

Ruthven Street, Macleod Level Crossing Removal Project

Application Number: **03126**

Commencement Date:
17/09/2025

Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Ruthven Street, Macleod Level Crossing Removal Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Transport - Land

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Railway

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/04/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/12/2027

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Proposed action

The Ruthven Street, Macleod Level Crossing Removal Project (the Project) concerns:

- removal of the level crossing at Ruthven Street, Macleod, Victoria
- construction of an elevated rail bridge over Ruthven Street in the rail corridor
- rail network enhancements, including new vehicle maintenance access to the rail corridor
- new community infrastructure, including pathways and landscaping.

The Project has been designed to minimise its impact on native vegetation and high-quality habitat areas for threatened species. The works and activities proposed for the Project include:

- road and railway works to remove the existing level crossing at Ruthven Street including road and rail temporary closures
- removal of existing rail infrastructure including ballast, rail and sleepers
- environmental protection measures including establishment of no-go zones and sediment fencing
- earthworks including cutting, stockpiling, removal of spoil formation and track/road drainage works
- removal and trimming of trees and vegetation
- removal of existing landscaping and pedestrian paths
- relocating, modifying, upgrading, and installation of Combined Services Route (CSR), services and utilities
- construction of access tracks, stockpiles, vehicle parking, site compounds and areas for storage of materials and machinery, fencing, site barriers, and site security
- construction of a new elevated rail bridge over Ruthven Street, including piling for construction of piers and lifting of pre-cast sections of the bridge
- use and development of land for a railway, including installation, relocation or modification of railway tracks and associated infrastructure including communications, power, overhead infrastructure, signalling, vehicle maintenance access and pedestrian crossings
- use and development of land for a road including traffic controls, street signage, road tie ins and other road related infrastructure
- works to facilitate the development of new publicly accessible spaces and public realm improvements including, but not limited to, streetscape and landscape works, and associated infrastructure.

Exclusions

The following investigative, preparatory and enabling works do not form part of the action that is being referred as they can occur in their own right independent of the Project without warranting referral and have been assessed and determined not to have the potential to directly or indirectly impact any Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Activities associated with the design and assessment of potential impacts of the Project such as geotechnical and environmental investigations, site surveys and establishing the location and integrity of existing utilities and services.

- Site establishment works in Macleod Park including establishment of temporary construction areas, storage of materials, plant and equipment, installation of site offices, temporary car parking, utility installation, temporary site fencing and hoarding, access points, access ways, work platforms and hardstand areas.
- Relocation of electricity and water utilities, CSR, and drainage pits within existing road reserves along Ruthven Street between the level crossing and Jacka Street, Chapman Street between the level crossing and Thomson Drive, Ellesmere Parade between Ruthven Street and Lower Plenty Road, and the northernmost extent of Rosanna Parklands.
- Relocation of electricity and water utilities, CSR, and drainage pits within the rail reserve directly adjacent to Ellesmere Parade.
- Construction or installation of environmental controls (e.g. sediment fencing) and traffic controls in Macleod Park, in the northernmost extent of Rosanna Parklands, and in the roadways and road reserves along Ruthven Street, Chapman Street, and Ellesmere Parade.

- Vegetation removal to facilitate the above preparatory and enabling works.

In addition, upgrades to Macleod College Oval and Macleod Park including surface works and installation of lighting, cricket nets, cricket pitch, shelters, fencing, goal posts, club facilities, and associated infrastructure do not form part of the action being referred. No MNES were identified in these areas and none will be impacted as a result of these excluded works.

Size of Proposed Action Area

Project Area (referred to within this referral and supporting documents as the Project boundary) = 58.07 ha

Disturbance Footprint (referred to within this referral and supporting documents as the construction footprint) = 12.6 ha

See **Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix A.1 Investigation Area, Project area and Construction Footprint.**

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? *

Relevant Commonwealth Legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

This referral has been prepared to seek a decision by the Minister for the Environment and Water under the EPBC Act.

