF.
- property specific land use and constraints (including location of fences, gates, services, farming plans, irrigation equipment etc.); and
- upcoming activities, to ensure landowners receive notification in advance prior to site access requirements (e.g. access for site inspections, geotechnical investigations, ecology surveys, cultural heritage surveys, aerial surveys, cadastral surveys and met mast installation and maintenance).

A Project Modification engagement action plan outlining the approach and activities for consulting and engaging with stakeholders regarding the proposed modification to the SSD Consent for YDWF is under development.

First Nations Engagement

The Project's First Nations Engagement Strategy is progressing well, strengthened by the appointment of a Senior First Nations Engagement Lead in June 2024 to manage and oversee the engagement strategy, which to date has included:

- Meetings with the Griffith and Cummeragunja Local Aboriginal Land Councils in August 2024,
- Engagement with the Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre located in Deniliquin.
- Meetings with Jethi Aboriginal Corporation at their Cultural Centre in Jerilderie.
- Site walkovers with reconciliation action plan (RAP) parties for cultural heritage.
- Meetings with First Nations businesses including ESI group.
- Engagement with the Deniliquin Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer.

- Attendance at events, including the opening of Wamarra's office in Wagga and attendance at Supply Nations Conference in August 2024, which involved further engagement of First Nations business suppliers.
- Sponsors of the Inaugural Indigenous Jerilderie Football and Netball Round.
- Continuing engagement for RAP parties for cultural heritage management

These engagements introduce the project, provide regular updates, and strengthen relationships by keeping stakeholders informed while offering a space to voice key issues and interests.

Proposed engagement activities

As the Project progresses through environmental and planning assessments, the following activities will be undertaken:

- Ongoing development of strategic partnerships: Engagement will continue to advance partnership discussions with Business NSW and Charles Sturt University. These collaborations aim to support long-term social and economic outcomes for the region.
- First Nations Partnerships: The proponent is committed to deepening its partnerships with First Nations communities through a tiered approach, ensuring engagement at local, regional, and national levels. The proponent will work collaboratively to ensure that benefit-sharing initiatives are aligned with First Nations priorities and values.
- Establishment of a Community Reference Group (CRG): The CRG will facilitate ongoing dialogue and support the design of a Community Investment Program aligned with local needs and context. It will provide insights into local priorities, concerns, and opportunities, ensuring that community voices are central to the decision-making process.
- Community survey and engagement to inform and refine priorities for benefit sharing: The delivery of a survey through Voconiq's Local Voices program alongside other methods of engagement to facilitate inclusive engagement and understand diverse local perspectives. This feedback will help to inform how the Proponent structures benefit-sharing initiatives, ensuring they reflect the community's needs and interests.
- Community information sessions: Where appropriate, information sessions will be held to provide project updates, address questions, and share information about upcoming activities. These sessions will be tailored to meet the needs of different stakeholders and encourage open dialogue.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

No

Referring party details

Name	Jason Richard
Job title	Environmental Advisor
Phone	0457 750 157
Email	jason.richard@originenergy.com.au
Address	180 Ann Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

No

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

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	42676356915
Organisation name	YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Conal McCullough
Job title	General Manager - Development and Construction
Phone	0418 615 521
Email	conal.mccullough@originenergy.com.au
Address	100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000

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? *

Yes

1.3.2.16 Describe the nature of the trust arrangement in relation to the proposed action. *

Yanco Delta Wind Farm Pty Ltd (YDWF) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Origin Energy Power Limited (OEPL), which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of Origin Energy Limited, an ASX listed company. Earlier this year, the EPBC Act approval for the Yanco Delta Wind Farm was transferred from YDWF to Yanco Delta WF Project Pty Ltd as trustee for the Yanco Delta WF Project Trust (Project Trust). The Project Trust is also a wholly owned subsidiary of OEPL. Please refer to the attached Trust Deed.

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

The Proponent is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Origin Energy Limited (Origin Energy), an environmentally responsible company committed to conducting its business in a manner which ensures high standards of environmental management and performance.

As Australia's largest energy retailer, Origin Energy has committed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Origin Energy continues to implement the recommendations by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) to disclose climate-related risks and opportunities. The established emissions reduction goals and climate change reporting commitments align with Origin Energy's strategic priority to effectively manage the transition to a low-carbon economy. Origin Energy is a member of the We Mean Business coalition with the aim of accelerating corporate action on climate change. In 2015 Origin Energy was the first energy company in the world to sign up to seven commitments as follows:

- Report climate change information
- Commit responsible corporate engagement in climate policy
- Adopt a science-based emissions reduction target
- Set measures to factor in a cost of carbon internally, to judge its effect on investment decisions to drive down carbon emissions
- Become Australia's leading renewable and low-carbon energy provider, helping customers to procure electricity from renewable sources and procure 100 per cent of energy from renewable sources for Origin Energy's office premises, and where possible, all other operations by 2050
- Reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) (that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions)
- Remove commodity-driven deforestation from all supply chains.

As part of Origin Energy's sustainability objectives, Origin Energy aims to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of its energy production and distribution and non-producing assets. Origin Energy also takes all feasible steps to eliminate or minimise any adverse impact that its activities have on the environment. More information about Origin Energy's environmental history and details about specific activities undertaken as part of its responsible environmental management is available in its annual Sustainability Reports on Origin Energy's website; **Sustainability reports - Origin Energy**.

Origin Energy and its subsidiaries have previously referred the following projects under the EPBC Act:

- EPBC 2024/09788 - Darling Downs Battery Energy Storage System (Qld)
- EPBC 2022/09293 - Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion (NSW)
- EPBC 2021/8956 - Eraring Battery Energy Storage System (NSW)
- EPBC 2010/5417 – Darling Downs Power Station 2 (Qld)
- EPBC 2009/4913 – Gas Pipeline Crossing at Mount Emu Creek (Vic)
- EPBC 2006/2881 – Water pipelines, Mortlake Power Station (Vic)
- EPBC 2005/1995 - Construction and operation of a gas fired power station (Qld)
- EPBC 2005/1984 – Victorian Generator Project (Vic)

The Proponent does not have any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against them.

