

Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project

Application Number: 03359

Commencement Date:
03/03/2026

Status: Locked

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project

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 *

01/09/2028

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/01/2090

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The proposed action

The proposed action is the construction and operation of the Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project (the Project) in the west coast region of Tasmania.

The Project comprises up to 280 wind turbine generators (WTGs) with a projected generating capacity of up to 2,800 megawatts (MW) and ancillary infrastructure including a network of access roads, electrical infrastructure, and operations facilities. Temporary, onsite quarries to facilitate the construction of the Project may be established, together with onsite concrete batching using mobile batching plants within the Project area.

Key components of the Project include:

Permanent (operational) Infrastructure

- Up to 280 (3.6-10 MW) WTGs, with a hub height of up to 180m and a maximum tip height of up to 250m
- Up to 9 electrical collector substations and 4 switching substations and switchyard/s, and associated network of underground and overhead cables. This network will connect the Project to the existing Farrell-Reece 220 kV transmission line that runs east-west through the northern part of the Project area
- A network of access tracks will be developed to connect to each of the WTGs and facilitate construction access for oversized construction materials and provide operational phase access for maintenance
- Permanent site offices and workshop facilities will be constructed for ongoing operations and maintenance. This will include site offices, kitchen, toilets, storage facilities, workshop, washdown bays and hardstand areas for parking, storage and laydowns
- Meteorological monitoring masts

Construction Infrastructure

- Quarry/s for sourcing aggregate and sand for the construction of footings, access tracks and other hardstands
- Mobile concrete batching plants
- Access tracks and laydown areas
- Temporary construction compounds with site buildings (toilets, office etc.), laydown areas, and car parks

The Project is located within the North West Tasmania Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), designated by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in the Integrated System Plan. The Project area comprises multiple land tenures within the West Coast Council municipal area, regional reserves and other types of Crown land, including permanent timber production zone land and future potential production forest land. The Project area has a high-capacity factor for wind, which allows more renewable energy to be developed from less resources and lowers the cost of renewable energy generation. The suitability of the region for the development of a wind farm is demonstrated by the existing Granville Harbour Wind Farm, located to the west of the Project area and data from four meteorological monitoring masts installed within the Project area.

Project phases

The Project will be constructed and commissioned in phases to meet growing electricity demand and available transmission capacity.

The first phase is anticipated to be between 288 - 432 MW, plus internal transmission lines (overhead and underground) and site management infrastructure. This internal transmission will connect the Project to the existing Farrell-Reece 220 kV transmission line. Consultation between the Proponent and TasNetworks has

indicated there is currently sufficient capacity on the Farrell-Reece transmission line to distribute the expected electricity output from the first phase of the Project (288 - 432 MW) to the national energy market.

Within the Project area the specific location of the first and any subsequent phases are still subject to design and refinement.

As the market demand increases and the wind farm phases progress, additional offsite transmission capacity will be required to export electricity from the site, or opportunities may arise to use the generated electricity in the local region (such as the establishment of new green industries, or the use of power at nearby mineral processing facilities). The timing, size and number of subsequent phases of the Project are currently in development and will be influenced by market demand. Similarly, future transmission requirements will depend on the requirements and location(s) of the end user(s) of the energy generated by the Project.

No external transmission line infrastructure is required for the first phase of the Project. Any future opportunities for transmission augmentation will be subject to separate approvals. *Importantly, by seeking approval for the entire wind farm at the outset, the proponent provides a holistic view of the expected eventual scale of the Project and ensures cumulative impacts of each wind farm phase are assessed as one.*

Project area and disturbance footprint

The total Project area is approximately 40,500 hectares. Within this area a disturbance footprint has not yet been finalised (due to the early stage of project design). For the purposes of providing spatial files for this referral, the nominated disturbance footprint is therefore the same as the Project area, noting in reality the actual disturbance footprint will be considerably less (see below).

An *indicative development area* is shown in **Att_1 'Project Area Figures', Figure 3** and represents the approximate area of the site within which development is expected to occur, subject to further layout refinement. This indicative development area is approximately 19,000 ha in size. Importantly, a significant portion of the project area and indicative development area will ultimately be completely avoided. The final disturbance (operational) footprint will be a subset of the indicative development area and is estimated to be approximately **500 ha**, or approximately **1% of the Project area**.

The Project design has undergone significant refinement and consolidation since the initial Major Project Proposal was submitted in 2024 (**Att_2 'Major Project Proposal'**). A turbine exclusion zone has been developed (to inform the indicative development area) based on key impact avoidance and minimisation principles, and is undergoing regular updates. Examples of these key principles include avoiding turbine placement in important ecological habitat, a buffer zone of 1.5 km to the coastline, and further buffer zones to residential buildings and freehold property.

This refinement process is ongoing as infrastructure elements are finalised and adjusted to ensure continual improvement and lowest impact based on further site assessment and design refinement, expected as part of the normal project development phase.

Construction overview

The first phase of the Project (288-432 MW) is expected to take approximately two years to complete, and include the following key activities:

- Construction compounds will be established and will include facilities such as site offices, crib rooms, toilets, workshop, storage facilities, vehicle washdown facilities, bunded refuelling facilities, laydown areas and parking.
- The construction of a permanent site office and workshop facilities for ongoing operations and maintenance. This will include site offices, kitchen, toilets, storage facilities, workshop, a washdown bay and hardstand areas for parking
- Access track and road construction and upgrades

- Vegetation clearance
- Ground excavations, construction of hardstand areas and establishment of footings
- Trenching for cables, collector substation installation, cable and electrical installation, internal overhead transmission line construction and connection into the existing transmission network.
- Onsite laydown and assembly of WTGs.
- Temporary quarries and mobile concrete batching plant/s

Significant volumes of aggregate and sand will be required for the construction of footings as well as roads and other hardstands. This material may be sourced from within the Project area, and geotechnical investigations will be undertaken alongside impact studies to identify suitable resources for construction and aggregate materials.

Ancillary infrastructure such as upgrades to roads external to the Project area (to facilitate delivery of oversize WTG components) may be required. A range of studies including a Traffic Impact Assessment are underway to determine the most suitable transport route to the site from available ports in Tasmania. Construction workforce accommodation will also be required and investigations into this are ongoing but likely to include options outside of the Project area, in nearby towns such as Zeehan.

Any approvals for ancillary infrastructure outside of the Project area, such as road upgrades and workforce accommodation, are outside the scope of this referral and do not form part of the Action. They will be subject to separate approval processes as required.

Potential for environmental impact

The Project area selection has sought to minimise the potential environmental impacts of the Project. Numerous seasonal avifauna surveys undertaken from 2021 through to 2026 have recorded a low abundance of bird species utilising the area, with the lowest density of wedge-tailed eagles and white-bellied sea eagles of all wind farm sites currently proposed in Tasmania (Nature Advisory, 2023).

The area is dominated by low-lying vegetation (such as moorland and scrub) with limited forest vegetation, meaning minimal tree clearance will be required to facilitate the Project.,

The Project area is remote from neighbouring communities, reducing the risk of noise and visual amenity impacts.

Nevertheless, there remains the potential that activities for the Project may have direct or indirect impacts on the environment. These are discussed in more detail in attachments **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026'** and **Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026'**, and in the relevant sections of this referral (where they relate to MNES).

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

No

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

Approvals Framework

The Project requires approval under the Tasmanian *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA) and *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA).

In March 2024 the Project was declared a Major Project in accordance with the LUPAA. An independent panel was assembled by the Tasmanian Planning Commission and assessment criteria were prepared (with input from relevant regulators and specified others) requiring the submission of a Major Project Impact Statement (MPIS). The Major Project assessment process for this Project is available online at <https://www.planning.tas.gov.au/assessments-and-hearings/current-assessments-and-hearings/whaleback-ridge-renewable-energy-assessment-criteria>

Opportunities for public involvement are provided at several stages in the major projects assessment process including the setting of assessment criteria, exhibition of the MPIS and initial assessment report (prepared by the panel) and hearings.

The Project area comprises multiple land tenures within the West Coast Council municipal area, regional reserves and other types of Crown land, including permanent timber production zone land and future potential production forest land. In addition to the major project assessment process and approval under LUPAA, the Project will be subject to assessment and approval under the Reserve Activity Assessment process for the purposes of granting an authority under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*.

Depending on the values identified on site after further detailed studies, and the potential for impact, the Project may also require approval under the:

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*
- *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*
- *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*; and
- *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

The major projects process allows for a consolidated consideration of land use planning, environmental, heritage and infrastructure requirements across several government agencies and integrates permits and approvals under several pieces of Tasmanian legislation, including those listed above.

The Project is also expected to require approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), due to the potential for the Project to significantly impact several Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

Relevant Policies

As part of the major project approval process the Project must demonstrate consistency with a number of Tasmanian policies and strategies including the objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania, the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy, the State Policy on the Protection of Water Quality Management 1997 and the State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land 2009.

