



Statement of Reasons for a Decision on Controlled Action Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

I, KYLIE CALHOUN, Branch Head of Environment Assessments West, Nature Positive Regulation Division, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the **Department**), delegate for the Minister for the Environment and Water (the **Minister**), provide the following statement of reasons for my decisions of 3 April 2024. I decided, pursuant to section 75 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (**EPBC Act**), that the proposed action by South Australian Department of Energy and Mining (**proponent**) to construct and operate a hydrogen power station, electrolyzers and storage facility and associated infrastructure approximately 5-6 km north of the Whyalla City Centre, South Australia (**SA**) (EPBC 2023/09759) (**proposed action**), is a controlled action under the EPBC Act for which the controlling provisions are sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities).

I also decided, pursuant to section 87 of the EPBC Act, that the proposed action would be assessed by Preliminary Documentation as set out in Division 4 of Part 8 of the EPBC Act.

Legislation

1. Relevant legislation not otherwise set out in this statement of reasons is set out in [Annexure A](#).

Background

Description of the proposed action (including location)

2. The proposed action involves the construction and operation of a hydrogen power station, electrolyser and storage facility and associated infrastructure approximately 5-6 km north of the Whyalla City Centre, South Australia.
3. The total proposed action area is 709 hectares (**ha**) (Figure 1), which includes a total disturbance footprint of 89.4 ha and final operational footprint of 77.2 ha following a 15% revegetation effort.
4. The components of the proposed action include the primary facility, northern infrastructure and southern infrastructure. The primary facility includes the hydrogen production plant, purification, storage and hydrogen-fuelled power station. The northern infrastructure includes a high voltage transmission line proposed to run along the western side of the Lincoln Highway and new Cultana East substation before tying into the adjacent transmission lines within the Cultana Training Area (**CTA**). The southern infrastructure includes service connections for water, wastewater, and sewer pipelines.

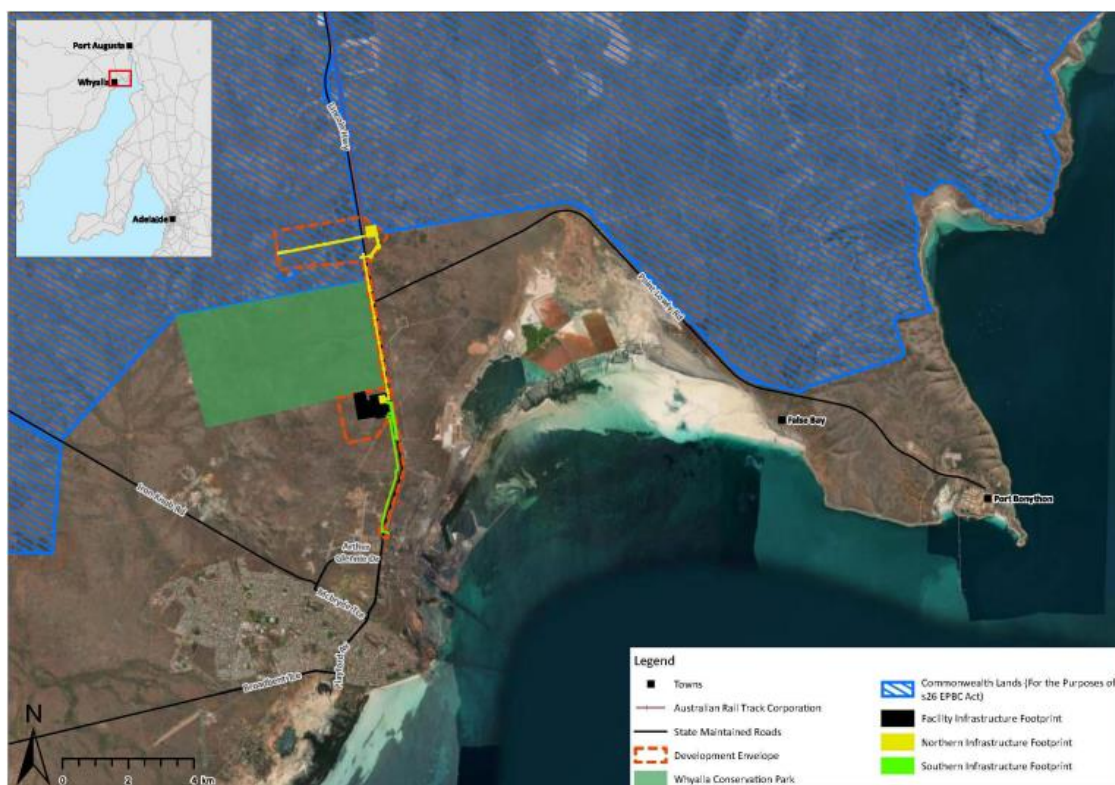


Figure 1. Project infrastructure location and area.

5. Other associated infrastructure will include water treatment system, hydrogen purification system, hydrogen compression system, hydrogen pressure control and metering skid, hydrogen booster compression system, cooling water system(s), chilled water system(s), instrument air supply equipment, nitrogen system, open drain and wastewater systems, vent systems, control system, fire and gas detection, tube trailer filling and hydrogen export, buildings and firefighting systems.
6. The South Australian Water (**SA Water**) network will supply water to the proposed action via a water pipeline, that will run along the Lincoln Highway, south of the facility, until connecting to the SA Water network.
7. The department informed me that SA Water had allocated the supply of 2 gegalitres (**GL**) of water to the proposed action from the Murray River, SA and that this is within the State's water allocation limits, and will not cause a significant strain to the Murray River's water resources.
8. The proposed action will require natural gas supply for turbine commissioning, start-up, and shut-down phases in the power station until the turbine manufacturer has certified 100% hydrogen operation during all phases. Natural gas is expected to be trucked to the site to an onsite storage facility.
9. The proposed action will also require an electrical connection to the grid. It will utilise electricity from the grid for hydrogen production, incidental operational activities and transmit hydrogen-produced electricity back into the grid. A transmission line and substations will connect the primary facilities to an existing transmission line north of the existing Cultana substation.

10. I noted that the purpose of the proposed action is to support South Australia's transition toward its target of 100% net renewable energy by 2030.