Preliminary investigations indicated that the Proposed Action had a potential to impact on Matters on National Environmental Significance (MNES) and that a referral of the Project under the EPBC Act may be required. An MNES Report (**Attachment 1 – MNES Report, pp all pages**) has been prepared to document the methods and findings of the ecological assessment and identify any potential impacts on MNES. The significance of these potential impacts has been assessed in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 to determine the likely significance of any potential impacts on MNES as a result of the Proposed Action (**Attachment 1 – MNES Report, pp all pages**).

Relevant State Legislation

Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic) (EE Act)

The EE Act provides for environmental impact assessment of proposed project works capable of having a significant effect on the environment. The Project has been assessed in accordance with the Ministerial guidelines for assessment of environmental effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978 (DTP, 2023) and determined that a referral is not warranted under this Act.

The works associated with this referral will not be referred under the EE Act to the Minister for Planning.

Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) (P&E Act)

The P&E Act applies planning controls to the use and development of land in the form of zones and overlays within and surrounding the Project boundary in the Banyule or Darebin planning schemes. Clause 52.03 - Level Crossing Removal Project in the Banyule and Darebin planning schemes (Clause 52.03) applies to the use and development of land for projects undertaken by the Level Crossing Removal Project and declared under section 10(1)(b) of the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009* (MTPF Act). Clause 52.03 exempts the use and development of land for the Project from other requirements of the Banyule and Darebin planning schemes (including any requirement to obtain a planning permit) subject to meeting specified requirements in the *Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Dec 2017).

Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009 (Vic) (MTPF Act)

The MTPF Act facilitates the planning, assessment, and delivery of major transport infrastructure projects in Victoria.

This project was declared as a major project under the MTPFA Act on the 3rd of July 2025.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* is designed to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria, establishing frameworks for management, protection, and recognition of Aboriginal heritage.

The Project boundary contains areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity and is considered a high-impact activity as defined under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, therefore a mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is being prepared and will be lodged with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The CHMP applies to the full Project boundary and outlines proposed mitigation and management measures related to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. All works will commence after the CHMP is approved, in compliance with the approved conditions.

Heritage Act 2017 (Vic)

The *Heritage Act 2017* was enacted to provide a comprehensive legal framework for the protection and conservation of Victoria's cultural heritage.

Heritage assessments have determined that one Victorian Heritage Inventory Site (VHI) occurs within the Project boundary. Potential impacts to this site may require consent under the *Heritage Act*.

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic) (FFG Act) and Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019 (Vic) (FFG Amendment Act)

The FFG Act and FFG Amendment Act provide protection for a wide range of threatened Victorian flora, fauna, and ecological communities.

Flora and fauna species listed as threatened under the FFG Act occur within the Project boundary, and the Project proposes the translocation of three patches of Matted Flax-lily. A permit to take protected flora under the FFG Act will be required for the translocation.

Catchment and Land Protection Act 1987 (Vic) (CaLP Act)

The CaLP Act sets Victoria's objectives for the integrated management and protection of catchments, including control of noxious weeds and pest animals. Under the provisions of the CaLP Act, noxious weeds and pest animals are required to be controlled and a permit needs to be sought to remove or sell soil, sand, gravel, or stone which contain or is likely to contain any part of a noxious weed, or which comes from land on which noxious weeds grow.

Weeds and pest animals occur within the Project boundary and need to be managed in accordance with the requirements of the CaLP Act.

Wildlife Act 1975 (Vic) and Wildlife Regulations 2024

The *Wildlife Act 1975* establishes a framework for management of wildlife throughout Victoria, including the management of State Wildlife Reserves and Nature Reserves, and provisions for licenses to manage wildlife. Wildlife under the act is defined as any indigenous animal.

The Project boundary provides habitat for common and threatened native fauna species, including reptiles, amphibians, birds and small mammals. Authorisation under the *Wildlife Act* will be required to remove wildlife from this habitat.

Water Act 1989 (Vic)

The *Water Act 1989* governs the management and allocation of surface water and groundwater resources.

Dependent on detailed design and construction methodology, the Project may require the following approvals under the *Water Act*:

- Bore Construction and Decommissioning Licence / Groundwater extraction licence
- Licence to construct, alter, operate or decommission works on waterways.
- Licence for the disposal of groundwater or construction water to sewer.