The recently made Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPP) include one for renewable energy, with the objective of that policy being:

To promote renewable energy use and development to support economic and employment opportunities and strengthen the State's economy, while also supporting emissions reduction.

The Major Project Proposal (MPP) describes how the Project is consistent with these documents (refer **Att_2 'Major Project Proposal', sections 8.13 to 8.15, pages 62-64**).

The EPBC Act guidelines and policies with particular relevance to the proposed action include the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 Matters of National Environmental Significance (the Significant Impact Guidelines) and the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy, with regard to the potential setting of offsets for

residual impacts. According to the Significant Impact Guidelines, significant impacts to listed threatened species and ecological communities are likely.

Note: after July 1 2026 several of the new National Environmental Standards for MNES (associated with reforms of the EPBC Act) are expected to be finalised. Standards of potential relevance to the Project (subject to final transitional arrangements) include the National Environmental Standard for Environmental Offsets (replacing the above mentioned EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy), and the National Environmental Standard for Matters of National Environmental Significance.

Policy Targets

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments have set a number of renewable energy policy targets that this Project will contribute to, including:

- The Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target (TRET) is a legislated target for Tasmania to reach 200% of 2020 energy generation levels by 2040, with an interim target of 150% by 2030
- The Australian Government emissions reduction target of 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 and Net Zero by 2050
- The Australian Government Renewable Energy Target (RET) of 82% by 2030

As the largest renewable energy project in Tasmania, the Project will produce enough energy to achieve the TRET of 200% renewable energy by 2040.

The plans for Tasmania include expanding the renewable energy export capacity through development of an additional 750 MW interconnector (Marinus Link) to mainland Australia and the development of new industries that will use renewable energy within the state.

The Integrated System Plan (which is recognised by the Tasmanian Renewable Energy Coordination Framework) identifies four REZs for Tasmania (AEMO, 2022). The Project Site is located within the North West REZ. The Tasmanian Government has identified an additional 5,150 MW of renewable energy to be developed in the North West REZ (DSG, 2021).

The Project will directly contribute to these key government initiatives by:

- Delivering up to 2,800 MW of renewable energy generated in the North West Tasmania REZ, built in stages to align with Tasmania's transmission upgrades and growing green energy industry demand.
- Providing large-scale and cost-competitive renewable energy to attract future industries into the state.

The Project has set a timeline to prioritise delivery aligned with the 2030 and 2040 energy targets, with renewable energy production commencing in the next five years and increasing to meet targets within the next 10 years.

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. *

West Coast Renewable Energy (WRE) is committed to ensuring stakeholders and the community are actively engaged throughout the Project. Guided by best practice national standards, the Project's principles of consultation aim to foster genuine participation, build trust and relationships, and deliver community benefits that genuinely reflect local priorities.

The consultation approach has been developed using the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation, widely recognised as the benchmark for best practice stakeholder and community engagement.

The consultation approach has also drawn guidance from:

- Guideline for Community Engagement, Benefit Sharing and Local Procurement (and technical supplements) (ReCFIT, 2024)
- Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry (Clean Energy Council, 2018)
- Interim Engaging with First Nations People and Communities on Assessments and Approvals under *EPBC Act 1999* (DCCEEW, 2023)
- Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner recommendations
- Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects (Clean Energy Council, 2024).

Engagement undertaken to date

Engagement commenced in 2019 in the site selection phase, and was partially informed by engagement undertaken for Granville Harbour Wind Farm.

The Project team has developed a Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan (SCEP) and Tasmanian Aboriginal Engagement Strategy outlining the engagement process, key stakeholders, and engagement tools and methods.

Extensive engagement has been undertaken since 2019 with key stakeholders, including:

- **Local government** including West Coast Council, Kentish Council, Burnie City Council, Waratah-Wynyard Council, Circular Head Council, and Cradle Coast Authority (CCA)
- **Mining industry** including mineral exploration licence holders and neighbouring mining companies, with letters of support received from industry leaders including CopperCorp, Georgina Resources, Spero Mining and Bluestone Mines
- **State government departments and agencies** including Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service, Environment Protection Authority, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, Mineral Resources Tasmania and Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT)
- **Government business enterprises (GBE) and state-owned companies** including TasPorts, TasNetworks, Hydro Tasmania and Sustainable Timber Tasmania.
- **Industry and business associations** including Business West North West, Devonport Chamber of Commerce, and Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC).
- **Environmental organisations** including Raptor Refuge, No Turbine Action Group (NTAG) and Granville Harbour Coast Care.
- **Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations** through Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA)
- **Research institutions** including University of Tasmania, University of South Australia and University of Adelaide (now Adelaide University), Curtin University, TasTAFE and Zoos Victoria (regarding orange-bellied parrot tracking program).

Engagement will continue through the Project's development phase and beyond into the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Engagement action plans will be developed for each Project stage to ensure the consultation process remains fit-for-purpose.

Stakeholder mapping

The following stakeholder groups are being engaged for the Project.

- **Government representatives:** federal and state ministers and MPs
- **Federal and state government departments and agencies**
- **Local government:** West Coast, Kentish, Burnie City, Waratah-Wynyard and Circular Head councils, and CCA
- **GBEs and state-owned companies:** TasPorts, TasNetworks, Hydro Tasmania and Sustainable Timber Tasmania
- **Local community:** including Granville Harbour, Trial Harbour, Zeehan, Rosebery, Corinna, Strahan and Queenstown
- **Host landowners:** Hydro Tasmania, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service
- **Nearby site neighbours:** Mining leaseholders, exploration licence holders, apiary licence holders, Hydro Tasmania, Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service, and neighbouring landholders and residents
- **Energy providers:** Aurora and Solstice
- **Emergency services:** Zeehan and Rosebery SES, Zeehan Fire Brigade, Zeehan Ambulance Station, Zeehan Police Station, and the Royal Flying Doctors Service
- **Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations and people:** Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania, Aboriginal Heritage Council, Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation, Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance, and other regional Aboriginal groups
- **Environmental groups:** Birdlife Tasmania, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Climate Tasmania, Bob Brown Foundation, Tullah Landcare, Friends of the Orange Bellied Parrot, Wildcare Tasmania, WWF, Raptor Refuge Northwest, and NTAG
- **Industry and business representatives:** Advance West North West, Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation, Burnie Chamber of Commerce, West Coast Regional Strategic Plan Group, TMEC, Tasmanian Clean Energy Centre of Excellence, Tourism Industry Council Tasmania, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Housing Industry Association, Master Builders, Civil Contractors and the Clean Energy Council
- **Trade unions:** Electrical Trades Union, Communications Electrical and Plumbing Union Tasmania and Unions Tasmania
- **Freight logistics providers:** Strait Link, Tas Connect Logistics and Tasfreight
- **Local tourism businesses:** Accommodation providers, tourist information centres, and adventure tourism groups
- **Educational institutions:** TasTAFE and regional training organisations
- **Other projects:** Granville Harbour Wind Farm and Hydro Tasmania's West Coast refurbishment program
- **Local media:** the Advocate, the Mercury, the Western Echo, 7XS, Pulse FM, ABC Northern Tasmania, Tasmanian Times, Southern Cross, WIN Tasmania and community Facebook groups
- **National and industry media:** the Guardian, the Australian, ABC and Renew Economy

Engagement next steps

WRE will continue to engage throughout the development phase. Aims are to:

- Improve Project understanding, including potential benefits, impacts and opportunities.
- Ensure local knowledge, community values and stakeholder perspectives are considered in Project planning, design and impact management.
- Identify stakeholder concerns, risks and opportunities early to support informed decision-making.
- Gather insights to help shape mitigation measures, community benefit initiatives and broader outcomes.
- Enable stakeholders and communities to contribute to discussions on matters that may affect them and influence Project outcomes where appropriate.
- Support positive social and economic outcomes through local employment, procurement, workforce development and community benefit sharing opportunities.

Project sentiment

Project sentiment is predominantly positive, characterised by strong community alignment with the regional economic benefits and the Project's low-impact design. Local residents and industry groups have identified the development as an opportunity to diversify the North West economy and provide long-term community uplift.

During the State Government's 'Mapping Important Places' initiative led by ReCFIT, aimed at identifying places to host renewable energy projects, the Project area received high levels of community interest as a preferred location for wind energy (https://hdp-au-prod-app-sgtas-engage-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/2717/1460/6659/REZ_Consultation_Summary_2023.pdf). This support is bolstered by the Project's distance from the coast, which minimises visual and noise impacts on high-value scenic areas, and its location within altered landscapes that protect prime agricultural land and existing infrastructure.

Letters of support for the Project have been received from all five councils engaged, and several representatives from the mining industry. CCA supports the Project as a project of regional significance. As part of the state's Major Project Process, numerous submissions have been made regarding the Project. A significant majority of these submissions expressed support for the Project, and a minority were unsupportive. Submissions can be viewed on the Tasmanian Planning Commission website (<https://www.planning.tas.gov.au/assessments-and-hearings/current-assessments-and-hearings/whaleback-ridge-renewable-energy-assessment-criteria>).