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

One of Origin Energy's core values is caring about its impact – on each other, the environment and the communities in which it works. Origin Energy's Health, Safety and Environment Policy describes how the company thinks about, plans and manages health, safety and environmental (HSE) risks and initiatives across the business.

The Proposed Action will be undertaken in accordance with Origin Energy's environmental policy and framework - https://www.originenergy.com.au/wp-content/uploads/origin_our_approach_environment.pdf

Origin's Health Safety and Environment Policy is built around:

Our principle duty of care – We care about the wellbeing of our people and our impact on the environment.

Our HSE aspiration – To conduct our business in a way that causes no harm to the health and safety of people and has no unforeseen impacts to the environment.

Origin Energy is committed to protecting the environment and consequently manages health, safety and environment (HSE) matters as critical business activities. In support of Origin Energy's overarching Health, Safety and Environment Policy, Origin Energy's HSE Management System ensures that environmental risks associated with Origin's operations are either avoided or kept to as low as reasonably practicable. Origin Energy aims to comply with all environmental regulations and conditions attached to approvals to operate, and promptly reports any non-compliance to relevant authorities as part of its ongoing commitment of responsible environmental management.

The HSE Management System mandates the minimum performance-based outcomes for managing HSE risks and/or impacts and conforms to the requirements of ISO 14001.

The Origin Corporate Governance Structure assesses the environmental and social risks associated with operations and projects. Operations are managed using policies and procedures to control remaining environmental and social risks. Projects are developed with precautionary engineering and management measures in place to mitigate or manage key environmental and social risks. Local communities and other stakeholders are consulted through the life cycle of an asset to understand and manage the environmental, economic, and social impacts of activities and to maximise the benefits. Environmental and social risk management is subject to periodic audits and assurance.

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN 42676356915
Organisation name YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT PTY LTD
Organisation address 2000 NSW

Proposed designated proponent details

Name Conal McCullough
Job title General Manager - Development and Construction
Phone 0418 615 521
Email conal.mccullough@originenergy.com.au
Address 100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

Name	Jason Richard
Job title	Environmental Advisor
Phone	0457 750 157
Email	jason.richard@originenergy.com.au
Address	180 Ann Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000

✔ Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

ABN/ACN	42676356915
Organisation name	YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Conal McCullough
Representative's job title	General Manager - Development and Construction
Phone	0418 615 521
Email	conal.mccullough@originenergy.com.au
Address	100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000

✔ Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

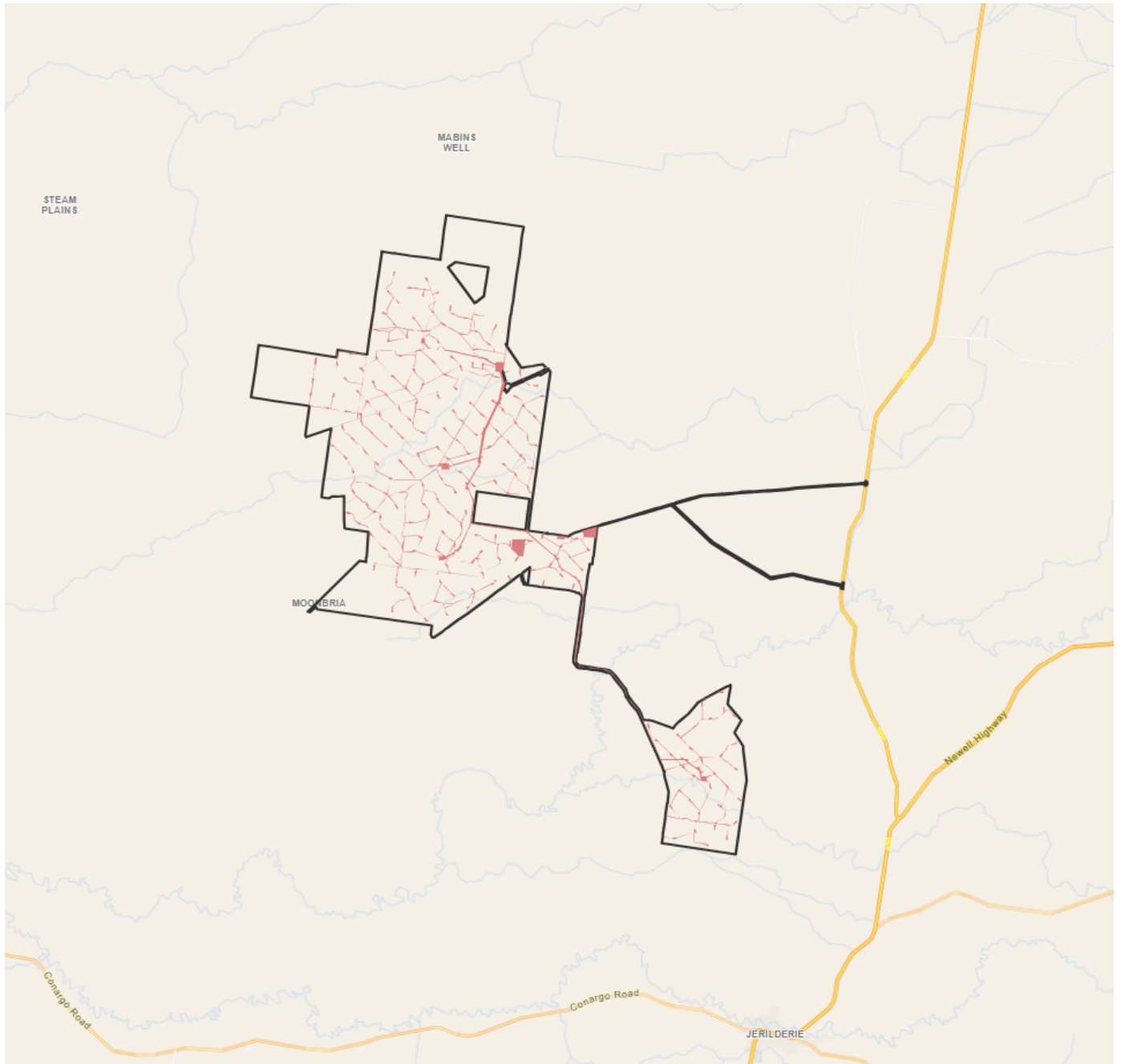
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 25730.42 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 1408.30 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Liddles Lane, Jerilderie, New South Wales, 2716 (see Attachment 4).