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. *

Public consultation

VIDA Rail recognises that Project progress and decisions are enhanced through dialogue with communities, interested parties and stakeholders. Accordingly, a program of engagement with regulatory stakeholders, local councils, Registered Aboriginal Parties, key institutions, community groups and local residents is being undertaken on an ongoing basis as the Project progresses.

Specifically, extensive, and ongoing consultation has commenced with Commonwealth, State and Local government agencies, these include:

- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
- The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)
- Banyule City Council
- Darebin City Council
- Public Transport Victoria
- VicTrack (owner of the State's rail infrastructure)
- Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM, the accredited rail transport operator)
- Melbourne Water
- Utilities (APA Gas, NBN, Telecommunications, Optus, Telstra, & Jemena)

In August 2025, a community update newsletter was sent out to over 10,200 properties in the Macleod, Rosanna and Watsonia areas to re-introduce the Project and inform the community of a high-level construction timeline.

In November 2025, the Project is inviting community feedback on what locals love about Macleod and Rosanna and how they move around the area. This feedback will be summarised and used to inform aspects of the concept designs. The community can submit their feedback through a survey on Engage Victoria or by making a hard-copy submission. A consultation report summarising the feedback received and how the feedback is incorporated into concept designs will be released when concept designs are available.

Also in November 2025, the Project is inviting planning submissions from the community as part of the Project's Clause 52.03 planning approvals process. The community will have four weeks to make a planning submission, and submissions can be made online via Engage Victoria (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/>) or by making a hard-copy submission. All submissions received will be summarised and responded to in a consultation report. This consultation report, along with the Project boundary plan, will be provided to the Victorian Minister for Planning for approval.

The November consultation is being promoted to the wider Macleod and Rosanna community through many channels. A community update promoting new Project information, the feedback survey and ability to make planning submissions is being delivered to over 10,200 properties in Macleod, Rosanna and Watsonia. Residents and businesses along Ellesmere Parade and McNamara Street are being doorknocked by the Project team to be made aware of the consultation. The Project team will host pop up events at Macleod Station during peak commuter times to promote the consultation and increase Project awareness amongst station users. The consultation will be advertised on digital social media channels through geotargeted ads, and in local print media. Social media posts about the consultation will be made on @levelcrossings channels, and subscribers to Project news will receive email updates. The community will also be able to ask the Project team questions at in person or online information sessions, or through the online Q&A tool on Engage Victoria.

In early 2026, the Project will release concept designs and invite community feedback on the designs. This feedback will then inform final designs, which will be released in early to mid 2026. The community will have at least 30 days to submit their feedback online via Engage Victoria or through a hard-copy survey. The

consultation will be promoted and stakeholders will be engaged using the same promotion channels used in the October and November consultation. A consultation report summarising the feedback received on the concept designs and how this feedback is incorporated into final designs will be released when final designs are available.

During construction, the Project has a dedicated team working to keep the community informed about Project news, upcoming works and any impacts or disruptions. The team will keep the Macleod and Rosanna community, including residents and businesses near our works, up to date on any design information, construction activities, impacts, and disruptions. We do this through works notifications delivered to letterboxes, information published online, email updates, SMS updates and signage in the area and more. Community newsletters will also continue to be sent out regularly (quarterly) to over 10,200 properties throughout construction to keep the community informed at a higher level. The team will also put on other events to engage with the local community and key stakeholders, such as information sessions or pop ups at Macleod Village and Macleod Station.

Consultation with Indigenous Stakeholders

The Project has liaised with the local Registered Aboriginal Party, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation during development of the CHMP.

Ongoing engagement with the RAP will take place during the delivery of the Project in accordance with the conditions of the CHMP.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN 57194323595
Organisation name AECOM AUSTRALIA PTY LTD & GHD PTY LTD
Organisation address Level 11, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000

Referring party details

Name Amanda Hill
Job title Principal Environmental Scientist
Phone +61466297449
Email amanda.hill@aecom.com
Address L18, 91 King William Street

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

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

No

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

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN 69981208782
Organisation name Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA)
Organisation address Level 9, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

Person proposing to take the action details

Name Chris Yue
Job title A Program Director - North Western Program Alliance
Phone 1800 105 105
Email contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au
Address Level 9, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

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

No

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

No

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

The Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA) Rail, formerly the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP), is one of four project offices within VIDA, a part of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). VIDA Rail delivers rail network improvements and infrastructure projects across Victoria's Rail Network and is responsible for overseeing the planning and delivery of projects to remove level crossings, build new train stations, and create new public spaces.