Future engagement will include:

- **Community information sessions** including drop-ins and workshops
- **Local events** attendance/pop-ups
- **One-on-one meetings** with key stakeholders, landowners and community members
- **Project website** to provide information in a central location
- **Online surveys** to ensure those unable to attend community events in-person can still give feedback
- **Community reference group** to codesign the community benefit sharing framework and ensure locals benefit from the Project
- **Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural values workshop** this workshop sits within WRE's standalone Tasmanian Aboriginal Engagement Strategy, developed in partnership with CHMA and aligned with the Clean Energy Council's Leading Practice Principles and EPBC Act 1999 requirements, with the aim of producing a culturally safe engagement environment where the Tasmanian Aboriginal community is informed and empowered to share in the long-term economic benefits of the Project

While the Project is generally supported, including constructive dialogue with advocacy groups such as NTAG, concerns have been raised regarding environmental and heritage values. Community feedback highlights the importance of protecting biodiversity, specifically the Tasmanian devil, wedge-tailed eagle, and migratory bird habitats, as well as the regions cultural and natural values. WRE acknowledges these concerns and is committed to addressing these matters through rigorous scientific assessment and transparent communication, ensuring the Project coexists with the North West's unique natural and cultural values.

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 National Environmental Protection Agency (the agency) collects your personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act 1988) through this platform for the purposes of enabling the agency 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 agency 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@NationalEPA.gov.au.

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

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	21681443103
Organisation name	ERA ADVISORY PTY LTD
Organisation address	7000 TAS

Referring party details

Name	Anahita Jungalwalla
Job title	Director
Phone	03 6165 0443
Email	anahita@eraplanning.com.au
Address	Level 1, 125A Elizabeth Street, Hobart, 7000

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	31633216163
Organisation name	WESTCOAST RENEWABLE ENERGY PTY LTD
Organisation address	7250 TAS

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Chantel Hodgson
Job title	Renewable Energy Project Manager
Phone	0456850118
Email	chantel.hodgson@westcoastrenew.com.au
Address	PO Box 464, Newstead, TAS 7250

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

No

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

No

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

Westcoast Renewable Energy (WRE) is a Tasmanian company that was established by the founders of Granville Harbour Wind Farm as a development company to deliver renewable energy in Tasmania. The company was established following the success of Granville Harbour Wind Farm in meeting the 100% Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target with a low impact project. Granville Harbour Wind Farm due to its location was a very low impact development, with the project determined to be "not a controlled action" under the EPBC Act. In keeping with a vision of increasing further low impact renewable energy generation WRE was formed to develop the adjacent Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project and to contribute toward Tasmania achieving the 200% Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target.

WRE is not subject to any current or historical proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

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

Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd (WRE) is a Tasmanian company that operates under environmental and sustainability policy as follows:

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

1. Purpose

Our purpose is to deliver renewable energy in Tasmania in a way that leaves the environment, our people and our communities demonstrably better off. This Policy sets out our commitment to environmentally and socially responsible development, construction, operation and decommissioning of every WRE project.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to Westcoast Renewable Energy and all WRE-controlled projects, including the Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project, and to all directors, employees, contractors and joint venture partners engaged on WRE projects.

3. Policy Statement

We are committed to protecting and enhancing the environment, and to acting responsibly toward our people and communities, through sustainable development principles, sound risk management, and continual improvement. We take a proactive approach to avoiding and minimising our impacts, and we hold ourselves to a standard that reflects the sensitivity of the Tasmanian landscapes and communities in which we operate.

Environment

Plan and avoid

- Undertake environmental assessment early in project design to identify the best opportunities to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts, using offsets only as a last resort for genuine residual impact.
- Support a precautionary approach to potential environmental impacts.
- Consider cumulative impacts alongside other developments in the same landscape, including other WRE projects.

Operate responsibly

- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation, including the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) and the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (Tas).
- Account for the full lifecycle emissions of each project — construction, operation and decommissioning — against the emissions it displaces, with a target of carbon positive operation over the project's life.
- Engage contractors and suppliers who share our environmental and social commitments.
- Respond promptly to any environmental incident, with reporting to relevant stakeholders.

Report and improve

- Report environmental performance, including carbon positive status, to the Board on a regular basis.
- Communicate environmental information to staff, contractors, landowners and the community as it is validated.
- Apply lessons learned from each project to improve environmental outcomes on the next.

Social

- Engage with communities early and genuinely, including a Community Reference Group for each project.
- Share the benefits of each project with its local community, including a defined share of profits over the project's operating life.

- Prioritise local and Tasmanian content and employment where practicable.
- Provide a safe, healthy working environment for employees and contractors, with zero tolerance for harassment or discrimination.

Governance

- Act with honesty, integrity and transparency in all business dealings, and require the same of contractors and joint venture partners.
- Disclose environmental and social performance as it is validated, and correct public disclosures promptly where later assessment changes an earlier position.
- Maintain clear accountability for this Policy at Board and Chief Executive Officer level.

4. Audit and Review

This Policy will be reviewed at least every 24 months, and following any material change to WRE's project portfolio or relevant legislation. The Board receives regular updates on environmental performance.

5. Variation

WRE reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this Policy from time to time. All personnel are required to comply with this Policy as varied.

6. Relevant legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (Tas)

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas)

Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (Tas)

Nature Conservation Act 2002 (Tas)

National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002 (Tas)

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 (Tas)

Crown Lands Act 1976 (Tas)

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	31633216163
Organisation name	WESTCOAST RENEWABLE ENERGY PTY LTD
Organisation address	7250 TAS

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Chantel Hodgson
Job title	Renewable Energy Project Manager
Phone	0456850118
Email	chantel.hodgson@westcoastrenew.com.au
Address	PO Box 464, Newstead, TAS 7250

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

ABN/ACN	21681443103
Organisation name	ERA ADVISORY PTY LTD
Organisation address	7000 TAS
Representative's name	Anahita Jungalwalla
Representative's job title	Director
Phone	03 6165 0443
Email	anahita@eraplanning.com.au
Address	Level 1, 125A Elizabeth Street, Hobart, 7000

✔ 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	31633216163
Organisation name	WESTCOAST RENEWABLE ENERGY PTY LTD
Organisation address	7250 TAS
Representative's name	Chantel Hodgson
Representative's job title	Renewable Energy Project Manager
Phone	0456850118
Email	chantel.hodgson@westcoastrenew.com.au
Address	PO Box 464, Newstead, TAS 7250

✔ Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

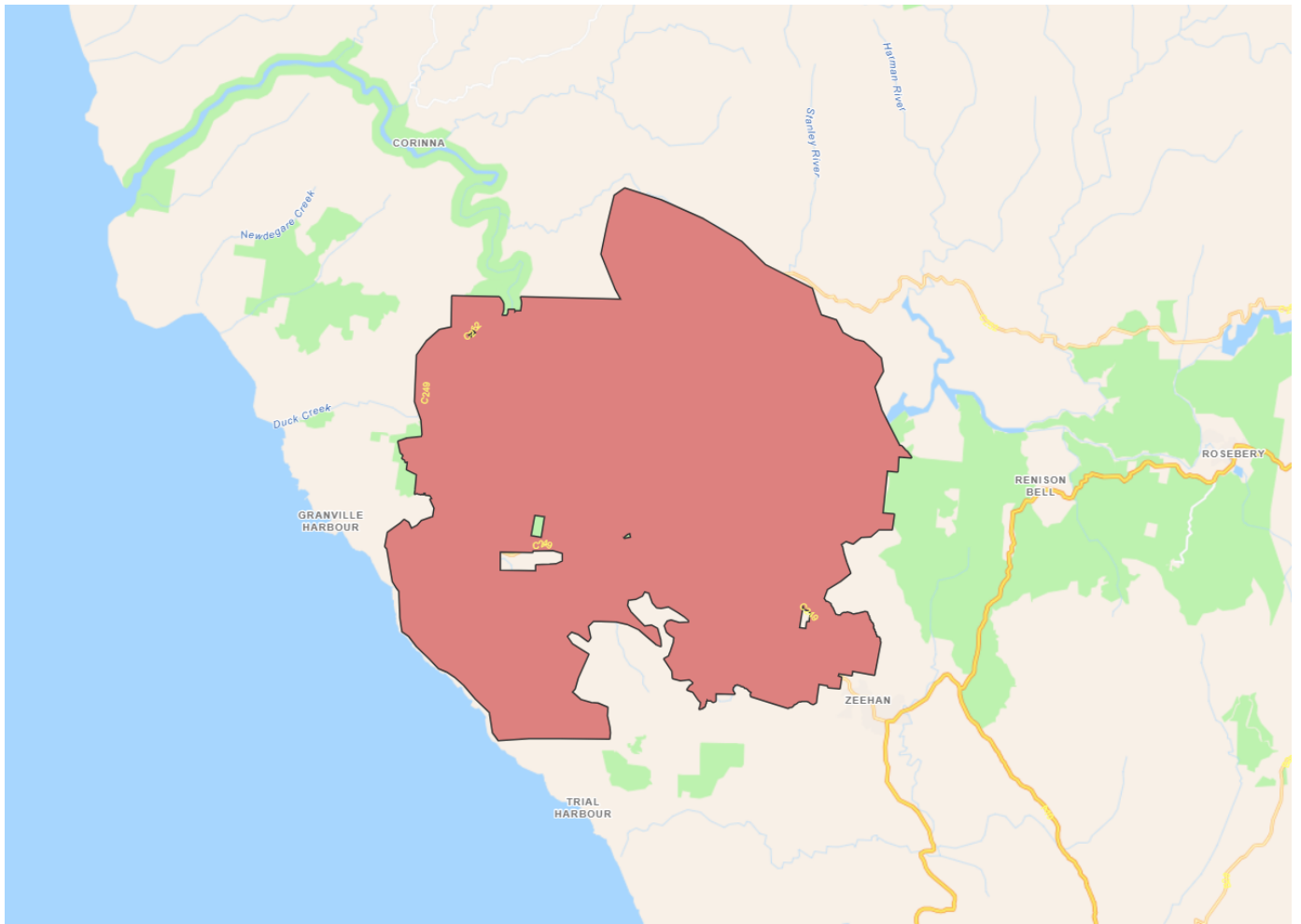
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 40568.05 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 40568.05 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Heemskirk Road, West Coast, Tasmania, 7469