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

New South Wales

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

No

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

The Proposed Action would be located primarily on freehold land owned by eight landowners, with minor works undertaken on additional landholdings. The Proponent has entered into Options to Lease agreements with each relevant landowner. Project infrastructure would mostly be on private property, with the exception of small sections of internal cabling within the Project Area, and a small number of wind turbines on Crown Land. Further to the above, proposed road upgrades are required to facilitate the transportation of oversize and over mass goods. Licences to occupy the Crown reserves are currently being sought. A full list of land parcels within the Project Area is included in **Attachment 4**.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The closest town centre to the Project is Jerilderie, which is located approximately 10 kilometres to the south-east of the Project. The largest population centres nearby are Wagga Wagga, approximately 150 kilometres east of the Project, followed by Deniliquin located 70 kilometres south-west of the Project.

The Project Area is zoned as RU1 – Primary Production under the Conargo LEP and Jerilderie LEP, for agricultural activity. There are no proposed changes to zoning as section 2.36(1) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 provides that 'development for the purpose of electricity generating works may be carried out by any person with consent on any land in a prescribed rural, industrial or special use zone'. Land which is zoned RU1 – Primary Production is a prescribed rural zone for the purposes of section 2.36(1) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021. Therefore, the Project would be permissible with consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

The Project Area predominantly comprises a large mosaic of habitats including native grasslands, open myall woodland, partly wooded sandhills, Eucalypt woodland and lignum swamps. A history of farming and livestock grazing has notably changed the growth form of Weeping Myall trees, levels of grassland biomass and scarcity of trees on sandhills due to past logging of White Cypress Pine.

There are some occurrences of woodland on disturbed sandhills and riparian vegetation along the catchments of Yanco Creek and Delta Creek and there are large areas of disturbed vegetation south of Yanco Creek and north west of Delta Creek.

In the landscape the intact habitats provide locally significant biodiversity links and wildlife corridors. These habitats provide dependable links for birds, microbats, and large macropods within existing sheep and cattle grazing practices. The woodland patches provide very important stepping stones for native fauna between open natural grassland. Old drainage lines and large swamps with lignum and nitre goosefoot also provide important linkages for wildlife movement in the landscape. Plant community types vary in condition and patch sizes across the Project Area. These biodiversity values have conservation significance and represent key constraints to the Project.

The land surrounding the Project Area on all sides is also zoned RU1– Primary Production and is also used for grazing and agricultural purposes.

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

Existing use of land within the Project Area include agriculture and grazing. The land within the Project Area is predominantly agricultural mainly used as grazing pastures for sheep. Some grassland is also grazed by cattle. There are also large cropping paddocks, including cotton crops. The Project Area is located within the Southwest Renewable Energy Zone.

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

No outstanding natural features or other unique values occur within the Project Area itself.

The Jerilderie Nature Reserve is about 10 kilometres from the southern extent of the Project. Three small nature reserves of South West Woodland are located eight kilometres west, 17 kilometres east, and 23 kilometres south of the Project. Oolambeyan National Park is located approximately 24 kilometres north-west of the Project. The Murray Valley National Park is located 33.5 kilometres south-west of the Project.

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 topography of the Project Area is relatively flat with very gentle undulations, sloping gently down gradient from east to west. The ground surface typically lies between 100 and 114 metres AHD.

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.

Surveys completed to date

Extensive ecological surveys have been completed across the Project Area since 2020, including:

- Rapid Plant Community Type (PCT) assessment and mapping in 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025
- Vegetation integrity assessment in 2022
- Targeted threatened flora surveys in 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025
- Bird and bat utilisation studies in 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025
- Targeted fauna surveys in 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025

An overview of the ecosystems and species recorded is presented below. A comprehensive description of ecological values is presented in the YDWF EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Attachment 1**).

Bioregion

The Project Area is located within the Riverina bioregion (Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia: IBRA) and wholly within the Murrumbidgee IBRA sub-region. The Riverina bioregion lies in southwest NSW, extending into central-north Victoria. It ranges from Ivanhoe in the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion south to Bendigo, and from Narrandera in the east to Balranald in the west. The Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers and their major tributaries, the Lachlan and Goulburn Rivers, flow from the highlands in the east, westward across the Riverina plain. Characteristic landforms of the Murrumbidgee IBRA sub-region include alluvial fan with distributary channels and floodplains and undulating plains with depressions. The Riverina covers the alluvial fans of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers west of the Great Dividing Range and extends down the Murray. The region is relatively constrained by sediments from northern Victorian rivers, the Murrumbidgee fan and the Cadell fault. Soils are typically highly fertile red brown earths and grey clays with deep siliceous sands on elevated dunes.

Rivers and Streams

The Project Area is located within the Murrumbidgee catchment. Key waterways identified within the Project Area include Delta Creek, Yanco Creek and Turn Back Jimmy Creek. Delta Creek occurs in the north, Turn Back Jimmy Creek in the south and Yanco Creek is located between the northern and southern portions of the Project Area. Yanco Creek is the only permanent waterway in the Project Area, with Delta Creek, Turn Back Jimmy Creek and the drainage depressions classified as ephemeral.

Wetlands

There are no Ramsar Wetlands or Important Wetlands as listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia located within the Project Area.