Description of the environment

11. I noted that the primary facility infrastructure will be located on undeveloped land with the exception of access tracks and other remnants of historic grazing and surrounded by conservation areas such as the Whyalla Conservation Park to the north and a Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement area to the west.
12. The southern infrastructure corridor consisting of existing infrastructure including the primary water supply for Whyalla that is surrounded by vegetation of varying quality arising from historic activities. This area is noted as an informal recreation area, with several walking trails and unofficial motorbike trails being present.
13. The northern infrastructure corridor passes through an existing access track to the Whyalla Conservation Park and the CTA. A small section, including the proposed new substation, is east of the Lincoln Highway on undeveloped land.
14. I noted that the referral information indicated that major industries in the region include the Whyalla steelworks, Port Bonython gas fractionation plant and hydrocarbon import/export facility and iron ore mining. I noted that renewable energy projects, particularly solar farm developments, are a current focus in this region.
15. The proposed action area consists of Open Woodlands of Western Myall (*Acacia papyrocarpa*), Black Oak (*Casuarina pauper*), Sugarwood (*Myoporum platycarpum*), Chenopod Shrublands (including drainage lines) and inland tall shrublands on calcrete.
16. I noted that the vegetation within the proposed action area is in good to excellent condition, with some degradation exhibited near areas of existing infrastructure and industry, tracks, historical quarries and borrow pits.
17. I noted that according to the referral information the proposed action will utilise the existing road (Lincoln Highway) and existing electrical transmission infrastructure present within the proposed action area.
18. The referral also noted that the proposed action is located adjacent the Australian National Railways Commission (ANRC) railway corridor Commonwealth land and within the Australian Defence Force CTA Commonwealth land.

Procedural history

19. A pre-referral meeting was held on 1 November 2023. A second follow up pre-referral meeting was held on 19 December 2023.
20. A valid referral was received from the proponent on 1 March 2024. The referral was published on the department's website that same date.
21. Public comments were invited on the referral, as per section 74(3) of the EPBC Act. Between 1 and 18 March 2024, two public comments were received by the department. I refer to these comments in further detail below.
22. Relevant Commonwealth and State Ministers were also invited to comment on the referral between 1 and 18 March 2024 in accordance with section 74(1) and 74(2) of the EPBC Act. Two

substantive responses were provided on behalf of two of the Commonwealth Ministers. These comments are summarised below.

Evidence or other material on which my findings were based

23. When making my decision on whether the proposed action is a controlled action for the purpose of section 75 of the EPBC Act, I read and considered the referral decision brief prepared by the department, which I signed on 3 April 2024, and its attachments (**referral decision brief**). Annexure B sets out in full the attachments to the brief and the material that I considered.
24. On the basis of this information, I decided that there was enough information available to make a decision under s 75 of the EPBC Act.

Public comments

25. As mentioned above, I noted that two public submissions were received on the referral. One submission considered the proposed action a controlled action, while the other was a spam email that contained content unrelated to the proposed action. The department summarised the key issues raised in the relevant comment in the referral decision brief, which were:
 - The proposed action would result in significant impacts to the Western Grasswren, Southern Whiteface, Grey Falcon, and Blue Winged Parrot due to habitat loss and masking effects.
 - The proposed action will result in significant impacts to migratory species due to collision with transmission lines.
 - The renewable energy sector is not sustainable, secure, reliable or efficient.

Commonwealth Minister's comments

26. As stated above, on 1 March 2024, the department invited four Commonwealth Ministers to comment on the proposed action, including:
 - The Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians;
 - The Hon Richard Marles MP, Minister for Defence;
 - The Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy; and
 - The Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance.
27. I noted a comment was received from a delegate of the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP. This comment noted that:
 - The proponent should engage with the Traditional Owners and any other First Nations stakeholders on the range of potential environmental, cultural, social and economic interests and concerns they may have in relation to the project. The delegate also recommended that engagement be ongoing for the life of the project, including development, construction, operation and project decommissioning.
 - The project is proposed to be located within the boundaries of the Barngarla Native Title determination area (SAD6011/1998). The referral indicated that Native Title rights and interests exist over parts of the area proposed for the project. Therefore, the delegate recommended that the proponent seek advice of the South Australian Government on the

application of the future act provisions to the project under the *Native Title Act 1993* prior to commencing works.

- The proponent should develop an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (**ILUA**) with the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (**BDAC**) in relation to the project. An ILUA can support continuous engagement and build stronger relationships with Traditional Owners by providing a framework for consultation, cultural heritage and environmental management, land access, dispute resolution and economic opportunities.
 - The referral indicated that BDAC participated in on-ground cultural heritage surveys for the project's primary facility and storage area in August 2023. The delegate recommended that cultural heritage surveys be conducted over other areas that may be affected by project infrastructure and operations.
 - The delegate also noted that the proponent had committed to cultural heritage awareness training of project employees and development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the project in collaboration with BDAC.
 - The delegate suggested that the proponent develop a First Nations employment, training and procurement plan incorporating participation targets.
28. I noted a comment was received from a delegate for the Minister for Defence, the Hon Richard Marles MP, which can be summarised as follows:
- A land exchange agreement had been entered into by the South Australian and Commonwealth Governments on the basis that the land divested (CTA) will be developed for the purpose of renewable energy. The agreed land exchange allows for the Commonwealth Government to proceed with the construction of the submarine construction yard at Osborne, South Australia, to support the Australia, United Kingdom, United States trilateral partnership.
 - It is recommended that the South Australian Government undertake engagement with First Nations People to develop Cultural Heritage management strategies, including development of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Native Title consent pathway.
 - An Environmental Management Plan exists for the CTA Defence land. Once the land exchange has occurred, the Environment Management Plan will be updated to reflect the updated boundary during the next periodic revision and update.
 - The potential spillage onto Defence land from electrolyzers, and the spillage of fire-fighting chemicals needs to be considered. Ongoing consultation by the proponent with Defence should continue to avoid potential impacts from training activities on this facility.
29. I noted that a delegate of the Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher responded saying the Minister had no comment in response to the invitation.
30. No response was received from the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Chris Bowen MP.
31. I considered the responses when making my decision.

State Minister's comment

32. By letter dated 1 March 2024, the department invited the South Australian Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, the Hon Susan Close MP to comment on the referral.
33. A response from a delegate of the South Australian Minister for Climate, Environment and Water was provided to this invitation. The comment noted that the action referred is proposed by a South Australian government agency and therefore the South Australian government would not provide any comment in response to the invitation.