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

Tasmania

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

No

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

The Project area is wholly located on Crown land in the West Coast Council municipal area, with land tenure comprising a combination of regional reserves, future potential production forest (Crown), permanent timber production zone land, Hydro-Electric Corporation and other Crown land. The Project area does not include any private freehold land.

The reserves within the Project area include:

- Mount Heemskirk Regional Reserve
- Meredith Range Regional Reserve
- Parting Creek Regional Reserve
- Crown land
- Permanent timber production zone land
- Future potential production forest (Crown)

Further detail on land tenure, including property identification numbers, is provided in **Att_2 'Major Project Proposal', Section 4.3, pages 23-24** and illustrated in **Att_1 'Project Area Figures', Figure 4**.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Project area is located on the west coast of Tasmania, to the east of the existing Granville Harbour Wind Farm, around 8 km north-west of Zeehan and 35 km north-west of Queenstown. The closest townships to the Project area are Trial Harbour to the south (approximately 3 km), Zeehan to the east (approximately 3.5 km), Rosebery to the east (approximately 14 km) and Granville Harbour to the west (approximately 2.5 km) (see **Att_1 'Project Area Figures', Figure 2**). The Project area is approximately 40,500 ha and comprises regional reserves and other types of Crown land, including permanent timber production zone land and future potential production forest land. The final operational footprint of the Project is expected to be under 500 ha.

The Project area is largely undeveloped, with relatively minor existing disturbance. It is dominated by buttongrass plateaus classified as moorland, sedgeland and rushland. Other vegetation groups occurring within the Project area include wet eucalypt forest and woodland (within gullies), rainforest and related scrub (within gullies and lower lying areas), scrub, heathland and coastal complexes (closer to the coast and in gullies), and dry eucalypt forest and woodland (smaller areas on ridges). Further studies to confirm the extent of each vegetation type are underway, however preliminary information can be found in **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026' Section 1.3.1, pages 4-5**. The Project area predominantly consists of granite formations with deep drainage lines between the plateaus. There are several rivers, creeks and drainage lines within the Project area, the most substantive being the large linear water body of Lake Pieman, which bisects the Project area from north-west to east. Parting Creek Lake lies in the south of the Project area, north of the township of Zeehan.

Heemskirk Road and Pieman Road run through the Project area, and many existing access tracks for mineral exploration activities run throughout the Project area as well as tracks used for recreational four-wheel driving and for mountain biking. The Farrell-Reece 220 kV transmission line runs through the northern part of the Project area, connecting to the Reece Power Station. There is a large modified area around the Reece Dam, that forms the impoundment for Lake Pieman. The existing Granville Harbour Wind Farm is located immediately west of the Project area.

The Project area has been subject to recent widespread natural disturbance from fire. Over the last decade there have been significant fire events in the 2018/19 fire season (approximately; 14% of the Project area burnt), and the 2024/25 fire season (approximately 22% of the Project area burnt) (**Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026' Section 1.3.1, pages 4-5**).

The Project area is zoned Environmental Management and Rural under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - West Coast, with the Project falling under the use class of Utilities. Utilities is a permitted use in the Rural Zone. There are no applicable standards in either zoning that are considered to prohibit the Project and would be required to be amended if approved, noting that the Project will not be specifically assessed against the planning scheme, but rather be reliant on project specific guidelines as part of the Major Project assessment process.

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

Existing land uses within the Project area include:

- Electrical infrastructure, including the Reece Power Station and switchyard, Granville Harbour Wind Farm switchyard, Farrell-Reece high voltage transmission line, and local electrical distribution lines for local mines and townships
- Existing roads and access tracks
- Recreational pursuits, including four-wheel driving, mountain bike riding, camping (no permanent camping facilities), boating and fishing on Lake Pieman, and bushwalking
- Limited beekeeping activities
- Mineral exploration

The Project area does not contain any shacks or dwellings. There are no existing Mining leases within the Project area.

In relation to residential areas, the Project area is remote with very few nearby dwellings. The nearest areas with residential buildings include Trial Harbour to the south (approximately 3 km), Zeehan to the east (approximately 3.5 km), Rosebery to the east (approximately 14 km) and Granville Harbour to the west (approximately 2.5 km) (see **Att_1 'Project Area Figures', Figure 2**). The nearest residences to the Project area are approximately 70 m west of the Project area boundary, near Granville Harbour. The proposed turbine exclusion zones include a 1.5 km buffer from these residences, which may be increased depending on the outcomes of the impact assessment phase.

The proposed land use within the Project area is renewable energy generation through construction and operation of the windfarm (the Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project (the Project)). The current uses of the land will continue in co-existence with the wind farm adjacent to and beneath the wind farm infrastructure.

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

As discussed in Section 2.2.5, the Project area is located on Crown land, which includes a number of Regional Reserves.

The reserves within the Project area include:

- Mount Heemskirk Regional Reserve
- Meredith Range Regional Reserve
- Parting Creek Regional Reserve

The northern part of the Project area is situated in the Meredith Range Regional Reserve. The current land reservation is classified as a regional reserve (under the Tasmanian *National Parks and Reserve Management Act 2002*) which provides for both the controlled use of natural resources while protecting the natural and cultural values of the land. The Project is consistent with the objectives of the current reserve classification (see **Att_2 'Major Project Proposal', Section 8.2, Pages 67-70**).

The Project area also sits within the southern extent of the area nominated for the Tarkine National Heritage Listing. In the assessment of the nominated listing of the Tarkine, the Australian Heritage Council found that the rainforests in the nominated area were of value and important for their flora, which has links to the ancient continent of Gondwana. The coastline was also recognised by the Australian Heritage Council for the numerous hut depressions found in Aboriginal shell middens. The huts and middens are the remnants of an unusual and specialised Aboriginal way of life based on the hunting of seals and land mammals, and the gathering of shellfish. The resulting National Heritage listing of the Western Tasmanian Aboriginal Cultural Landscape to protect these values is situated outside the Project area, approximately 4.5 km to the north-west and will not be directly impacted by the Project.

To ensure protection of these ecological and heritage values the proponent has selected the Project area to avoid the Western Tasmanian Aboriginal Cultural Landscape Area. The Project area has been selected in areas that have had previous disturbance from mineral exploration, transmission line infrastructure, hydro-electric infrastructure, tracks and roads. The Project area has also been selected to avoid temperate rainforest, and turbine exclusion zones have been nominated on any areas where rainforest or forest vegetation is present, namely in the gullies that intersperse the buttongrass plateaus. This is to ensure the tracts of forest between the buttongrass plateaus are avoided. The Project is in a unique location and, being on reserved land managed by the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, provides an opportunity for the Project to collaborate with land managers on the protection of recognised values particularly in areas adjacent to the Project area. For example, the Project could increase resourcing available for cooperative management of the coastal areas that have cultural heritage significance and further education and research opportunities on the natural values of the temperate rainforest and environmental values in the vicinity of the Project. These opportunities will be further investigated during the impact study phase of the Project and as part of the Reserve Activity Assessment.

There are seven geoconservation sites mapped within the Project Site. These sites vary from small, localised features to large landscape-scale sites (e.g. Western Tasmanian Blanket Bogs) and have varying levels of sensitivity and significance (from district through to global level significance). Investigations will be undertaken to further characterise the geomorphological features within the Project area, and the Project will be designed to avoid areas of high significance where practicable.