Areas of outstanding biodiversity value

Areas of declared critical habitat that were listed under the now repealed Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act) have become declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value (AOBVs) in NSW with the commencement of the BC Act. AOBVs are special areas with irreplaceable biodiversity values that are important to the whole of NSW, Australia or globally. These are areas declared by the Minister for the Environment. There are no declared AOBVs within the Project Area.

Plant Community Types

The Project Area predominantly comprises large areas of native grassland and open Weeping Myall (*Acacia pendula*) woodlands) woodland in a flat landscape. In low lying areas there are occurrences of Lignum (*Duma florulenta*) and Nitre (*Chenopodium nitrariaceum*) swamps, River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) along drainage lines and creeks. There are also White Cypress Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) on sandhills as scattered paddock trees.

Threatened Ecological Communities

The following two TECs were confirmed to be present in the Disturbance Footprint:

- Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act.
- Weeping Myall Woodlands listed as endangered under the EPBC Act.

The Project Area also supports two TECs listed under the BC Act:

- Myall Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain, Murray-Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW Southwestern Slopes bioregions listed as endangered under the BC Act.

- Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina, Murray-Darling Depression and NSW Southwestern Slopes bioregions listed as endangered under the BC Act.

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

The level of groundwater dependence of vegetation communities in the Project Area was identified using the Atlas of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and the Risk Assessment Guidelines for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems released by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). Within the Project area, PCTs with a high groundwater dependence and potential for interaction are:

- PCT 7: River Red Gum - Warrego Grass - herbaceous riparian tall open forest wetland mainly in the Riverina Bioregion.
- PCT 9: River Red Gum - wallaby grass tall woodland wetland on the outer River Red Gum zone mainly in the Riverina Bioregion.

Threatened Flora

One threatened flora species considered to be a MNES was identified within the Project Area during targeted surveys for the EIS (refer **Attachment 1 - YDWF EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report, Section 2.2, page 9**):

- Slender Darling Pea (*Swainsona murrayana*) – vulnerable.

Two additional threatened flora species have been recorded in the Project Area during targeted flora surveys completed post EIS:

- Winged Peppergrass (*Lepidium monoplocoides*) – endangered
- Chariot wheels (*Maireana cheelii*) – vulnerable

In addition to the species listed above, an additional five threatened flora species are considered to have a moderate to high likelihood of occurring in the Project Area:

- A Speargrass (*Austrostipa wakoolica*) – endangered
- Claypan Daisy (*Brachysome muelleroides*) – vulnerable
- Mossy Daisy (*Brachysome papillosa*) – vulnerable
- Turnip Copperburr (*Sclerolaena napiformis*) – endangered
- Red Darling Pea (*Swainsonia plagiotropis*) - vulnerable

Threatened Fauna

The following threatened fauna species (MNES) are known to occur in the Project Area (refer **Attachment 1 - YDWF EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report, Section 2.1.2, page 13**):

- Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) – critically endangered
- Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) – vulnerable
- Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) – vulnerable

In addition to the species listed above, the following threatened fauna species are considered to have a moderate to high likelihood of occurrence in the Project Area:

- Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) – critically endangered
- Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) – vulnerable
- Grey Snake (*Hemiaspis damelii*) – endangered
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – vulnerable
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) – critically endangered

Migratory species

Attachment 1 - YDWF EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report, Section 2.1.3 (page 25) and Appendix B (page 85) assesses the likelihood of occurrence of Migratory and Marine species.

Thirteen listed migratory or marine species may occur in the Project Area. Based on extensive biodiversity surveys completed across the Project Area over the past 4 years, suitable habitat does not exist within the Project Area for most migratory or marine species identified by database searches. The following migratory or marine species are considered moderately likely to occur in, or adjacent to, the Project Area based on the presence of suitable habitats:

- Rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) – marine under EPBC Act (known to occur)
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – vulnerable (moderately likely)
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Cattle Egret (*Ardea ibis*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Black-eared Cuckoo (*Chalcites osculans*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Satin Flycatcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)

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

Within the Disturbance Footprint there are 1021 hectares of native vegetation, comprised of ten PCTs, comprising:

1. River Red Gum – Warrego Grass – herbaceous riparian tall open forest wetland mainly in the Riverina Bioregion (PCT 7)
2. River Red Gum – wallaby grass tall woodland wetland on the outer River Red Gum zone mainly in the Riverina Bioregion (PCT 9)
3. Black Box – Lignum woodland wetland of the inner floodplains in the semi-arid (warm) climate zone (mainly Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion) (PCT 13)
4. Lignum shrubland wetland of the semi-arid (warm) plains (mainly Riverina Bioregion and Murray Darling Depression Bioregion) (PCT 17)
5. Weeping Myall open woodland of the Riverina Bioregion and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion (PCT 26)
6. White Cypress Pine open woodland of sand plains, prior streams and dunes mainly of the semi-arid (warm) climate zone (PCT 28)
7. Forb-rich Speargrass - Windmill Grass – White Top grassland of the Riverina Bioregion (PCT 44)
8. Plains Grass grassland on alluvial mainly clay soils in the Riverina Bioregion and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion (PCT 45)
9. Curly Windmill Grass - speargrass - wallaby grass grassland on alluvial clay and loam on the Hay Plain, Riverina Bioregion (PCT 46)
10. Nitre Goosefoot shrubland wetland on clays of the inland floodplains (PCT 160)

The above listed PCTs correspond to six vegetation classes (Keith, 2004) in the Project Area, that represent different broad habitat types used to stratify fauna survey, including:

- Inland Riverine Forests
- Inland Floodplain Woodlands
- Riverine Plain Woodlands
- Inland Floodplain Swamps
- Riverine Sandhill Woodlands
- Riverine Plain Grasslands.

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 Project Area contains no Commonwealth heritage places, World Heritage Properties, or National Heritage Places.