VIDA Rail has a satisfactory and acceptable record of responsible environmental management. VIDA Rail practices sound environmental management and promotes sustainable development, as demonstrated through projects such as the:

- Mernda Rail Extension Project (EPBC 2016/7674),
- Edithvale and Bonbeach Level Crossing Removals (EPBC 2017/7906),
- Fitzgerald Road Level Crossing Removal (EPBC 2020/8820),
- Hallam Road, Hallam Level Crossing Removal Project (EPBC 2020/8660); and
- Pakenham Level Crossing Removal Project (EPBC 2021/8943).
- Watergardens Car Park for Commuters Project (EPBC 2023/09614).
- Calder Park Drive and Holden Road Level Crossing Removal Project (EPBC 2023/09569)

VIDA Rail is required under Clause 52.03 in the Banyule and Darebin planning schemes to prepare an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning before commencing development (excluding preparatory works) of the Project. VIDA Rail will prepare an EMF in consultation with the Banyule and Darebin Councils. Once approved, the EMF must be complied with and the Project carried out in accordance with the requirements of the EMF to the satisfaction of the Victorian Minister for Planning. It is a requirement for VIDA Rail projects that primary contractors are certified to ISO14001 and implement a comprehensive Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), prepared specifically for each project. The management measures to minimise and mitigate impacts on MNES will be included in the EMF to ensure these requirements are implemented in development of the Project.

No proceedings have been taken against VIDA Rail under Commonwealth or Victorian law relating to protecting the environment or 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

In 2015 the Level Crossing Removal Authority, which later became LXRP and is now known as VIDA Rail, adopted a Sustainability Policy (**Attachment 2 – Sustainability Policy**, pp all pages) to ensure the principles of environmental, social and economic sustainability are included in all projects. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of VIDA Rail fully endorses this policy. The Project will be delivered in accordance with this policy, which is currently being updated for VIDA Rail.

VIDA Rail's Sustainability Vision is to achieve excellent environmental, social and economic outcomes across all phases of its projects, in order to deliver an integrated project that connects the community in an environmentally sustainable manner. To achieve this vision, VIDA Rail is committed to:

- Optimising the design of its projects to ensure it is delivered to operate sustainably;
- Managing resources efficiently through embedding energy, water and material saving initiatives into the design, construction and operation of its projects;
- Avoiding, minimising and offsetting harm to the environment and the loss of biodiversity;
- Protecting and conserving the natural environment; and
- Preparing for the challenges presented by climate change.

VIDA, of which VIDA Rail forms part, has also adopted a Transport Infrastructure Decarbonisation Strategy (**Attachment 3 – Transport Infrastructure Decarbonisation Strategy**, pp all pages) to support the Victorian Government's commitment to achieve net zero by 2045. The unprecedented investment in the transport sector across Victoria is both a source of emissions and an opportunity to put in place measures to reduce the footprint of construction, both within VIDA's portfolio and beyond.

The Transport Infrastructure Decarbonisation Strategy sets out VIDA's commitment within two distinct streams:

1. Decarbonise corporate operations.
2. Decarbonise transport projects in line with the *Climate Change Act 2022* and net zero 2045 ambitions.

Through this strategy, VIDA has identified clear and deliberate actions that will be taken to support Victoria's journey to net zero. VIDA's focus is centred on driving efficiency, value engineering and seeking to reduce emissions through smart decision-making. VIDA will also continue to support innovation in the transport industry, driving down the emissions associated with materials and construction techniques.