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The Project area ranges in elevation, from almost sea level along the western coastline, to over 700 m above sea level at Mount Heemskirk in the south. Whaleback Ridge lies in the north of the Project area at an elevation of approximately 300–400 m. Mount Livingstone lies immediately north of the Project area (at an elevation of approximately 780 m).

3.2 Flora and fauna

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

The Project area has been subject to several ecological surveys to inform site selection, preliminary turbine exclusion zones, and further investigations that will be required for the Project.

In particular, significant field effort for avifauna surveys has already been completed for the Project and is ongoing. From 2021 to 2026 this has included bird utilisation surveys, targeted raptor surveys, targeted orange bellied parrot surveys, targeted white throated needletail surveys, helicopter raptor nest searching, and passive acoustic and tracking surveys for masked owl and orange bellied parrot. A summary of these field assessments and their timing can be found in the MNES Avifauna Report Nature Advisory 2026 (**Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026, Section 2.2, Pages 11-16**).

Further, several preliminary terrestrial ecology studies have also been completed or commenced, including a site reconnaissance (September 2025) undertaken to inform completion of a Natural Values Constraints Assessment (North Barker Ecosystem Services 2025). Targeted threatened flora surveys were undertaken in February 2026, with comprehensive baseline ground surveys scheduled for spring/summer 2026. A camera trapping survey to analyse presence/absence and habitat use of ground dwelling mammals is proposed for late winter/spring 2026. Refer EBPC Act Referral Supporting Documentation Terrestrial Natural Values, North Barker Ecosystem Services 2026 **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Section 1.2, Pages 1-2** for further detail on terrestrial ecological surveys to date, and upcoming further work.

Although comprehensive terrestrial ecology surveys are yet to be completed, Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026, Section 1.1, Page 9 includes the following observations regarding general flora and fauna values of the Project area:

- The Project area provides habitat for a large number of native fauna species, with a wide variety of landforms and associated vegetation communities, which are structurally connected, particularly via treed habitat corridors along gullies, creeks and rivers.
- Areas within the Project area which would be considered to support the highest fauna diversity are generally not the open buttongrass moorlands, but rather the ecotones and structurally complex habitats where different vegetation types meet, especially around watercourses and sheltered gullies.

Given these general habitat values and characteristics, the Project area is expected to be utilised by a variety of fauna species that occur on the west coast of Tasmania.

A desktop flora and fauna assessment (Nature Advisory 2023) refers to incidental observations of non-threatened birds, mammals, reptiles and frogs during targeted bird and bat surveys in 2021 and 2022 (refer **Att_2 'Major Project Proposal', Appendix B, Pages 42-43**). Examples of these species include the Bennett's wallaby, bare-nosed wombat, white-lipped snake, and common and Tasmanian froglet. The introduced European rabbit was also observed.

An overview of vegetation types within the Project area is provided in Section 3.2.2 of this application.

Upcoming comprehensive baseline ground surveys will provide further information regarding common flora and fauna species present within the Project area.

Terrestrial threatened flora

Habitat for threatened flora is considered generally sparse. There are no flora species listed under the EPBC Act considered likely to occur within the Project area (refer **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Table 1, Pages 10-12**).

Only three threatened flora (listed under the Tasmanian TSPA) previously recorded within the Project area (North Barker Ecosystem Services 2026). These are:

- Leafless milkwort (*Comesperma defoliatum*) (TSPA -rare)
- Horned orchid (*Orthoceras strictum*) (TSPA -rare)
- Northwest heath (*Epacris curtisiae*) (TSPA -rare)

Two of these species, the leafless milkwort (*Comesperma defoliatum*) and horned orchid (*Orthoceras strictum*) were recorded within the Project area during targeted surveys in February 2026 (**Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Section 1.3.2, Page 5**). Further threatened flora surveys will be undertaken within the Project area during baseline natural values surveys in spring/summer 2026.

Threatened fauna

The Project area provides potential habitat for several native fauna species, including species listed under the Tasmanian TSPA and EPBC Act. EPBC Act fauna species assessed as having potential to or being likely to occur are:

Mammals

- Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus* subsp.*maculatus*) (TSPA - rare, EPBC Act - Vulnerable)
- Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) (TSPA and EPBC Act - Endangered)

Birds

- White-throated needletail (EPBC Act - Vulnerable and Migratory)
- Fork-tailed swift (EPBC Act - Migratory)
- Blue-winged parrot (TSPA and EPBC Act - Vulnerable)
- Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (TSPA and EPBC Act - Endangered)
- Azure kingfisher (Tasmanian) (TSPA and EPBC Act - Endangered)
- Latham's snipe (TSPA - vulnerable, EPBC Act - Vulnerable and Migratory)
- Masked owl (Tasmanian) (TSPA - endangered, EPBC Act - Vulnerable)
- Orange-bellied parrot (TSPA - endangered, EPBC Act - Critically Endangered)
- Swift parrot (TSPA - endangered, EPBC Act - Critically Endangered)
- Red-necked stint (EPBC Act - Migratory)

Of the above potential avifauna species, field surveys have confirmed the presence of the:

- white-throated needletail (flight observation)
- blue-winged parrot (flight observation)
- Latham's snipe (observed once in moorland habitat) and
- Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (observed flying over Project area)

Refer **Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026** for further information regarding avifauna species, and refer to **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026'** for further information on terrestrial fauna.

In relation to the wedge-tailed eagle, the most recent eagle nest survey (July 2026) confirmed three previously recorded wedge-tailed eagle nests are located within a 1km buffer of the Project area. Two nests were assessed to be in good condition, with the third in poor condition. No new nests were identified within the Project area. Refer to Eagle Nest Survey Report July 2026 North Barker Ecosystem Services, **Att_5 'Eagle Nest Survey_WhalebackRidge_NBES 2026'**, for further information.

Aquatic ecology

There are several rivers, creeks and drainage lines within the Project area, the most substantive being the large linear water body of Lake Pieman, which bisects the Project area from north-west to east. Parting Creek Lake lies in the south of the Project area, north of the township of Zeehan. While the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool identifies the Australian grayling (TSPA and EPBC Act - Vulnerable) as potentially occurring within the Project area, the species is unlikely to occur in Lake Pieman due to its historical impoundment. Reece Dam presents too great a barrier for fish movement. However, it remains possible that the Australian grayling may be present in minor tributaries elsewhere in the Project area (**Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Table 1, Page 14**).

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

Vegetation within the Project area is dominated by buttongrass plateaus classified as moorland, sedgeland and rushland. Other vegetation groups occurring within the Project area include wet eucalypt forest and woodland (within gullies), rainforest and related scrub (within gullies and lower lying areas), scrub, heathland and coastal complexes (closer to the coast and in gullies), and dry eucalypt forest and woodland (smaller areas on ridges).

North Barker Ecosystem Services 2026 anticipate the following vegetation types to occur (based on TASVEG 5.0 mapping):

- 22,932 ha (56.4 % of the Project area) of moorland sedgeland and rushland communities
- 4,016 ha (9.9 %) of scrub, heathland and coastal complex communities
- 663 ha (1.6 %) of dry eucalypt forest and woodland communities
- 131 ha (0.3 %) of non-eucalypt forest and woodland communities
- 6,094 ha (15 %) of wet eucalypt forest and woodlands
- 5,053 ha (12.4 %) of rainforest and related scrub

North Barker Ecosystem Services 2026 note that large tracts of wet eucalypt forest and woodland and rainforest and related scrub vegetation communities are present around Lake Pieman, associated major tributaries and surrounding low-lying valley bottoms.

Further studies to confirm the extent of each vegetation type are underway, however preliminary information can be found in **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Section 1.3.1, Page 4.**

As noted in Section 3.1.1, large parts of the above vegetation have been burnt by bushfire in the last decade, most recently in the 2024/25 fire season. It is estimated that up to 22% of the Project area was burnt in the 2024/25 Yellowband Plain bushfire (North Barker Ecosystem Services 2026).

Other existing disturbance across the Project area is limited, restricted to formal roads, access tracks, quarries, transmission lines and associated easements. The Reece Dam is the largest area of disturbance, located in the north of the Project area where it forms the impoundment for Lake Pieman.

Four ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act are identified by the Protected Matters Search Tool as potentially occurring within the Project area, one of which has been confirmed as present:

- Alpine *Sphagnum* bogs and associated fens (EPBC Act - Endangered)
- Giant kelp marine forests of south east Australia (EPBC Act - Endangered)
- Tasmanian forests and woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana*)
- Tasmanian white gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) wet forest (EPBC Act - Critically Endangered)

Tasmanian forests and woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana*) has been recorded in the study area as small remnant patches. Baseline natural values surveys in spring/summer 2026 will assess the condition of this ecological community (North Barker Ecosystem Services 2026). The other EPBC Act listed communities are considered highly unlikely or not anticipated to occur.