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

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) was prepared as part of the EIS prepared in support of the SSD Consent in 2022 . The ACHAR will be updated and accompany the application to modify the SSD Consent for the YDWF to be submitted to the NSW DPHI in mid 2025. The ACHAR prepared for the Approved Action involved the following:

- Identification and consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders who may hold cultural knowledge of the area
- Desktop investigation of the existing environmental and cultural heritage context relevant to the project
- Developing a predictive model based on background research to identify areas with high archaeological potential to contain Aboriginal objects
- Delineation of survey units for targeted site inspection based on landform elements identified by the predictive model
- A preliminary vehicular site inspection was carried out between 2 to 8 May 2022 with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPS)
- An archaeological survey was carried out from 11 to 15 July 2022 on foot by a team of archaeologists and the RAPS
- Significance assessment of Aboriginal sites, considering social value, historic value, scientific value and aesthetic value.
- Impact assessment to determine type and degree of impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage items as a result of the project
- Desktop assessment of the proposed road upgrades
- Recommendations to mitigate or effectively manage potential project impacts

Key findings to date in relation to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the Project Area (as documented in the ACHAR prepared as part of the EIS for the Approved Action) are:

- No places listed on the National, Commonwealth or Local Environment Plan heritage lists are located in the Project Area.
- A search of the National Native Title Tribunal database found that there were no Native Title claims currently registered in the Project Area.
- 33 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified within the Project Area, comprising 10 artefact scatters, 9 isolated finds, 6 hearths, 4 potential archaeological deposits (PADs) and 4 culturally modified trees.
- 19 of the 33 sites are located outside the proposed disturbance footprint and would not be impacted (8 isolated finds, 4 culturally modified trees, 4 artefact scatters, 1 PAD and 2 hearths).
- The remaining 14 sites are wholly or partially located within the disturbance footprint of the Approved Action and may be impacted by construction of proposed powerlines, internal cabling and access tracks, including:
 - four hearth sites of moderate significance;
 - seven sites of low significance, including 6 artefact scatters and 1 isolated find; and
 - three PAD sites of unknown significance.

Based on the aesthetic, historic and social context of the identified Aboriginal objects, the Project Area is considered to be of moderate cultural heritage significance. The Aboriginal objects present within the Project Area are tangible expressions of Aboriginal life prior to contact and have the potential to connect the contemporary community with traditional practices that have been disrupted by colonial activity.

3.4 Hydrology

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

The topography of the Project Area is relatively flat with gentle undulations, sloping gently down gradient. There are three creeks in the Project Area:

- Delta Creek – An ephemeral waterway that flows through the northern section of the Project Area from east to west.
- Yanco Creek – A permanent waterway that flows from east to west and divides the northern and southern extent of the Project Area
- Turn Back Jimmy Creek – An ephemeral waterway that flows from the south-east through the southern section of the Project Area and joins with Yanco Creek downstream of the Project Area. There are also numerous ephemeral drainage depressions within the Project Area.

Aside from the three watercourses described above, there are some minor drainage depressions that hold water during rainfall and flooding and drain in a south-westerly direction. A slope dips toward Delta Creek in the northern portion of the Project. Several minor topographic depressions on the floodplain hold water for longer, creating scattered swamp environments within the Project Area.

Flooding within the Project Area, in both the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability event and the Probable Maximum Flood, is generally characterised by flow velocities of less than 0.5 metres per second and depths of one to three metres along the three major creeks and around one metre on the adjacent floodplains.

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.

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

No

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

There are no World Heritage Properties within, or proximate to the Project Area which could be impacted by the Proposed Action.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no National Heritage Places within, or proximate to the Project Area which could be impacted by the Proposed Action.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no RAMSAR Wetlands within or proximate to the Project Area. The nearest wetland of international importance, identified by the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST), is the Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes, located approximately 200 – 300 km downstream of the Project area.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass
No	No	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface
No	No	<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	<i>Austrostipa wakoolica</i>	
No	No	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern
No	No	<i>Brachyscome muelleroides</i>	Mueller Daisy
No	No	<i>Brachyscome papillosa</i>	Mossgiel Daisy
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Crinia sloanei</i>	Sloane's Froglet
No	No	<i>Euastacus armatus</i>	Murray Crayfish
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Galaxias rostratus</i>	Flathead Galaxias, Beaked Minnow, Flat-headed Galaxias, Flat-headed Jollytail, Flat-headed Minnow
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
Yes	No	<i>Hemiaspis damelii</i>	Grey Snake
Yes	Yes	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot
No	No	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl
No	No	<i>Lepidium monoplocoides</i>	Winged Pepper-cress
No	No	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Southern Bell Frog,, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (eastern), Eastern Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
No	No	Maccullochella macquariensis	Trout Cod
No	No	Maccullochella peelii	Murray Cod
No	No	Macquaria australasica	Macquarie Perch
Yes	No	Maireana cheelii	Chariot Wheels
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
Yes	Yes	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Nyctophilus corbeni	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
No	No	Pedionomus torquatus	Plains-wanderer
No	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
Yes	Yes	Polytelis swainsonii	Superb Parrot
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Sclerolaena napiformis	Turnip Copperburr
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Swainsona murrayana	Slender Darling-pea, Slender Swainson, Murray Swainson-pea
No	No	Swainsona plagiotropis	Red Darling-pea, Red Swainson-pea

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions
No	No	Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia
Yes	Yes	Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains
Yes	Yes	Weeping Myall Woodlands
No	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

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

Yes

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

The EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Attachment 1**) provides an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of threatened species and communities in the Project Area, building on the results of an extensive field survey program over the past four years. An assessment of significance has been completed for listed threatened species and listed ecological communities (TEC) with a moderate to high likelihood of occurring and that are likely to have important habitat in the Project Area in accordance with EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines (Department of Environment, 2013). The assessment of significance is presented in **Appendix A of Attachment 1, page 39**.

Threatened ecological communities

The following ecological communities are known to occur in the Project Area and will be directly impacted by the Project:

- Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains – critically endangered ecological community under EPBC Act (known to occur).
- Weeping Myall Woodlands - endangered ecological community under EPBC Act (known to occur).