Findings on material questions of fact

Part 3 provisions that are controlling provisions

34. Section 75(1) of the EPBC Act provides that the Minister (here, me as her delegate) must decide whether the proposed action is a controlled action, and which provisions of Part 3 (if any) are controlling provisions for the action.
35. In accordance with section 75(2) of the EPBC Act, in making my decision, I considered all adverse impacts that the proposed action has, will have, or is likely to have on matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act. I did not consider any beneficial impacts that the proposed action has, will have, or is likely to have, on matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act.
36. Section 67 of the EPBC Act provides that an action is a controlled action if the taking of the action, without the Minister's approval for the purposes of a provision of Part 3, would be prohibited by the provision (the controlling provision for the action).
37. In making my decision, I:
 - a. considered the public submissions and Ministerial comments received (and summarised above);
 - b. considered the *EPBC Act Policy Statement – Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance (Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1)*, *EPBC Act Policy Statement – Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2 – Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies (Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2)* which provides guidance on determining whether an action is likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected by Part 3 of the EPBC Act. This is a policy document, not a legal instrument. However, I considered the factors identified in Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 were appropriate in assessing the likely impacts of the proposed action;
 - c. took account of the precautionary principle (as set out in section 391) when making my decision. The precautionary principle is triggered where there is a threat of serious or irreversible environment damage and scientific uncertainty as to the environmental damage. The precautionary principle requires that, if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, a lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation;

- d. noted that, pursuant to section 176(5) of the EPBC Act, there were no bioregional plans relevant to the location of the proposed action which I was required to have regard to; and
 - e. concluded that my decision that the proposed action is a controlled action would not be contrary to section 362(2) of the EPBC Act, as there were no Commonwealth reserve management plans relevant to the location of the proposed action.
38. Having regard to the information before me, and the matters relevant to my decision, for the reasons set out below I agreed with the department's recommendation that the proposed action is a controlled action because there are likely significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities (ss 18 and 18A).

Listed threatened species and communities (ss 18 & 18A)

39. I considered whether the action has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on any listed threatened species and communities.
40. I noted the department's Protected Matters Search Tool (**PMST**) Report dated 19 March 2024 identified 30 listed threatened species and one threatened ecological community that are likely or known to occur within 5 km of the proposed action.
41. I noted that the *EPBC Species and Ecological Communities Update* dated 22 March 2024 showed that there are no relevant recent changes to listed threatened species and communities, approved conservation advices, recovery plans and threat abatement plans.
42. Based on the location of the action, likely habitat present, the environment of the action and the nature of the action, I agreed with the department's recommendation that impacts could potentially arise in relation to the following listed threatened species and communities. My detailed consideration of these matters is set out below.

Western Grasswren (Amytornis textilis myall) – Vulnerable

Protected matter ecology

43. Information on the Western Grasswren's ecology and species characteristics are contained in the Conservation Advice for the Western Grasswren. From this statutory document, I noted that:
- Western Grasswrens are medium-sized, thickset birds with long bills and long tails and dark coarsely streaked colouration which inhabit chenopod shrublands and low woodlands scattered across the North Eyre Peninsula and the Gawler Ranges. The dominant species in these habitats, include Blackbush (*Maireana pyramidata*), Australian Boxthorn (*Lycium australe*) and Western Myall (*Acacia papyrocarpa*).
 - Threats to the species include the loss of understorey vegetation caused by overgrazing by domestic livestock and feral herbivores, land use change and introduced predators.
 - All populations are of high conservation value.

Environment within and surrounding the proposed action area

44. The proponent's referral described the environment in the proposed action area as containing chenopod open shrublands, low open woodlands of Western Myall with a chenopod shrub understorey, and low open woodlands with Western Myall and Black Oak over chenopod shrub understorey, which are identified as important habitat for the survival of the species in the Conservation Advice of the Western Grasswren.
45. I noted that the proposed action area is adjacent to the Spencer Gulf on the limit of the species distribution and is within a region where remnant vegetation is largely contiguous and includes large expanses of preferred and suitable Western Grasswren habitat.
46. I also noted that Western Grasswrens are known to occur in the wider region, with records of the species within and surrounding the proposed action area.
47. I noted that a baseline terrestrial field survey was undertaken in 2022 and recorded a minimum of 10 individuals in the proposed action area. This survey was conducted in October one month outside of the species listed breeding season of June to September.
48. A targeted Western Grasswren survey was undertaken in October 2023 and detected a minimum of 23 individuals across 11 of the 24 surveyed sites within the proposed action area. This survey was also undertaken one month outside of the recommended survey period of June to September.
49. I noted that there have been numerous records of the species in the surrounding environment outside of the proposed action including the Whyalla Conservation Park and the CTA.
50. I also noted there was limited justification provided in the referral as to whether the surrounding areas (e.g. Whyalla Conservation Park and CTA) can provide suitable habitat for displaced birds.

Potential impacts

51. I noted that, in the proponent's referral information, the proposed action will clear approximately 89.4 ha of suitable habitat which is of high importance to the species.
52. I noted the internal advice from the Protected Species and Ecological Communities Section on 20 March 2024 (**March 2024 PSEC advice**) regarding the potential impacts to Western Grasswren, their important populations, and the adequacy of the habitat classifications made by the proponent for the Western Grasswren.
53. In summary, the March 2024 PSEC advice noted that:
 - The criteria and rationale used for Western Grasswren habitat classification by the proponent appeared reasonable.
 - A typical habitat does have high importance given that the listed species is either using it or moving through the habitat despite it being potentially perceived as lower quality.
 - It is highly plausible that movement capacity and behaviour of the Western Grasswren is similar to that of the Thick-billed Grasswren (western) (*A. textilis textilis*).