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 69981208782
Organisation name Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA)
Organisation address Level 9, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

Proposed designated proponent details

Name Chris Yue
Job title A Program Director - North Western Program Alliance
Phone 1800 105 105
Email contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au
Address Level 9, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

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	57194323595
Organisation name	AECOM AUSTRALIA PTY LTD & GHD PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 11, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000
Representative's name	Amanda Hill
Representative's job title	Principal Environmental Scientist
Phone	+61466297449
Email	amanda.hill@aecom.com
Address	L18, 91 King William Street

✔ Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

ABN/ACN	69981208782
Organisation name	Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA)
Organisation address	Level 9, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000
Representative's name	Chris Yue
Representative's job title	A Program Director - North Western Program Alliance
Phone	1800 105 105
Email	contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au
Address	Level 9, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

✔ 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

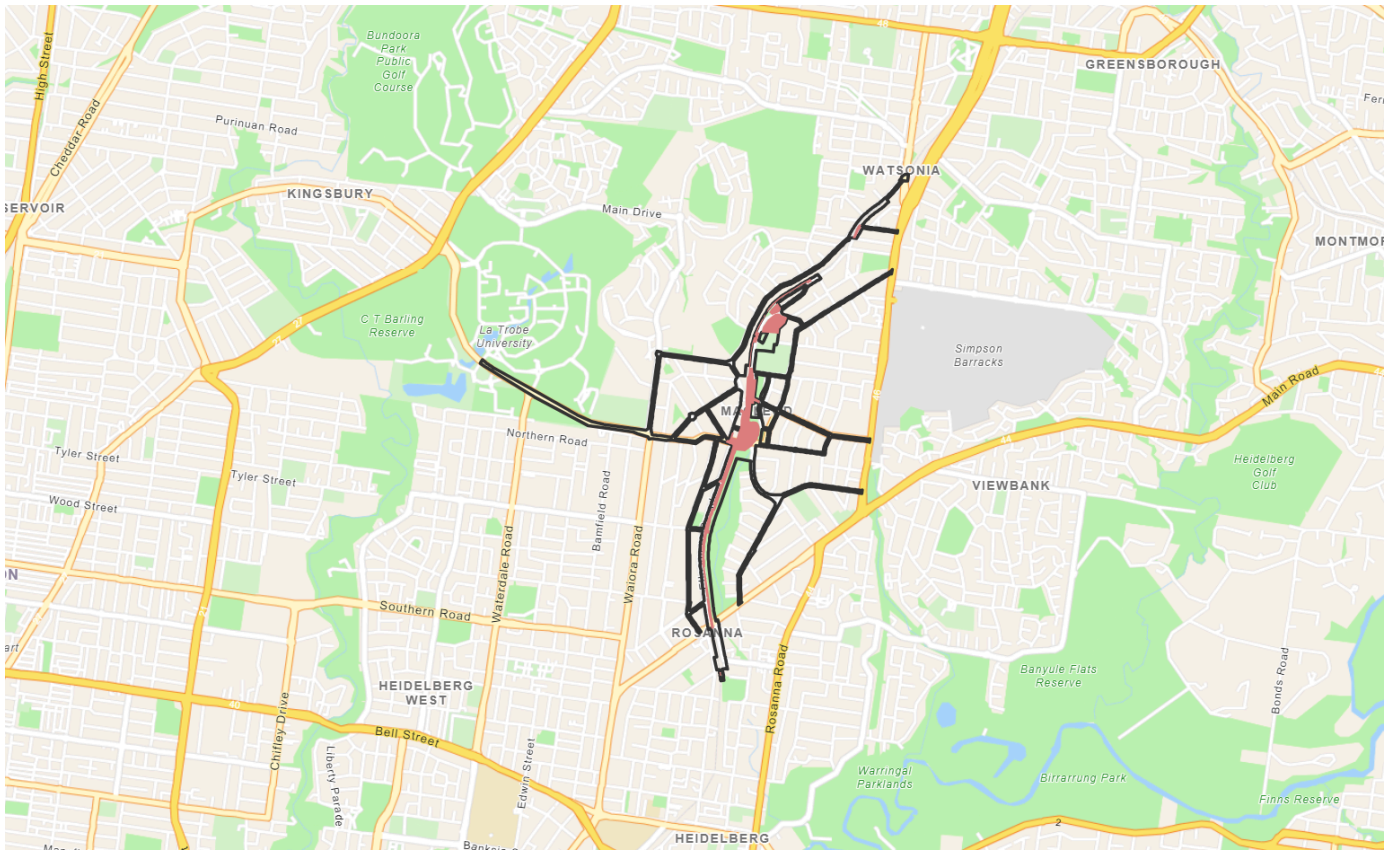
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Referring party