Threatened flora

The following flora species are either known to occur or have a moderate to high likelihood of occurring in the Project Area and may be directly or indirectly impacted by the Proposed Action:

- A Spear-grass (*Austrostipa wakoolica*) – endangered under EPBC Act (moderate likely)
- Winged Peppergrass (*Lepidium monoplacoides*) – endangered under EPBC Act (known to occur)
- Turnip Copperburr (*Sclerolaena napiformis*) – endangered under EPBC Act (highly likely)
- Slender Darling Pea (*Swainsona murrayana*) - vulnerable under EPBC Act (known to occur)
- Red Darling Pea (*Swainsona plagiotropis*) - vulnerable under EPBC Act (highly likely)
- Claypan Daisy (*Brachyscome muelleroides*) - vulnerable under EPBC Act (moderate likely)
- Mossiel Daisy (*Brachyscome papillosa*) - vulnerable under EPBC Act (moderate likely)
- Chariot Wheels (*Maireana cheelii*) – vulnerable under EPBC Act (known to occur).

Threatened fauna

The following threatened fauna species (MNES) are known or have a moderate to high likelihood of occurring in the Project Area and may be impacted by the Proposed Action:

- Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) – critically endangered (known to occur)
- Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) – vulnerable under EPBC Act (known to occur)
- Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) – vulnerable under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) – vulnerable/ migratory under EPBC Act (highly likely)
- Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) – vulnerable (known to occur)
- Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) – critically endangered (moderately likely)
- Grey Snake (*Hemiaspis damelii*) – endangered (moderately likely)
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) – critically endangered (moderately likely)

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

Yes

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

Assessments of significance (AoS) for the Proposed Action have been prepared and are included in **Attachment 1 - Yanco Delta Wind Farm EPBC Referral – Biodiversity Assessment Report, Appendix A, page 39.**

Significance assessments have been completed in accordance with the *EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines* (DoE, 2013). Whether or not an action is likely to have a significant impact depends upon the sensitivity, value, and quality of the environment that is affected, and upon the intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impacts (DoE, 2013). Importantly, for a 'significant impact' to be 'likely', it is not necessary for a significant impact to have a greater than 50 per cent chance of happening; it is sufficient if a significant impact on the environment is a real or not a remote chance or possibility (DoE, 2013). This advice has been considered while undertaking the assessments.

Impacts on these entities are described as a loss of vegetation and habitat (direct impacts), in addition to a range of indirect impacts. The loss of vegetation has been calculated based on a project footprint that has been revised from the original approved project, for the purposes of constructability.

Considerable effort has gone into avoiding impacts to identified entities which has benefited from the amount of survey data gathered for the EIS in addition to targeted surveys conducted for the revised layout. Significant areas of the project will be occupied by internal transmission easements, that will be subject to refinement during a detailed design phase. This is expected to result in reduction of the areas stated in this assessment report as vegetation loss, as large areas of grassland and low-lying Myall Woodland will remain in situ within the easements.

The AoS conclude that significant impacts are possible or likely to occur on the following species and communities:

- Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains (Attachment 1, Appendix A.1.1)
- Weeping Myall Woodlands (Attachment 1, Appendix A.2.1)
- Chariot Wheels (Attachment 1, Appendix A.5.2)
- Plains Wanderer (Attachment 1, Appendix A3.1)
- Superb Parrot (Attachment 1, Appendix A.5.3)
- Painted Honeyeater (Attachment 1, Appendix A.5.4)
- Grey Snake (Attachment 1, Appendix A.4.2)

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

Yes

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

The Proposed Action has the potential to significantly impact MNES, namely listed threatened species and communities. Under the EPBC Act an action will require assessment by the Minister if the action is declared a controlled action and has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on a MNES.

The AoS conclude that significant impacts are possible or likely to occur on the following species and communities:

- Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains (Attachment 1, Appendix A.1.1)
- Weeping Myall Woodlands (Attachment 1, Appendix A.2.1)
- Chariot Wheels (Attachment 1, Appendix A.5.2)
- Plains Wanderer (Attachment 1, Appendix A3.1)
- Superb Parrot (Attachment 1, Appendix A.5.3)
- Painted Honeyeater (Attachment 1, Appendix A.5.4)
- Grey Snake (Attachment 1, Appendix A.4.2)

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. *

The Proposed Action has been designed to avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, minimise impacts to listed threatened species and threatened ecological communities. Measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts to listed threatened species and threatened ecological communities will be further investigated and developed to address the potential impacts of the Proposed Action as design and environmental assessment for the Proposed Action progresses.

Key avoidance and mitigation measures adopted by the Proposed Action include:

- locating infrastructure in areas of non-native vegetation wherever possible, and where this is not possible, locating infrastructure to avoid threatened species habitat, TECs and woodland patches, as far as practicable;
- modifying the Project design to avoid areas mapped as Plains-wanderer important habitat and known populations of Slender Darling Pea, as far as practicable;
- locating turbines at least 100 metres away from biodiversity habitat features including stick nests, hollow-bearing trees, riparian corridors, woodland edges, permanent waterbodies and low lying lignum swamps, where possible;
- further avoiding and minimise clearing and impacts to waterways through the detailed design process;
- avoidance of the following MNES which have been recorded from the Project Area:
 - Populations/individual plants of Winged Peppercross (*Lepidium monoplacoides*)
 - Additional populations/individual plants of Slender Darling Pea (*Swainsona murrayana*)
 - Populations/individual plants of Chariot Wheels (*Maireana cheelii*)
 - Hollow-bearing trees which provide potentially suitable nesting sites for the Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*)
 - Habitat for the Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*)

A range of management measures, management plans and further surveys, investigations and/or assessments are proposed to further minimise, mitigate or manage potential impacts on listed threatened species and threatened ecological communities. In addition, there will be continued refinement of the Proposed Action's project design, construction areas and construction methodology to minimise the extent of impacts on listed threatened species and threatened ecological communities (TECs).

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

The Proponent will be required to offset the residual biodiversity impacts of the Project in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme. An Offset Delivery Strategy is currently being prepared for the Proposed Action.