- Habitat condition and subsequent preference by a species is not static but more so a continuum that is heavily dependent on ecosystem interactions that are dynamic in space and time.
 - Western Grasswren density tends to fluctuate widely with insect abundance – driven largely by rainfall driven landscape productivity, drought, as well as potentially upper limit lethal heat events.
 - It can take several repeat visits even at known locations by very experienced birders to be able to detect the bird.
 - It may be appropriate to classify this subpopulation as an important population, or more specifically, a part of one based on the historical records in the surrounding landscape.
 - Subpopulations residing near the border of the realised niche also play a critical role in establishing in nearby habitat that may meet minimum ecological requirements yet act as a temporary refuge for displaced individuals.
 - Southern localities of the species may also play a crucial role as a climate refuge.
 - There is limited understanding of the species' ecology and discrepancies between the inferred area of occupancy in the species Conservation Advice and referral documentation.
54. I agreed with the department's advice that a likely important population or subpopulation resides in the proposed action near the limit of the species range that is necessary for the species long-term survival and recovery.
55. I also agreed with the department's advice that the likely important population plays a critical role in establishing the Western Grasswren in nearby habitat, and as a potential future climate refuge population.
56. Consequently, I considered that the Western Grasswren habitat within the proposed action could be supporting a Western Grasswren important population.
57. I found, based on descriptions of the proposed action and advice from the department, that indirect impacts to the Western Grasswren could include:
- Increased noise and dust emissions during construction activities.
 - Construction activities with the potential to degrade Western Grasswren habitat quality through weed introduction to the proposed action area and surrounding area from contaminated machinery and vehicles.
 - Increased light emissions during operation of the primary facility.
 - Operational noise of the proposed action resulting in masking effects, impacting the breeding-related communication of individuals within an approximate 1.5 km proximity from the primary infrastructure.
 - More favourable conditions for introduced predators and herbivores which are listed as threats to Western Grasswren due to predation and habitat degradation from the vegetation clearance in the proposed action area.

- Soil erosion and transport of sediment into receiving watercourses from stormwater and construction activities.
58. Having regard of the above, I agreed with the department's advice that significant impacts to the Western Grasswren were likely.

Avoidance, mitigation and management measures

59. I considered the proponent's indication that various management plans will be prepared for the proposed action and noted that these were not included with the referral application.

Conclusion

60. In reaching a conclusion on whether or not the proposed action has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the Western Grasswren, I considered the Conservation Advice of the species, the nature of the proposed action, the referral documentation, the March 2024 PSEC advice, and the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1.
61. In light of the matters discussed above and insufficient information on mitigation and management measures for potential impacts to the Western Grasswren provided in the referral, I concluded that the proposed vegetation clearance will directly impact to habitat important for the survival of the species and a likely important population. Consequently, the proposed action is likely to:
- lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population of a species; and
 - reduce the area of occupancy of an important population.
62. I therefore concluded that the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on the Western Grasswren.

Southern Whiteface (Aphelocephala leucopsis) – Vulnerable

Protected matter ecology

63. Details on the characteristics, biology and habitat requirements of the Southern Whiteface are detailed in the species' Conservation Advice. From this statutory document, I noted that:
- The Conservation Advice identifies habitat critical to the survival of the species to occur over most of southern Australia with an area of occupancy of 80,000 km² and a larger extent of occurrence of 4,910,000 km². Habitat critical to the survival of the Southern Whiteface includes areas of relatively undisturbed open woodlands and shrublands with an understorey of grasses or shrubs, habitat with low tree densities and an herbaceous understorey litter cover, living and dead trees with hollows and crevices.
 - The total number of mature individuals is estimated to be 477,000 and breeding takes place throughout most of the species' range. The species area of occupancy is contracting, and habitat loss and fragmentation is likely the cause of the species decline. The species population has declined substantially by an estimated 30 to 50 % every ten years since 1999, with no indication of slowing.
 - The threats to the species are habitat destruction (with an emphasis on agriculture) and climate change, both of which are expected to drive contractions of the species' range.

Environment within and surrounding the proposed action area

64. I noted that the proponent's referral information describes all vegetation associations mapped within the 709 ha proposed action area to include known suitable habitat for the Southern Whiteface, including areas of chenopod shrublands and areas of low woodland.
65. The majority of vegetation in the northern infrastructure area provides habitat for Southern Whiteface being dominated by open woodlands. Suitable habitat in the primary facility and southern infrastructure area includes woodlands predominantly occurring to the west of the primary facility and extending north to Whyalla Conservation Park, predominantly through the centre and to the northwest, with only smaller patches in the northeast. More open chenopod shrublands with minimal tree cover occur throughout these areas and provide lesser habitat value.
66. I noted that the Southern Whiteface was undetected in bird surveys in September 2022, which were conducted within the species breeding season. I did also note, however, that the species was not included as a target species during the 2022 surveys as it was listed under the EPBC Act in March 2023 (post-surveys completion). Sixteen Southern Whiteface individuals were detected in the proposed action area during a targeted Western Grasswren survey undertaken in October 2023 during the breeding season of the Southern Whiteface. I also noted that there have been numerous records of the species in the last 10 years in and near the proposed action area, particularly in the adjacent Whyalla Conservation Park. Therefore, I agreed with the department's conclusion that the species is known to occur within the proposed action area.
67. I noted that there was limited justification provided in the referral as to whether the surrounding areas (e.g. Whyalla Conservation Park and CTA) can provide suitable habitat for displaced birds.

Potential impacts

68. I noted that the proposed action will clear approximately 28 ha of critical habitat as defined in the Southern Whiteface Conservation Advice and 59 ha of suitable habitat for the Southern Whiteface.
69. I noted the March 2024 PSEC advice, previously mentioned in relation to the Western Grasswren at [53], also contained information regarding the potential impacts to Southern Whiteface, and the clearance of their critical habitat in the context of their broad habitat range.
70. In summary, the March 2024 PSEC advice noted that:
- The species is indeed widespread as noted by the consultant but can be patchy, and there is limited evidence as to what drives occupancy.
 - Recent data passed on (in March 2024) by the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme team show many 0 km recaptures over 10+ year periods for the Southern Whiteface. Indicating that the species continuously breeds in the same location, demonstrating strong site fidelity specifically in the breeding season. This suggests that the species may be sensitive to local clearing.
 - The Southern Whiteface may be more vocal during breeding season (in spring), with the species occurring in pairs with established territories. This may have contributed to the number of detections of individuals during the October 2023 survey. In the non-breeding

season, they form small flocks and would move out of their territory, and forage around the broader local area. It is for these reasons, with others, that the Southern Whiteface has a broad definition of habitat critical to the survival of the species.

- Habitat connectivity may play a crucial role for these 16 individuals to pass through the landscape between the project area and Whyalla Conservation Park, specifically during non-breeding season where they're likely to move through the landscape more frequently.
- Given the above information and associated uncertainty with the species ecology in addition to there being no indicator of cumulative impacts from development nationally it is recommended that the precautionary principle is used and hence assume that there is a possibility that this project could significantly impact the species.

71. The department considered and I agreed that there is insufficient information provided in the referral to determine the number of breeding sites within the proposed action area and whether any breeding habitat supports an important population.