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 58.05 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 12.59 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Intersection of Ruthven Street and Chapman Street, Macleod, Victoria 3085

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

Victoria

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 referred to within this referral and all supporting documents as the Project boundary. The disturbance footprint defines the physical extent of the impact of the proposed action within the Project boundary and is referred to as the Construction footprint within this referral and all supporting documents (**Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Appendix A.1**). Most of the land within the Project boundary is public land, specifically rail and road reserves. Some public land external to the road and rail reserves will be temporarily occupied for construction activities. This land is freehold land owned by Banyule City Council. There are two parcels of Crown Land within the Project boundary for which the Crown Land Administrators are both the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as well as the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services. There are also several private land parcels within the Project boundary.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The land within the Project boundary covers approximately 58.07 hectares of land and is located approximately 12 kilometres north-east of the Melbourne Central Business District (CBD) within the City of Banyule and City of Darebin Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The Project is situated in Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs, within a largely urbanised and modified landscape extending approximately 4.3 kilometres along the Hurstbridge Line, beginning immediately south of the Rosanna Station car park and extending to Watsonia Road in the north-east. Potential haulage routes along public roads extend north-south parallel to the rail corridor, and east and west between Waterdale Road in the west and Greensborough Highway in the east. The Project boundary is characterised by residential roads, public car parking spaces, commercial buildings, landscaped reserves, and the fringes of parks and gardens.

Under the Banyule and Darebin Planning Schemes, the zones and overlays within and surrounding the Project boundary include:

- Transport Zone Schedule 1 (State Transport Infrastructure) (TRZ1)
- Transport Zone 2 (Principal Road Network) (TRZ2)
- Transport Zone 3 (Significant Municipal Road) (TRZ3)
- General Residential Zone Schedule 1 (Accessible Areas) and Ivanhoe Residential Diversity Areas (Banyule) (GRZ1)
- General Residential Zone Schedule 1 (Modest Change Area) (Darebin) (GRZ1)
- General Residential Zone Schedule 2 (Incremental Areas) (GRZ2)
- Neighbourhood Residential Zone Schedule 3 (Banyule) (NRZ3)
- Neighbourhood Residential Areas, Including:
 - Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z)
 - Commercial 2 Zone (C2Z)
 - Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)
 - Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
 - Public Use Zone 2 (Education) (PUZ2)
 - Public Use Zone 3 (Health & Community) (PUZ3)
 - Special Use Zone 2 (Utility & Service Installations) (SUZ2)
- Environmental Significance Overlays Schedules 2 and 4 (ESO2 [Macleod Red Gum Area] and ESO4 [Significant Trees and Areas of Vegetation])
- General Residential Zone 2 (GRZ2)
- Heritage Overlays (HO92 [Elliston Estate] and HO158 [Macleod Park])
- Vegetation Protection Overlays Schedules 4 and 5 (VPO4 [Elliston Estate] and VPO5 [Substantial Tree Protection Area])
- Development Contributions Plan Overlay (DCPO)
- Design Development Overlay (DDO)
- Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)
- Special Building Overlay (SBO)
- Specific Controls Overlay (SCO)

The Project boundary has been heavily modified by previous disturbances including the construction and maintenance of the rail corridor, land clearance for roads, public green open space, commercial and residential uses. **(Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3.3, pp 16-17)**

Degraded grassy woodland habitat occurs throughout the Rosanna Parklands and rail corridor. Small sections of higher-quality diverse native vegetation can be found interspersed throughout the Project boundary. Most of the vegetation within the Project boundary is remnant, although indigenous, non-indigenous and non-native planted trees and shrubs are common throughout public open spaces and the road reserves. **(Attachment 1 MNES Report.pdf, Section 3.3, pp 16-17)**

Rosanna Parklands is included within a local Heritage Overlay under the Banyule Planning Scheme (HO92). Heritage Victoria has recommended the inclusion of Rosanna Parklands onto the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR), under the *Heritage Act 2017*, as part of Elliston Estate (Merchant Builders) and Rosanna Parklands.