Impacts and offset requirements for the approved project footprint will be documented in the BDAR. Biodiversity credits will be calculated using the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and BAM Calculator (BAM-C) and comprise both ecosystem and species credits.

Offset Delivery options for the Approved Action were reviewed in 2024 (**Attachment 2**) and it was found that (at the time) there were sufficient like for like credits available to retire the ecosystem credit obligation of the Approved Action. Given the biodiversity credit obligations of the Proposed Action are likely to be greater than those required for the Approved Action, the Proponent has identified a range of offset delivery options, including land-based offsets delivered through Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSAs) sites within and surrounding the Project Area as well as credit purchases directly from the market and (as a last resort) payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

Preliminary offset investigations undertaken on behalf of the Proponent have found that there is approximately 3,900 ha of land with offset potential within the Project Area itself. Further, an additional 667 ha of land which supports relevant MNES, including TECs which are expected to be significantly impacted by the Proposed Action, have been identified on a nearby landholding. The Proponent is actively investigating all available options to ensure offsets can be secured for the Proposed Action.

The biodiversity values impacted by the Proposed Action occur across a broad landscape, and there may be landholders within the local area and broader subregion with an interest to conserve biodiversity values on their properties and establish a BSA.

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
Yes	Yes	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
Yes	Yes	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
Yes	Yes	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
Yes	Yes	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	Satin Flycatcher

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

Yes

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

The Proposed Action may directly impact migratory species by clearing vegetation during construction which comprises habitat and introducing wind turbines which may directly impact individuals during operation through collision and or/barotrauma. The Proposed Action is also likely to indirectly impact migratory species by introducing infrastructure such as transmission lines which are a collision and electrocution risk to some bird species.

The EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Attachment 1**) provides an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of migratory species in the Project Area, building on the results of an extensive field survey program over the past four years. An assessment of significance has been completed for listed migratory species with a moderate to high likelihood of occurring and that are likely to have important habitat in the Project Area in accordance with EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines (Department of Environment, 2013). The assessment of significance is presented in **Appendix A of Attachment 1, page 39**.

The following migratory or marine species are considered moderately likely to occur in, or adjacent to, the Project Area based on the presence of suitable habitats:

- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundopus caudacutus*) – migratory (moderately likely)
- Rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) – marine under EPBC Act (confirmed)
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Cattle Egret (*Ardea ibis*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Black-eared Cuckoo (*Chalcites osculans*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) – marine under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) – marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Satin Flycatcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*) - marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)
- Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) - marine/migratory under EPBC Act (moderately likely)

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 EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Attachment 1, Appendix A.6, page 82**) provides an assessment of potential impacts on Migratory Species in accordance with Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE, 2013). The assessment found that:

- The Rainbow Bee-eater is the only Migratory species that has been recorded in the Project area from 24 months of BBUS surveys. All records of this species have been recorded at below 50 metres height and therefore below the Rotor Swept Area (RSA).
- While the Project is likely to impact of some habitat that could potentially be used for breeding purposes, this habitat is not considered to be important habitat for these species.
- The proposed works are not considered likely to seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion of most of the populations of migratory species which may occur in the Project Area.
- Neither the White-throated Needletail or Fork-tailed Swift has been recorded in the Project area from almost 24 months of dedicated seasonal bird surveys. While there remains some potential to occur in the Project area on occasion, or sporadically, the absence of a population, or regular visits suggests that the habitat is not important for these populations.

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. *

The EPBC Referral, Biodiversity Assessment Report (**Attachment 1, Appendix A.6, page 82**) provides an assessment of potential impacts on Migratory Species in accordance with Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE, 2013) The AoS found that there are no areas of 'important habitat' for any species within the Project Area, and that the proposed works are not considered likely to seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion of most of the populations of migratory species which may occur in the Project Area. The AoS concludes that significant impacts on migratory species are unlikely to occur. On that basis, Migratory species are not considered a relevant controlling provision for the Proposed Action.

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. *

The Proposed Action has included avoidance and mitigation measures to avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, minimise impacts to migratory species.

Measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts to migratory species will be further investigated and developed to address the potential impacts of the Proposed Action as design and environmental assessment for the Proposed Action progresses.

Key avoidance and mitigation measures adopted in the project design to avoid and/or mitigate impacts on listed migratory species by locating turbines at least 100 metres away from biodiversity habitat features including stick nests, hollow-bearing trees, riparian corridors, woodland edges, permanent waterbodies and low lying lignum swamps, where possible.

A range of management measures, management plans and further surveys, investigations and/or assessments are proposed to further minimise, mitigate or manage potential impacts on migratory species. In addition, there will be continued refinement of the Proposed Action's project design, construction areas and construction methodology to minimise the extent of impacts on migratory species.

A Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP) will be developed for the Project. The BBAMP will utilise the bird survey data obtained across the Bird and Bat Utilisation Studies to identify specific bird and bat species that are at risk of collision with overhead cabling and power lines or the transmission line and electrocution. For higher risk species, a strategy will be developed in consultation with BCS focused on identifying key sections of overhead cabling and power lines or the transmission line where mitigation is required and will include deploying bird divertors, with day/night reflectors within approved buffer distance. The plan will include the following in consultation with BCS:

- Regular monitoring in overhead cabling and power lines or the transmission line easements for evidence of bird / bat collision (intervals to be determined in consultation with BCS)
- Monitoring of taller structures for evidence of raptor nest building
- Developing target trigger for number of high-risk species incidents
- Deploying species specific bird / bat divertors / flappers / reflectors in areas where a defined number of incidents have occurred.

Identifying locations for specific measures and the monitoring method for testing effectiveness.

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

The Project will be required to offset the residual biodiversity impacts of the Project in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme. An Offset Delivery Strategy is currently being prepared for the Proposed Action.

Impacts and offset requirements for the approved project footprint will be documented in the BDAR. Biodiversity credits will be calculated using the BAM and BAM-C and comprise both ecosystem and species credits.