Several threatened vegetation communities listed under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002* (NCA) are also predicted to occur, however baseline natural values surveys in spring/summer 2026 will be required to confirm the presence and extent of these communities:

- *Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland (corresponds to the EPBC listed community Tasmanian forests and woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana*))
- *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest
- Rainforest fernland

North Barker Ecosystem Services 2026 note the geography of the Project area is highly varied, with low-lying valleys, steep rocky slopes, broad plateaus, and densely vegetated gullies all present. It is dominated by the ridges and plateaus of Mt Heemskirk (in the southwest of the Project area) and the Meredith Range (in the northeast). They report these ranges are predominately comprised of hard unmetamorphosed quartzwacke turbidite sequences, undifferentiated alkali-feldspar granite and other quartz derived sediments and geologies.

3.3 Heritage

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

There are no Commonwealth Heritage Places, National Heritage Places or World Heritage properties within or adjacent to the Project area.

There is one heritage listed feature, permanently registered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, present within the Project area - the Carn Brea Tin Mine. This feature is present on the west coast of the Project area, and is within the WTG exclusion area along the coast.

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

The Project area is within the North West Nation of Lutruwita (Tasmania). The North West Nation is understood to have been one of the largest nations in Tasmania by population, comprising approximately 400 to 600 people. It included eight clans: the Tommeginer, Parperloihener, Pennemukeer, Pendowte, Peerapper, Manegin, Tarkinener and Peteridic clans. The Project area and surrounding area were most likely within the territory of the Peteridic people, the southernmost of these clans, whose country extended from the mouth of the Pieman River south to Macquarie Harbour (Ryan, 2012).

The west coast of Tasmania contains an extremely well documented and rich archaeological landscape and includes some of the oldest dated heritage sites in Tasmania. To date, a desktop Aboriginal heritage assessment has been completed for the Project area (in 2023). Further stages of Aboriginal heritage assessment will be undertaken, including field surveys and assessment of Aboriginal cultural landscape values.

As part of Stage 1 of the desktop assessment, a search was carried out of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Register (AHR) to determine the extent of registered Aboriginal heritage sites within and in the general vicinity of the Project area. The search results show that there are a total of eight registered Aboriginal sites that are situated within an approximate 5 km radius of the Project area.

Of these eight registered sites, there are two registered sites that are located within the Project area. One of these sites is an isolated artefact, with the second site classified as an artefact scatter.

The findings of previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the general vicinity, together with the AHR search results, indicate that the most likely site types that will be encountered within the Project area will be artefact scatters/isolated artefacts and living sites, or a combination thereof. Site densities are likely to be comparatively low. Hut depressions, rock engravings and Aboriginal stone quarries have also been recorded along the coast near Granville Harbour and it is therefore possible, although less likely, that these site types may also be encountered.

In addition to sites of Aboriginal heritage significance there are cultural landscape values associated with the west coast of Tasmania.

The Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape is listed in the National Heritage List. The datasheet for the site (Department Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2023) states:

The Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape represents the best evidence of an Aboriginal economic adaptation which included the development of a semi-sedentary way of life with people moving seasonally up and down the north west coast of Tasmania. This way of life began approximately 1 900 years ago and lasted until the 1830s. Dotted along the wind-swept coastline of the Western Tasmania Cultural Landscape are the remains of numerous hut depressions found in Aboriginal shell middens. These huts and middens are the remnants of an unusual, specialised and more sedentary Aboriginal way of life which was based on the hunting of seals and land mammals, and the gathering of shellfish.

The Project area is located approximately 4.5 km from the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape area. There is an existing wind farm, Granville Harbour Wind Farm, between the Project area and the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape.

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 Project area predominantly consists of granite formations with deep drainage lines between the plateaus. There are several rivers, creeks and drainage lines within the Project area, the most substantive being the large linear water body of Lake Pieman, which bisects the Project area from north-west to east. Parting Creek Lake lies in the south of the Project area, north of the township of Zeehan.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

There are no World Heritage listed sites within or near the location of the proposed action and the Project will not impact on any World Heritage places.

The nearest World Heritage place, the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) is approximately 25 km to the east of the Project area and there is no potential for impact.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

There are no National Heritage listed sites within or adjacent to the Project area and no potential for impact.

The nearest National Heritage place, the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape, is located approximately 4.5km from the Project area. There is an existing wind farm, Granville Harbour Wind Farm, between the Project area and the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

There are no Ramsar Wetlands within or in proximity to the Project area and the Project will not impact on any Ramsar wetlands.

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
Yes	Yes	<i>Aquila audax fleayi</i>	Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, Wedge-tailed Eagle (Tasmanian)
No	No	<i>Ardena grisea</i>	Sooty Shearwater
No	No	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue Whale
No	No	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern
No	No	<i>Caladenia dienema</i>	Windswept Spider-orchid
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot, Knot
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	White Shark, Great White Shark
No	No	<i>Carinascincus orocryptus</i>	Heath Cool-skink, Mountain Skink
Yes	No	<i>Ceyx azureus diemenensis</i>	Tasmanian Azure Kingfisher
No	Yes	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (Tasmanian population)	Spotted-tail Quoll, Spot-tailed Quoll, Tiger Quoll (Tasmanian population)
No	No	<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	Antipodean Albatross
No	No	<i>Diomedea antipodensis gibsoni</i>	Gibson's Albatross
No	No	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern Royal Albatross
No	No	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross
No	No	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Northern Royal Albatross
No	No	<i>Epacris glabella</i>	Funnel Heath, Smooth Heath
No	No	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Southern Right Whale
No	No	<i>Fregetta grallaria grallaria</i>	White-bellied Storm-Petrel (Tasman Sea), White-bellied Storm-Petrel (Australasian)

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Galeorhinus galeus	Tope, Flake, Oil Shark, School Shark
Yes	Yes	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Hiya distans	Scrambling Ground-fern
Yes	Yes	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Limosa lapponica baueri	Nunivak Bar-tailed Godwit, Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit
No	No	Macronectes giganteus	Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel
No	No	Macronectes halli	Northern Giant Petrel
Yes	No	Neophema chrysogaster	Orange-bellied Parrot
Yes	Yes	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Pachyptila turtur subantarctica	Fairy Prion (southern)
No	No	Phoebetria fusca	Sooty Albatross
No	Yes	Prototroctes maraena	Australian Grayling
No	No	Pseudocephalozia paludicola	Alpine Leafy Liverwort
No	No	Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera	Gould's Petrel, Australian Gould's Petrel
No	Yes	Sarcophilus harrisii	Tasmanian Devil
No	No	Seriolella brama	Blue Warehou
No	No	Sternula nereis nereis	Australian Fairy Tern
No	No	Thalassarche bulleri	Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche bulleri platei	Northern Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche carteri	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche cauta	Shy Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche chrysostoma	Grey-headed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche impavida	Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Thalassarche melanophris	Black-browed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche salvini	Salvin's Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche steadi	White-capped Albatross
No	No	Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus	Eastern Hooded Plover, Eastern Hooded Plover
Yes	Yes	Tyto novaehollandiae castanops (Tasmanian population)	Masked Owl (Tasmanian)

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens
No	No	Giant Kelp Marine Forests of South East Australia
No	No	Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (Eucalyptus ovata / E. brookeriana)
No	No	Tasmanian white gum (Eucalyptus viminalis) wet forest

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. *

Preliminary significant impact assessments have been undertaken for the Project to identify the potential for impact to terrestrial and marine threatened species and ecological communities (refer **Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026'** Nature Advisory MNES Avifauna Report Nature Advisory 2026 and **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026'** EBPC Act Referral Supporting Documentation Terrestrial Natural Values, North Barker Ecosystem Services 2026). A summary of these assessments is provided below, with full detail available in the attached reports.

Threatened Ecological Communities

Four EPBC Act listed ecological communities were predicted to occur within the Project area based on the Protected Matters Search Tool. Of these, one community has been confirmed as present within the Project area - Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana*).

The Project design and indicative development area has already considered the location of this community and prioritised its avoidance, as such there are no anticipated direct or indirect impacts as a result of the Project.

The remaining three communities are considered highly unlikely or not anticipated to be present (refer **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Table 1, Pages 9-10**).

Threatened Species - Terrestrial Flora

No EPBC Act listed threatened flora species have been recorded within the Project area in the natural values assessments undertaken to date, nor are they expected to occur given the available habitats and historical records. Given no EPBC listed flora species have been recorded to date and all are considered unlikely to occur, direct and indirect impacts are not anticipated.

Threatened Species - Fauna

Birds

A review of MNES was undertaken to assess the potential for impacts to avifauna from the Project (**Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026'**). This included avifauna surveys and a likelihood of occurrence assessment, which identified a total of eight EPBC Act-listed threatened bird species recorded or assessed as potentially or likely occurring within the study area. These species may be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the Project:

- White-throated needletail (EPBC Act Vulnerable and Migratory)
- Blue-winged parrot (EPBC Act Vulnerable)
- Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (EPBC Act Endangered)
- Azure kingfisher (Tasmanian) (EPBC Act Endangered)
- Latham's snipe (EPBC Act Vulnerable and Migratory)
- Masked owl (Tasmanian) (EPBC Act Vulnerable)
- Orange-bellied parrot (EPBC Act Critically Endangered)
- Swift parrot (EPBC Act Critically Endangered)

The primary direct impact risk to the White-throated needletail, Wedge-tailed eagle and Orange-bellied parrot is collision risk with turbines. Collision risk to species such as the Swift parrot and Blue-winged parrot remains uncertain.