72. I found, based on descriptions of the proposed action and advice from the department, that indirect impacts to the Southern Whiteface could include:

- Increased noise and dust emissions during construction activities.
- Construction activities with the potential to degrade Southern Whiteface habitat quality through weed introduction to the proposed action area and surrounding area from contaminated machinery and vehicles.
- Increased light emissions during operation of the primary facility.
- Operational noise of the proposed action resulting in masking effects, impacting the breeding-related communication of individuals within an approximate 1.5 km proximity from the primary infrastructure.
- More favourable conditions for introduced predators and herbivores which are listed as threats to Southern Whiteface due to predation and habitat degradation from the vegetation clearance in the proposed action area.
- Soil erosion and transport of sediment into receiving watercourses from stormwater and construction activities.

Avoidance, mitigation and management measures

73. I considered the proponent's indication that various management plans will be prepared for the proposed action and noted that these were not included with the referral.

Precautionary principle

74. The precautionary principle applies where there is both a threat of serious or irreversible environmental damage and scientific uncertainty as to the environmental damage.

75. I accepted the March 2024 PSEC advice, and I agreed with the department's view that the precautionary principle applies to the Southern Whiteface. First, I found that there was a threat of serious or irreversible damage from direct impacts to 87 ha of suitable habitat containing critical habitat to the survival of the species as defined in the Southern Whiteface Conservation Advice. Additionally, the targeted Western Grasswren survey of October 2023 detected a

minimum of 16 Southern Whiteface individuals, indicating that a population might be inhabiting the proposed action area.

76. I found that the second condition of the precautionary principle is met because there is scientific uncertainty as to whether the proposed action area that includes habitat critical for the species also supports an important population of Southern Whiteface. It has been confirmed that, at least, 16 Southern Whiteface individuals utilise the proposed action area and multiple historic records around the proposed action site.
77. Accordingly, I found the precautionary principle applies when considering the potential for significant impacts to the Southern Whiteface. Consequently, I took into account the precautionary principle in forming my conclusion about these impacts. In doing so, I agreed with the department's recommendation that further ecological assessments need to be requested during the assessment stage to determine whether this population should be classified as important and the impact's magnitude of clearing Southern Whiteface habitat critical within the proposed action area.

Conclusion

78. In reaching my decision, I considered the Conservation Advice for the Southern Whiteface, the nature of the proposed action, the referral documentation, the March 2024 PSEC advice, and Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1.
79. Based on the discussion above and insufficient avoidance, mitigation, and management measures for potential impacts to the Southern Whiteface provided in the referral, I agreed with the department's conclusion that proposed vegetation clearance will have direct impacts on habitat critical for the survival of the species and a known population.
80. I accepted the March 2024 PSEC advice and agreed with the department's recommendation to apply the precautionary principle for the Southern Whiteface because there have been multiple individual detections of the species across the project site and the proponent provided limited information regarding the importance of the Southern Whiteface suitable habitats present within the proposed action area (e.g. breeding sites) which are considered habitat critical to the survival of the species. There is uncertainty regarding the magnitude and extent of impact to the species as the clearance of this habitat critical might also impact on a Southern Whiteface important population. Consequently, I considered that the proposed action is likely to:
- adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species; and
 - modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline.
81. I therefore concluded that the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on the Southern Whiteface.

Other listed species and communities

82. I noted the PMST Report identified the potential presence of additional threatened species or communities within 5 km of the proposed action area, including:
- Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) – Vulnerable
 - Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – Vulnerable

- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) – Vulnerable
- Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) – Vulnerable
- Latham’s Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) – Vulnerable
- Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*) – Endangered
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – Endangered
- Australian Fairy Tern (*Sternula nereis nereis*) – Vulnerable
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) – Vulnerable
- Frankenia (*Frankenia plicata*) – Endangered
- Desert Greenhood (*Pterostylis xerophila*) – Vulnerable
- Yellow Swainson-pea (*Swainsona pyrophila*) – Vulnerable
- Sandhill Dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*) – Endangered
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) – Vulnerable
- Fairy Prion (southern) (*Pachyptila turtur subantarctica*) – Vulnerable
- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) – Vulnerable
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) – Critically endangered
- Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) – Critically endangered
- Eastern Hooded Plover (*Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus*) – Vulnerable
- Sooty Shearwater (*Ardenna grisea*) – Vulnerable
- Flinders Ranges Worm-lizard (*Aprasia pseudopulchella*) – Vulnerable
- Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh – Vulnerable

Based on information available to the department, such as the Species Profile and Threats database, relevant recovery plans and information from the referral documentation, I agreed with the department’s conclusion that significant impacts to these species or communities are unlikely.

Part 3 Provisions that are not controlling provisions

World Heritage properties (s 12 & s 12A)

83. I noted the PMST Report did not identify any declared World Heritage properties located within or adjacent to the proposed action area.
84. Given the information contained in the referral documentation, the nature and scale of the proposed action and its potential impacts, and the distance to World Heritage properties, I agreed with the department’s conclusion that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of World Heritage properties and that sections 12 and 15A are not controlling provisions for the proposed action.

National Heritage places (s 15B & s 15C)

85. I noted the PMST Report did not identify any National Heritage places located within or adjacent to the proposed action area.
86. Similar to my conclusion in relation to World Heritage properties, given the information contained in the referral documentation, the nature and scale of the proposed action and its potential impacts, and the distance to National Heritage places, I agreed with the department's view that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the National Heritage values of National Heritage places and that sections 15B and 15C are not controlling provisions for the proposed action.

Ramsar wetlands (s 16 & s 17B)

87. I noted the PMST Report did not identify any declared Ramsar listed wetlands of international importance, or their mapped broader catchment areas, within or adjacent to the proposed action area.
88. Given the information contained in the referral documentation, the nature and scale of the proposed action and its potential impacts, and the distance to Ramsar listed wetlands of international importance, I agreed with the department's conclusion that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the ecological character of Ramsar listed wetlands of international importance and was satisfied that sections 16 and 17B are not controlling provisions for the proposed action.

Migratory species (s 20 & s 20A)

89. I noted the PMST Report (5 km buffer) identified the potential presence of 45 migratory species including birds, sharks, whales and turtles within or adjacent to the proposed action area due to its proximity to the coast (approximately 1.5 km). However, the proposed action area does not include any suitable habitat for migratory species.
90. Based on information in the department's Species Profile and Threats database and information from the referral documentation I agreed with the department's conclusion that there are no important habitats for migratory species neither population of migratory species within an adjacent to the proposed action area. I therefore concluded that sections 20 and 20A are not controlling provisions for the proposed action.