Offset Delivery options for the Approved Action were reviewed in 2024 (**Attachment 2**) and it was found that (at the time) there were sufficient like for like credits available to retire the ecosystem credit obligation of the Approved Action. Given the biodiversity credit obligations of the Proposed Action are likely to be greater than those required for the Approved Action, the Proponent has identified a range of offset delivery options, including land-based offsets delivered through Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSAs) sites within and surrounding the Project Area as well as credit purchases directly from the market and (as a last resort) payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

Preliminary offset investigations undertaken on behalf of the Proponent have found that there is approximately 3,900 ha of land with offset potential within the Project Area itself. Further, an additional 667 ha of land which supports relevant MNES, including TECs which are expected to be significantly impacted by the Proposed Action, have been identified on a nearby landholding. As discussed above, the Proponent is actively investigating all available options to ensure offsets can be secured for the Proposed Action. The biodiversity values impacted by the Project occur across a broad landscape, and there may be landholders within the local area and broader subregion with an interest to conserve biodiversity values on their properties and establish a BSA site.

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 relate to nuclear activities.

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 does not occur within or in proximity to a Commonwealth Marine Area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The Proposed Action will not directly impact the Great Barrier Reef, nor is it located in a reef draining catchment. No impacts are expected on the Great Barrier Reef because of the Proposed Action.

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not a large coal mining development or coal seam gas development.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

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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 impact Commonwealth Land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

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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 will not impact any Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas, directly or indirectly.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

The Approved Action obtained an EPBC Act approval in 2024. There are no alternatives to the existing Approved Action and no proposals for the Proposed Action to be located on any other land given the factors which inform site suitability.

The Proposed Action would provide a significant amount of new generation capacity which supports the transition towards renewable energy in the National Electricity Market and facilitates the planned retirement of coal fired power stations in NSW. Not proceeding with the Project does not meet the NSW need for generation capacity or the Commonwealth and State climate change commitments to transition to renewable energy generation and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

In addition, not proceeding with the Project would result in Riverina Murray Region foregoing significant potential financial benefit, and sufficient clean energy to power the equivalent of approximately 700,000 homes would not be realised.

The supply of additional generation capacity would help meet load demand as a result of the retiring thermal generation. The use of wind power, supported by ancillary battery capacity, as the predominant generation type for the Project has been driven by the following factors:

- Wind energy can be harnessed at night, particularly in the evening when electricity demand is high; solar energy, as an alternative, cannot be harnessed at night or during cloudy conditions
- Night generation takes advantage of spare network capacity to charge batteries or for off-site pumped hydro storage
- WTGs release less carbon dioxide (CO₂) to the atmosphere. Generally, a WTG produces 4.64 grams of CO₂/1 kilowatt hour (kWh) while a solar panel produces 70 grams of CO₂/1kWh (Regen Power, 2021)
- Wind power consumes less energy and produces more energy compared to solar power
- Solar requires 30-35 times the land area per MWh produced, therefore, would not be conducive with areas that have high native vegetation value or important agricultural land
- Onshore wind energy generation is one of the lowest-cost technologies and this cost is projected to continue to decrease in the near future.

Further, the Project would deliver renewable, low-cost energy to the National Electricity Market (NEM) and would contribute to the NSW Government's 2050 net zero emissions target. Renewable energy such as wind energy would contribute towards cleaner electricity generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate potential impacts of climate change. The Project would also provide opportunities for local and regional investment, accompanying the growth of the renewable energy sector across NSW and in the South-West REZ. The Project location is also considered appropriate based on the following:

- There is low population density and homogenous agricultural land use within and surrounding the Project Area and, as a result, the number of sensitive receivers would be minimised.
- Preliminary consultation with the local community through the EIS process for the Approved Action, including neighbours to the Project, received positive feedback.
- The Project is expected to be highly compatible with existing pastoral land uses, as minimal impact to current agricultural activities are expected during both construction and operation.
- The Project would have good access to the proposed electricity transmission infrastructure that would be built as part of Project EnergyConnect, as well as being located in a strategically supported REZ.

The terrain is generally flat and is expected to result in simple construction compared to other geographic areas.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - YDWF Biodiversity Assessment Report - REDACTED.pdf Biodiversity report, including Assessments of Significance for MNES - with sensitive species locations redacted	14/05/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 1_YDWF_Biodiversity Assessment Report - UNREDACTED.pdf Biodiversity report, including Assessments of Significance for MNES - with sensitive species locations shown	14/05/2025	Yes	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 3 - YDWF EPBC Approval.pdf EPBC approval for Yanco Delta Wind Farm	21/02/2024	No	High

1.3.2.16 (Person proposing to take the action) Nature of the trust arrangement in relation to the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Yanco Delta WF Project Trust - Trust Deed.pdf	09/04/2025	Yes	

1.3.2.17 (Person proposing to take the action) Proposer's history of responsible environmental management

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Sustainability Reports - Origin Energy https://www.originenergy.com.au/about/sustainabi..			High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 4 - Land Parcels within Project Area.docx A full list of land parcels within the Project Area	17/04/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 5a - BDAR part 1.pdf BDAR for the approved action - Part a	12/05/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 5b - BDAR part 2.pdf BDAR for the approved action - Part b	12/05/2025	No	High

4.1.4.11 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Proposed offsets relevant to avoidance or mitigation measures

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	Attachment 2 - YDWF_Biodiversity Offset Options.pdf A technical memo outlining offset options for the Project	17/04/2025	Yes	High
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5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

Name	Jason Richard
Job title	Environmental Advisor
Phone	0457 750 157
Email	jason.richard@originenergy.com.au
Address	180 Ann Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000

- Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *
 - I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *
 - By checking this box, I, **Jason Richard**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *
 - I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *
-

✔ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	42676356915
Organisation name	YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Conal McCullough
Representative's job title	General Manager - Development and Construction
Phone	0418 615 521
Email	conal.mccullough@originenergy.com.au
Address	100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000

- Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *
- I, **Conal McCullough of YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current

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

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

Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

I, **Conal McCullough of YANCO DELTA WF PROJECT PTY LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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