The primary direct impact risk to species such as Masked owl, Swift parrot, Latham's snipe, Blue-winged parrot and Azure kingfisher is anticipated to be the potential for habitat loss (including breeding habitat) largely for linear infrastructure elements such as access tracks and transmission lines.

Negligible impacts associated with habitat loss and modification are expected for the White-throated needletail. They are highly aerial non-breeding migrants that use the broader landscape opportunistically for foraging or passage, with no evidence of roosting (**Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026', Section 4**,

Table 6, Page 20).

In relation to the Wedge-tailed eagle, raptor nest searches of the Project area have been undertaken annually over the past three years. These searches have identified no known eagle nests in the Project area, and three known nests within 1km (**Att_5 'Eagle Nest Survey_WhalebackRidge_NBES 2026', Figure 1, Page 10**). Targeted raptor utilisation surveys have identified Wedge-tailed eagle utilisation broadly across the Project area, at relatively low densities when compared to other wind farms in Tasmania. Collision risk modeling is currently underway to quantify the potential collision risk of the Project to this species

Negligible impacts associated with habitat loss and modification are expected for the Wedge-tailed eagle, as the scale of habitat removal is unlikely to affect foraging habitat availability at the landscape level, and potential breeding habitat is avoided by largely avoiding mature forest and potential nesting habitat.

Potential impacts to the Orange-bellied parrot associated with loss of potential foraging habitat remain uncertain. Further work and assessment of the potential habitat impacts from the Project for this species is ongoing.

Mammals

North Barker Ecosystem Services 2026 (**Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Table 1, Pages 9-17**) have undertaken an assessment on the likelihood of occurrence and potential for impacts to terrestrial MNES (excluding avifauna). This assessment identified two EPBC Act-listed threatened mammal species as likely occurring within the Project area. These species may be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the Project:

- Tasmanian devil (EPBC Act Endangered)
- Spotted-tailed quoll (EPBC Act Vulnerable)

Both the Tasmanian devil and Spotted-tailed quoll are highly likely to occur within the Project area. As both species are highly mobile, it is unlikely that direct impacts will occur to individuals during construction, however there remains a low risk that individuals may be injured or killed during construction and operations due to vehicle collisions. Indirect impacts to these species, such as disturbance of breeding sites, and habitat clearance, may also occur.

Fish

North Baker Ecosystem Services 2026 (**Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Table 1, Pages 14-15**) identified one threatened fish species as unlikely (but with some chance of occurring) within the Project area. This species may be indirectly impacted by the Project:

- Australian grayling (EPBC Act Vulnerable)

The Australian grayling, if present, may occur in minor tributaries within the Project area. Direct impacts to this species are not anticipated, however impacts to waterways such as changes to hydrology, altered fish passage and increased erosion and sedimentation to waterways may indirectly impact this species. These potential impacts are expected to be avoided through appropriate erosion and sediment controls, and design incorporating suitable fish passage features at waterway crossings.

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. *

Of the protected matters that may be directly and/or indirectly impacted by the Project, the following have the potential to be significantly impacted without mitigation (North Barker 2026 **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026'** and Nature Advisory 2026 **Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026'**):

- White-throated needletail (EPBC Act Vulnerable and Migratory)
- Blue-winged parrot (EPBC Act Vulnerable)
- Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (EPBC Act Endangered)
- Masked owl (Tasmanian) (EPBC Act Vulnerable)
- Orange-bellied parrot (EPBC Act Critically Endangered)
- Spotted-tailed quoll (EPBC Act Vulnerable)
- Tasmanian devil (EPBC Act Endangered)

The assessment, informed by the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance* (DoE 2013), determines a likelihood of triggering at least one of the significant impact criteria for these species.

Potential significant impacts to these threatened species include:

- Potential turbine collision risk for a number of threatened bird species
- Risk of vehicle collisions with threatened mammals (such as Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed quoll) during construction
- Potential direct impacts through vegetation clearance, particularly potential habitat for threatened birds and mammals, including breeding habitat
- Indirect impacts to threatened fauna species, such as disturbance to breeding sites (dens and hollows) may occur

Further consideration of the potential for significant impacts will be undertaken as part of the assessment of the proposed action. This will also include targeted surveys as required and detailed species and turbine risk assessments, including avifauna collision risk modelling.

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 layout and siting of the Project has prioritised avoidance of impacts on MNES. However, preliminary assessment on the likelihood of a significant impact to some MNES indicates a project of this type and scale should be subject to an assessment under the EPBC Act. Further targeted ecological surveys and project design refinement will inform this process.

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. *

Throughout the development of the Project the proponent has prioritised design refinement and layout to avoid areas of high ecological value as the primary measure to reduce potential impacts within the Project area.

As part of the wind farm design process, turbine exclusion zones have been established within the Project area to delineate suitable setbacks from known sensitive receivers and avoid potential site constraints. Examples of ecological constraints identified to date include habitat for threatened fauna and flora such as forested areas, gullies, waterways and associated vegetation, and coastal habitat. As site surveys are completed, the turbine exclusion zones and associated layout will be further developed to avoid environmental and other sensitivities wherever possible.

Further to avoidance, other measures are being implemented and/or explored to mitigate the residual potential impacts.

Mitigation and management measures currently being considered/implemented include:

- Avoidance of mature forest and nesting trees
- Avoidance of optimal denning habitat for Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed quoll
- 1000m nesting exclusion buffer from known eagle nests
- Carcass search and mortality reporting
- Bird and bat management plan
- Bird detection and collision mitigation systems
- Roadkill management plan
- Den management plan (Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed quoll)
- Erosion and sediment control plan

Additional general and species-specific mitigation measures will be developed during further assessment stages and after completion of further field studies.

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

Offsets will be considered as required following further ecological assessment and detailed design of the Project. To date - avoidance has been the primary mitigation measure to reduce the potential for impacts to protected matters.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
Yes	No	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	<i>Ardenna carneipes</i>	Flesh-footed Shearwater, Fleshy-footed Shearwater
No	No	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	Sooty Shearwater
No	No	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue Whale
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot, Knot
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Caperea marginata</i>	Pygmy Right Whale
No	No	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	White Shark, Great White Shark
No	No	<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	Antipodean Albatross
No	No	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern Royal Albatross
No	No	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross
No	No	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Northern Royal Albatross
No	No	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Southern Right Whale
Yes	Yes	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>	Dusky Dolphin
No	No	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle, Mackerel Shark
No	No	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit
No	No	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Macronectes halli	Northern Giant Petrel
No	No	Megaptera novaeangliae	Humpback Whale
No	No	Phoebastria fusca	Sooty Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche bulleri	Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche carteri	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche cauta	Shy Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche chrysostoma	Grey-headed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche impavida	Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche melanophrys	Black-browed Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche salvini	Salvin's Albatross
No	No	Thalassarche steadi	White-capped Albatross

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 MNES assessment accompanying this referral (**Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026', Table 6, Pages 20-24**) has applied the precautionary principle and concluded the following Migratory species may be directly and indirectly impacted by the Project:

- Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)
- Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)
- White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

For both the Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*) and White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) direct impacts may include collision with wind turbines, as these species may fly at rotor swept area (RSA) height during high altitude foraging and migration. As the White-throated needletail and Fork-tailed swift are predominantly aerial species, and as forested areas within the Project area are being avoided, direct impacts from habitat clearance are not expected for these species.

Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) may be indirectly impacted through potential impacts on the water quality and hydrological function of wetlands and other aquatic habitats within the Project area during the construction phase of the Project. Direct impacts associated with habitat loss and modification are not expected, as habitats within and surrounding the development area are not considered to comprise extensive optimal habitat for snipes. The limited availability of optimal habitat within the development footprint is consistent with the species being recorded only once during surveys (Nature Advisory 2026).

Collision risk is also considered low for Latham's snipe. Nature Advisory 2026 note that although the species is cryptic and largely ground-dwelling, relying on camouflage and typically undertaking short, low (<40 m) flights when flushed, longer movements may occur within local non-breeding areas (Hansen et al. 2025). While migratory movements may present the highest collision risk due to potential flight heights overlapping with RSA, the broad and dispersed nature of its migration (van Gils et al. 2020; Hansen 2019) reduces the likelihood of concentrated or regular strikes around the Project area. The potential for repeated collision events is further limited by the low occurrence of the species, as indicated by the paucity of records within and around the study area (Nature Advisory 2026).

Further information on the potential for direct and indirect impacts to the above migratory species can be found in **Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026', Table 6, Pages 20-24**.