Nuclear action (s 21 & s 22A)

91. The proposed action does not meet the definition of a nuclear action as defined in the EPBC Act. For this reason, I considered that sections 21 and 22A were not controlling provisions for the proposed action.

Commonwealth marine environment (s 23 & s 24A)

92. I noted that the proposed action is not being taken in a Commonwealth marine area, as shown by the information contained in the referral documentation, the nature and scale of the proposed action and its potential impacts, and the distance to a Commonwealth marine area. Based on this information, I agreed with the department's conclusion that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment in a Commonwealth marine area and that sections 23 and 24A are not controlling provisions for the proposed action.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (s 24B & s 24C)

93. I noted that the proposed action is not being taken in or near the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and I was therefore satisfied that sections 24B and 24C are not controlling provisions for the proposed action.

A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (s 24D & s 24E)

94. From the background that has been set out above, it was clear to me that the proposed action is not a coal seam gas or large coal mining development and, for this reason, I concluded that sections 24D and 24E are not controlling provisions for the proposed action.

Commonwealth land (s 26 & s 27A)

95. I noted that the Commonwealth land controlling provision will apply if one or both of the following exist:

- a) the part of the action that is on Commonwealth land has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on the environment;
- b) the part of the action that is outside Commonwealth land has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on the environment on Commonwealth land.

96. I noted that the 'environment' is defined in section 528 of the EPBC Act as:

- a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities;
- b) natural and physical resources;
- c) the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas;
- d) heritage values of places; and
- e) the social, economic, and cultural aspects of a thing mentioned in paragraphs a, b, c or d.

97. I noted the PMST Report (5 km buffer) identified the presence of two sections of Commonwealth Land within the proposed action area consisting of the CTA and the Australian National Railways Commission (ANRC) Railway Corridor.

ANRC Railway Corridor

98. I noted that the ANRC railway corridor runs parallel to the Lincoln Highway between the southern and northern infrastructure areas (Figure 1).

99. I noted that according to the referral information the crossing of the ANRC land will involve the aerial part of the transmission line and no physical clearance. No structure will be developed on the ANRC land at these locations. Transmission line height will be sufficient to ensure the clearance height to conductors meets ANRC's requirements. The referral information provided that liaison will be carried out with ANRC prior to and during stringing operations to ensure ANRC's operations are not impacted. The short section of transmission line within ANRC land is unlikely to have any impact on the environment other than a minor visual impact and a slight risk of bird strike.

100. I noted under the ANRC railway near its southern terminus, a wastewater pipeline will be installed via directional drilling which will not physically disturb ANRC land or impact ANRC operations.

101. Consequently, I agreed with the department's recommendation that the part of the action that is on (or under) the ANRC railway corridor is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment generally, and the rest of the action will not have a significant impact on the environment on the railway corridor.

CTA

102. I noted in November 2023, the South Australian and Commonwealth governments entered into a land agreement under which the Commonwealth (Department of Defence) will surrender its lease over the CTA land underlying the proposed HJP electrical infrastructure. I understand this process is expected to be finalised approximately mid-2024. The land agreement is not taken into further consideration for assessment purposes in this referral, and as such, the CTA is considered as Commonwealth land.

103. I noted the CTA is located within and encompassing the northern infrastructure area of the project site (Figure 1). The proposed action requires vegetation clearance and minor earthworks within CTA land to accommodate the tower pads and access track for the electricity transmission infrastructure. Total vegetation clearance within the CTA will be 5.5 ha.

104. I noted it is necessary to consider the total adverse impact of the action in the context of the environment, particularly those elements of the environment which are sensitive or valuable. Consideration of likely potential direct, indirect and facilitated impacts and mitigation measures is required both within and outside the Commonwealth land. I noted that it also necessary to distinguish between the impacts of the part of the action that is on Commonwealth land and the impacts of the remainder of the action which may impact the environment on Commonwealth land.

105. I noted impacts to the environment in and adjacent to Commonwealth land from the transmission infrastructure and access track component of the proposed action located in the CTA include the following direct impacts:

- temporary and permanent vegetation clearance and land disturbance,
- vehicle access for construction activities,

and indirect impacts such as:

- soil erosion,
- noise and dust emissions and vibration,
- pollution from waste materials.

106. The department considers and I agreed that the components of the environment which could be impacted by the proposed action include (but are not limited to): plants and animals; landscapes and soils; coastal landscapes and processes; people and communities; and heritage.

Vegetation clearance and associated impacts to species and habitats

107. I noted the discussion in this brief on the impacts of the proposed action to listed threatened species and communities and listed migratory species is relevant here as the vegetation in the Commonwealth land area and wider proposed action area is largely contiguous and with the same remnant vegetation.
108. I noted the proposed action on Commonwealth land involves the clearance of 5.5 ha of good condition low open woodlands of Sugarwood with a chenopod shrub understorey in the CTA to facilitate the construction of transmission line infrastructure and access track. This clearance area consists of suitable Western Grasswren and Southern Whiteface habitat. This habitat is not considered higher value or more important relative to habitat in the wider region and is included within the 89.4 ha disturbance footprint for the proposed action.
109. I considered that the clearance of 5.5 ha of suitable Western Grasswren and Southern Whiteface habitat on Commonwealth land is unlikely to adversely impact these species' survival given:
- the extent of suitable habitat in the wider region,
 - the remaining clearance outside the CTA is unlikely to have a direct significant impact on these species or their habitats inside the CTA, and
 - Indirect cumulative impacts to these species' habitat present in the CTA caused by the clearance of the proposed action outside the Commonwealth land has been appropriately considered in the listed threatened species and communities controlling provision discussion above.
110. As stated at [61], I found that the clearing of habitat across the entire project is likely to cause a significant impact to the Western Grasswren. However, the department recommended, and I agreed, that the impact of the component of the action that is outside the CTA on the environment in the CTA is unlikely to be significant, given the remaining extent of suitable habitat in the CTA.
111. The department recommended and I agreed that all other species and their habitats found in the proposed transmission line infrastructure area in the CTA are distributed widely in the region; as such, the clearance of 5.5 ha of vegetation which is common across the Eyre Peninsula region is not likely to have a significant impact on these species or their habitats, listed or otherwise. In addition, I found the remaining clearance outside the CTA is unlikely to have a significant impact on these other species or their habitats inside the CTA, given the extent of their habitats in the wider region.

Impacts to landscapes and coastal processes

112. I noted the transmission infrastructure corridor in the CTA traverses relatively flat terrain and crosses no major or minor waterways. There is only one distinct ephemeral creek line within the project area in the southern infrastructure area. Aside from the Whyalla Conservation Park adjacent to the proposed action, the corridor occurs within no particular landforms, soil types, or topography of note.
113. I noted the transmission corridor in the CTA is located approximately 7 km from the Spencer Gulf. Potential indirect impacts include contamination of groundwaters and modification of drainage lines to coastal areas. However, based on the nature and scale of the proposed action, the department is of the view, and I agreed that the works CTA will not alter drainage patterns

or flows in watercourses. Furthermore, I noted that there are no distinct drainage features in the transmission corridor. I also noted that no toxic chemicals will be used during construction.

Impacts to heritage, people and communities

114. I noted the proposed action area is located on Barngarla country, with the relevant contact group being the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (**BDAC**). I noted that Cultural Heritage surveys in consultation with the BDAC have been conducted on the proposed action area including the transmission corridor in the CTA and no cultural heritage sites or objects were found to be located in this area. I also noted this survey identified a site in the southern infrastructure of the project area outside of Commonwealth land of significance to the Barngarla community.
115. I noted there are no National Heritage places in the proposed action area on Commonwealth land. The closest National Heritage Place is the Cuttlefish Coast Sanctuary Zone, located over 12 km away. Potential indirect impacts to this place are summarised above, refer as discussed at [113].
116. The department indicated this National Heritage place is outside Commonwealth land, and any effects from any component of the proposed action are not relevant to impacts on the environment on Commonwealth land.
117. I noted the transmission infrastructure corridor is located approximately 10 km from the township of Whyalla and potential environmental impacts to people and communities from the installation of an underground cable, are considered to be non-applicable or negligible. I agreed with the department's view that the transmission line works will not substantially increase demand on or reduce the availability of community services or infrastructure as activities will be relatively small scale, short term and transient.

Avoidance and mitigation measures

118. I considered the proponent's proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to minimise the direct and indirect impact of the proposed action on the environment in and adjacent to CTA. In summary, these management measures were:
- Structures (poles or towers) will be micro-sited as far as reasonably practicable to minimise impacts on native vegetation and threatened species habitat.
 - Construction footprints will be minimised as far as reasonably practicable to reduce the amount of disturbance in vegetated areas.
 - Construction areas will be revegetated once construction is completed (70% of initial 5.5 ha clearance).
 - The proponent will liaise with the Department of Defence during detailed design and (where relevant) prior to and during construction to ensure impacts on the operation of the CTA are minimised.
 - Management measures will be implemented to prevent introduction or spread of invasive species and predators that could be a threat to the existing ecology of the area.
 - Awareness of ecological values will be included in induction training for contractors working on the site.

- Ahead of project construction activities occurring, development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the project will be finalised with BDAC.

119. I considered, given the information contained in the referral documentation, *the* Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2, the nature and scale of the proposed underground transmission corridor and its potential impacts, and proposed avoidance and mitigation measures, that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment on Commonwealth land and it is also unlikely that the portion of the action outside the Commonwealth land will have a significant impact on the environment of the Commonwealth land in general. For this reason, I concluded that sections 26 and 27A are not controlling provisions for the proposed action.

Commonwealth Heritage places overseas (s 27B & s 27C)

120. I noted that the proposed action is not being taken overseas and, for this reason, I agreed with the department's conclusion that sections 27B and 27C are not controlling provisions for the proposed action.

Commonwealth action (s 28)

121. I noted that the person proposing to take the action is not a Commonwealth agency. For this reason, I concluded that section 28 is not a controlling provision for the proposed action.

Other relevant matters

122. In relation to the protected matters for provisions which are not controlling provisions (set out above), I did not consider that there were threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage based on the available information including the referral documentation and survey data. I also did not consider that there is a lack of scientific certainty as to the nature or scope of the threat of environmental damage in relation to these other protected matters. For these reasons, the precautionary principle does not apply and does not affect my conclusion that those other protected matters are not controlling provisions.

Conclusion – controlling provisions

123. In view of my findings, I considered that the taking of the proposed action was likely to have a significant impact on a number of matters protected by Part 3 of the EPBC Act, and therefore decided on 3 April 2024, under section 75(1) of the EPBC Act, that the proposed action was a controlled action. The controlling provisions are section 18 and section 18A (listed threatened species and communities).

Assessment approach

124. As I agreed that the proposed action was a controlled action, I was required to decide on the approach for an assessment in accordance with section 87 of the EPBC Act.

125. In making this decision, I considered the matters required to be considered as set out in section 87(3). I note there were no substantive comments received from State/Territory Minister's in response to an invitation to comment (see [33]) and there were no relevant guidelines or regulations to be considered.

126. I noted that, in accordance with s 87(5), I could decide on assessment on preliminary documentation only if I am satisfied that the approach will enable an informed decision to be made about whether or not to approve the taking of the action.

127. Based on the referral information and information about the impacts of the action, I concluded that deciding that assessment of the proposed action by Preliminary Documentation, would be appropriate because:

- The number and complexity of relevant impacts is low and locally confined.
- There are threatened species with a degree of uncertainty regarding impacts which requires further assessment.
- Assessment by Preliminary Documentation will ensure that impacts to this threatened species is appropriately assessed.

128. I therefore concluded that the appropriate assessment approach would be an assessment by Preliminary Documentation under Division 4 of the EPBC Act.

Conclusion – assessment approach

129. Given the location of protected matters and the low number of matters likely to be impacted I concluded that Preliminary Documentation represents an appropriate method that will ensure that impacts on protected matters are appropriately assessed.

Conclusion

130. Based on the material before me and considering the precautionary principle and public comments, for the reasons given above, I concluded that the proposed action was likely to have significant impacts on matters protected by Part 3 of the EPBC Act. Therefore, I decided on 3 April 2024, under section 75 of the EPBC Act, that the proposed action is a controlled action due to likely significant impacts to threatened species and communities (section 18 & 18A). I also decided that the relevant impacts of the proposed action will be assessed by Preliminary Documentation under Division 4 of Part 8 of the EPBC Act.

name and position	Kylie Calhoun Branch Head Environment Assessments West Nature Positive Regulation Division
signature	
date of decision	17 May 2024

Annexure A – Relevant Legislation

Section 68 of the EPBC Act relevantly provides:

- 1) A person proposing to take an action that the person thinks may be or is a controlled action must refer the proposal to the Minister for the Minister's decision whether or not the action is a controlled action.
- 2) A person proposing to take an action that the person thinks is not a controlled action may refer the proposal to the Minister for the Minister's decision whether or not the action is a controlled action.