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. *

Preliminary significant impact assessments have been undertaken for terrestrial and marine migratory species (refer **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Table 1** and **Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026, Appendix 2, Table A2-2 and Table A2-7)**.

The Project area does not contain any potential habitat for marine migratory species such as sharks and cetaceans.

Almost all of the migratory species identified are pelagic or coastal species and are considered highly unlikely to occur within the Project area.

The Project may have some risk of direct and indirect impacts to Latham's snipe, Fork-tailed swift and White-throated needletail. However, when considered against the MNES impact criteria for Migratory species the assessment concludes a significant impact is unlikely. Specifically, Nature Advisory 2026 note:

- The Project is unlikely to *substantially modify, destroy or isolate an area of important habitat for a migratory species* as they are predominantly aerial and their breeding habitat exists internationally
- As these species are almost exclusively aerial, the proposed works will not result in any invasive species that is harmful to these species becoming established in an area of important habitat. The temporary and short-term nature of the species' occurrence in the Project area means any infestations of invasive species would have a negligible impact on them
- The Project is unlikely to *seriously disrupt the lifecycle (breeding, feeding, migration or resting behaviour) of an ecologically significant proportion of the population of a migratory species*. These species do not breed in Australia, and the proposed action does not represent a particularly important non-breeding area in relation to these species' known foraging range

For further details of the significant impact assessment for migratory species please refer to attachments **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Table 1** and **Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026, Appendix 2, Table A2-2 and Table A2-7)**.

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 proposed action is not considered to be a controlled action for Migratory species as the action is unlikely to result in a significant impact under the MNES impact criteria for Migratory species.

Please refer to **Att_3 'MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026', Table 1** and **Att_4 'MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026, Appendix 2, Table A2-2 and Table A2-7)** for supporting information regarding this conclusion.

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. *

Throughout the development of the Project the proponent has prioritised design refinement and layout to avoid areas of high ecological value as the primary measure to reduce potential impacts.

As part of the wind farm design process, turbine exclusion zones have been established within the Project area to delineate suitable setbacks from known sensitive receivers and avoid potential site constraints (such as avoidance of forested areas, gullies, and watercourses). As site surveys are completed, the turbine exclusion zones and associated layout will be further developed to avoid environmental and other sensitivities wherever possible.

Further to avoidance, other measures are being explored to mitigate the residual potential collision risk impact. Additional mitigation and management measures currently being considered include:

- Carcass Search and Mortality Reporting
- Bird and bat management plan
- Bird detection and collision mitigation systems

The potential of any indirect impact to migratory species (specifically Latham's snipe) habitat by effects on water quality and hydrological function at wetlands and waterways will be reduced primarily through siting of infrastructure away from wetlands and waterways (avoidance) to ensure existing hydrological regimes are maintained. Mitigation of residual risk will be implemented through a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP will also include measures to prevent the introduction and/or spread of invasive species and disease.

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

Offsets are not expected to be required for the migratory species identified as they either are not expected to occur, not expected to be impacted, or impacts are minor and not expected to be significant. Any residual impacts to migratory species will be managed by mitigation discussed in Section 4.1.5.10.

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 Project does not include any nuclear actions.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Project is not within a Commonwealth Marine Area and has no potential to impact 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 Project is located in Tasmania and has no potential for impact to the Great Barrier Reef.

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

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

No

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

*

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

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

The Project area does not include any Commonwealth land and will not have any impact on Commonwealth land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

—

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. *

There will be no impact to Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas as a result of the Project.

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. *

In 2018, the proponent commenced feasibility studies for a wind farm located on Crown land between Zeehan and Granville Harbour. The site selection process considered a variety of factors, with the Project area presenting a range of benefits associated with strategic planning, resource availability, existing infrastructure and environmental impacts.

The location of the proposed action is constrained by the wind resource, which is exceptional at this site (confirmed by four meteorological masts and by the performance of the adjacent Granville Harbour Wind Farm), and by access to existing transmission — the Farrell–Reece 220 kV line runs through the northern part of the Project area. No new external transmission is required for the first phase of the Project.

A greenfield alternative elsewhere would require entirely new external transmission infrastructure and would not benefit from the site's existing disturbance (mineral exploration, tracks, hydro-electric and transmission infrastructure) or its comparatively low ecological sensitivity (predominantly buttongrass moorland, with the lowest avifauna abundance of any proposed Tasmanian wind farm (Nature Advisory 2023)).

From early design phase in 2022, when up to 500 turbines were proposed (ranging across the Project area) a significant amount of desktop and natural values field studies have been undertaken. Inputs from this work led to a substantially reduced layout extent, and through 2024-2025 the concept design was refined down to 280 turbines.

Alternatives to the scale, layout and staging of the action continue to be considered within the Project area through the turbine exclusion zones and iterative design refinement described in Section 1.2.1, which avoid ecological, heritage and amenity constraints. On this basis, no alternative location for the action is considered feasible.

Alternatively, the Project could not proceed at all, which will result in the benefits of this renewable energy project not being realised. The Project aims to minimise local negative impacts, while maximising local opportunities and benefits, and contributing to solving the significant global risk to biodiversity from climate change.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Project Area Figures.pdf Project area map series	23/07/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Major Project Proposal.pdf Major project proposal submitted for Tasmanian Major Project assessment process	06/10/2023	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 3_MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026.pdf MNES Terrestrial Natural Values Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	21/07/2026	No	High
#4.	Document	Att 4_MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026.pdf MNES Avifauna Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	28/07/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2_Major Project Proposal.pdf Major project proposal submitted for Tasmanian Major Project assessment process	05/10/2023	No	High
#2.	Link	Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy - assessment criteria https://www.planning.tas.gov.au/assessments- and-..			High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link	Key Information for Communities - North West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) https://hdp-au-prod-app-sgtas- engage-files.s3.ap..			High
#2.	Link	Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy - assessment criteria https://www.planning.tas.gov.au/assessments- and-..			High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Project Area Figures.pdf Project area map series	22/07/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_Major Project Proposal.pdf Major project proposal submitted for Tasmanian Major Project assessment process	05/10/2023		High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Project Area Figures.pdf Project area map series	22/07/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 3_MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026.pdf MNES Terrestrial Natural Values Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	20/07/2026	No	High

3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Project Area Figures.pdf Project area map series	22/07/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2_Major Project Proposal.pdf Major project proposal submitted for Tasmanian Major Project assessment process	05/10/2023	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2_Major Project Proposal.pdf Major project proposal submitted for Tasmanian Major Project assessment process	05/10/2023	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 3_MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026.pdf MNES Terrestrial Natural Values Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	20/07/2026	No	High

#3.	Document	Att 4_MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026.pdf MNES Avifauna Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	27/07/2026	No	High
#4.	Document	Att 5_Eagle Nest Survey_WhalebackRidge_NBES 2026.pdf Eagle Nest Survey Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project June 2026	02/07/2026	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3_MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026.pdf MNES Terrestrial Natural Values Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	20/07/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3_MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026.pdf MNES Terrestrial Natural Values Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	20/07/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 4_MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026.pdf MNES Avifauna Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	27/07/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Att 5_Eagle Nest Survey_WhalebackRidge_NBES 2026.pdf Eagle Nest Survey Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project June 2026	01/07/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3_MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026.pdf MNES Terrestrial Natural Values Report	20/07/2026	No	High

for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project					
#2.	Document	Att 4_MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026.pdf MNES Avifauna Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	27/07/2026	No	High

4.1.5.2 (Migratory Species) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 4_MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026.pdf MNES Avifauna Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	27/07/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3_MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026.pdf MNES Terrestrial Natural Values Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	20/07/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 4_MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026.pdf MNES Avifauna Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	27/07/2026	No	High

4.1.5.9 (Migratory Species) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 3_MNES_Terrestrial Natural Values Report_NBES 2026.pdf MNES Terrestrial Natural Values Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	20/07/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 4_MNES_Avifauna Report_NA 2026.pdf MNES Avifauna Report for Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project	27/07/2026	No	High

5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	21681443103
Organisation name	ERA ADVISORY PTY LTD
Organisation address	7000 TAS
Representative's name	Anahita Jungalwalla
Representative's job title	Director
Phone	03 6165 0443
Email	anahita@eraplanning.com.au
Address	Level 1, 125A Elizabeth Street, Hobart, 7000

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

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

☒ By checking this box, I, **Anahita Jungalwalla of ERA ADVISORY PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

✔ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	31633216163
Organisation name	WESTCOAST RENEWABLE ENERGY PTY LTD
Organisation address	7250 TAS
Representative's name	Chantel Hodgson

Representative's job title	Renewable Energy Project Manager
Phone	0456850118
Email	chantel.hodgson@westcoastrenew.com.au
Address	PO Box 464, Newstead, TAS 7250

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

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

☒ I, **Chantel Hodgson of WESTCOAST RENEWABLE ENERGY 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. *

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

☒ **Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration**

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☒ I, **Chantel Hodgson of WESTCOAST RENEWABLE ENERGY 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. *

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