Section 74 of the EPBC Act relevantly provides:

Inviting other Commonwealth Ministers to provide information

- 1) As soon as practicable after receiving a referral of a proposal to take an action, the Environment Minister must:
 - a) inform any other Minister whom the Environment Minister believes has administrative responsibilities relating to the proposal; and
 - b) invite each other Minister informed to give the Environment Minister within 10 business days information that relates to the proposed action and is relevant to deciding whether or not the proposed action is a controlled action.

Inviting comments from appropriate State or Territory Minister

- 2) As soon as practicable after receiving, from the person proposing to take an action or from a Commonwealth agency, a referral of a proposal to take an action in a State or self-governing Territory, the Environment Minister must, if he or she thinks the action may have an impact on a matter protected by a provision of Division 1 of Part 3 (about matters of national environmental significance):
 - a) inform the appropriate Minister of the State or Territory; and
 - b) invite that Minister to give the Environment Minister within 10 business days:
 - i) comments on whether the proposed action is a controlled action; and
 - ii) information relevant to deciding which approach would be appropriate to assess the relevant impacts of the action (including if the action could be assessed under a bilateral agreement).

Inviting public comment

- 3) As soon as practicable after receiving a referral of a proposal to take an action, the Environment Minister must cause to be published on the Internet:
 - a) the referral; and
 - b) an invitation for anyone to give the Minister comments within 10 business days (measured in Canberra) on whether the action is a controlled action.

Section 75 of the EPBC Act relevantly provides:

Is the action a controlled action?

- 1) The Minister must decide:
 - a) whether the action that is the subject of a proposal referred to the Minister is a controlled action; and
 - b) which provisions of Part 3 (if any) are controlling provisions for the action.

(1AA) To avoid doubt, the Minister is not permitted to make a decision under subsection (1) in relation to an action that was the subject of a referral that was not accepted under subsection 74A(1).

Minister must consider public comment

- (1A) In making a decision under subsection (1) about the action, the Minister must consider the comments (if any) received:
- a) in response to the invitation under subsection 74(3) for anyone to give the Minister comments on whether the action is a controlled action; and
 - b) within the period specified in the invitation.

Considerations in decision

- 2) If, when the Minister makes a decision under subsection (1), it is relevant for the Minister to consider the impacts of an action:
 - a) the Minister must consider all adverse impacts (if any) the action:
 - i) has or will have; or
 - ii) is likely to have; on the matter protected by each provision of Part 3; and
 - b) must not consider any beneficial impacts the action:
 - i) has or will have; or
 - ii) is likely to have; on the matter protected by each provision of Part 3.

Timing of decision and designation

- 3) The Minister must make the decisions under subsection (1) and, if applicable, the designation under subsection (3), within 20 business days after the Minister receives the referral of the proposal to take the action.

Section 87 of the EPBC Act relevantly provides:

Minister must choose one assessment approach

- 1) The Minister must decide which one of the following approaches must be used for assessment of the relevant impacts of an action that the Minister has decided is a controlled action:
 - a) assessment by an accredited assessment process;
 - aa) assessment on referral information under Division 3A;

- b) assessment on preliminary documentation under Division 4;
- c) assessment by public environment report under Division 5;
- d) assessment by environmental impact statement under Division 6;
- e) assessment by inquiry under Division 7.

Considerations in making choice

- 3) In making the decision, the Minister must consider:
 - a) information relating to the action given to the Minister in the referral of the proposal to take the action; and
 - b) any other information available to the Minister about the relevant impacts of the action that the Minister considers relevant (including information in a report on the impacts of actions under a policy, plan or program under which the action is to be taken that was given to the Minister under an agreement under Part 10 (about strategic assessments)); and
 - c) any relevant information received in response to an invitation under subparagraph 74(2)(b)(ii); and
 - d) the matters (if any) prescribed by the regulations; and
 - e) the guidelines (if any) published under subsection (6).

Accredited assessment process

- 4) The Minister may decide on an assessment by an accredited assessment process only if the Minister is satisfied that:
 - a) the process is to be carried out under a law of the Commonwealth, a State or a self-governing Territory; and
 - b) the process and the law meet the standards (if any) prescribed by the regulations; and
 - c) the process will ensure that the relevant impacts of the action are adequately assessed; and
 - d) he or she will receive a report of the outcome of the process that will provide enough information on the relevant impacts of the action to let him or her make an informed decision whether or not to approve under Part 9 (for the purposes of each controlling provision) the taking of the action.

Assessment on referral information

- 4A) The Minister may decide on an assessment on referral information under Division 3A only if the Minister is satisfied (after considering the matters in subsection (3)) that the action meets the criteria prescribed in the regulations for the purposes of this subsection.

Assessment on preliminary documentation

- 5) The Minister may decide on an assessment on preliminary documentation under Division 4 only if the Minister is satisfied (after considering the matters in subsection (3)) that that approach will

allow the Minister to make an informed decision whether or not to approve under Part 9 (for the purposes of each controlling provision) the taking of the action.

Guidelines for choosing assessment approach

- 6) The Minister may publish in the *Gazette* guidelines setting out criteria for deciding which approach must be used for assessing the relevant impacts of an action.

Annexure B – List of attachments and materials considered.

Referral Documentation

- Referral
- Project description
- Site 1 terrestrial ecological assessment
- EPBC self-assessment
- Targeted Western Grasswren survey
- Hydrological assessment

Departmental and Statutory Documentation

- Protected Matters Search Tool – 5 km buffer – 19 March 2024
- Protected species and communities report – 22 March 2024
- Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant impact guidelines 1.1
- Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant impact guidelines 1.2
- Western Grasswren Conservation Advice
- Southern Whiteface Conservation Advice
- Other species and communities impacts table
- Line Area Advice – Protected species and communities – 20 March 2024
- Decision notice

Ministerial Comments

- Response from the Minister for Indigenous Australians – 19 March 2024
- Response from the Minister for Defence – 22 March 2024
- Response from the Minister for Finance – 4 March 2024
- Response from the South Australian Government – 19 March 2024

Public Comments

- Table of public comments provided through EPBC Portal