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

The existing land uses of the area within the Project boundary include:

- Transport (road)
- Transport (rail)
- Parklands east of the Project boundary (Rosanna Parklands and Macleod Park)

The Project will not result in a permanent change to any of the existing land uses.

Temporary changes to land use during construction may occur, such as lay-down areas being established in areas of parkland. The original use will resume upon completion of the construction of the Project.

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

No outstanding natural features or important or unique values occur within the Project boundary. However, four environmental overlays under the Banyule Planning Scheme intercept the Project boundary. Two ecologically significant site overlays (ESO) and two Vegetation Protection Overlays (VPO):

- ESO2 – MacLeod Red Gum Area
- ESO4 – Significant Trees and Area of Vegetation
- VPO4 – Elliston Estate
- VPO5 – Substantial Tree Protection Area

In accordance with Clause 52.03-6 of the Victorian Planning Provisions, an overlay report will be prepared to address the requirements of these planning overlays and lodged with the Victorian Minister for Planning.

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 boundary is centred on the rail corridor, which is consistently a low, flat grade, as is preferred for operational railways.

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.

Multiple flora and fauna assessments have been undertaken throughout the planning and design of the Project. These are detailed in the MNES report (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 2, pp 9-12**)

Initial flora and fauna field assessments to identify ecological values and potential constraints to the construction, were undertaken between June 2023 and October 2025 (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 2.2, pp 9**).

The location of the Project is generally characterised as a highly disturbed urban environment with man-made infrastructure such as roads, the rail line, footpaths and buildings. Small sections of degraded remnant vegetation occur within the Project boundary, primarily within the Roseanna Parklands and the rail corridor. (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3.3, pp 16-19**)

One waterway, Salt Creek, runs north-south adjacent to the Project boundary. Salt Creek is degraded and altered with sections of the creek now concrete lined or piped underground which restrict fish movements. It is considered too degraded to support any threatened fish or amphibian populations. (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3.2, pp 16**)

Ecology values identified through field surveys within the Project boundary are set out below. (**Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3, pp. 13-24**)

Flora

Threatened flora listed under the EPBC and FFG Act observed within the Project boundary:

- *Dianella amoena* (Matted Flax-lily, Endangered (EPBC), Critical Endangered (FFG))

Threatened flora listed under the FFG Act observed within the Project boundary:

- *Eucalyptus leucoxydon subsp. connata* (Melbourne Yellow Gum, Endangered) – two individuals located outside the construction footprint
- *Eucalyptus X studleyensis* (Studley Park Gum, Critically Endangered) – 24 individuals located outside the construction footprint

Multiple targeted surveys for Matted Flax-lily were undertaken between November 2024 and October 2025 (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report Section 2.3.1, pp 9-10**). Targeted surveys identified all areas of suitable habitat with all patches of native vegetation supporting Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55), Creekline Grassy Woodland (EVC 68), and Grassy Woodland (EVC 175) included in the targeted surveys. During targeted surveys, Matted Flax-lily were found within the rail corridor, the Rosanna Parklands, within the road and rail reserve between the rail line and Somers Avenue, and along Kingsbury Drive (**Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Section 3.4.1.1 pp 19-20**).

A targeted survey was also undertaken for Clover Glycine on 31 October and 1 November 2023 as this species was considered likely to occur based on desktop investigations. Flowering of local populations was confirmed at reference populations located outside of the Project boundary on 30 October 2023 prior to the undertaking of the targeted surveys (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 2.3.2, pp 10-11**). Clover Glycine was not recorded during the targeted surveys and is considered unlikely to occur within the Project boundary (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3.4.1, pg 19**).

Fauna

Potential habitat for the following threatened fauna listed under the EPBC and FFG Act occurs within the Project boundary:

- Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*): Endangered (EPBC Act), Endangered (FFG Act)
- Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus Poliocephalus*): Vulnerable (EPBC Act), Vulnerable (FFG Act)
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*): Critically endangered (EPBC Act), Critically Endangered (FFG Act)
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*): Vulnerable, Migratory (EPBC Act), Vulnerable (FFG Act)

- Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*): Vulnerable (FFG Act)

Of these species, only the Gang-gang Cockatoo was recorded as present with sightings of 12 individuals recorded within the Investigation Area during field assessments. Sightings were made between November 2024 and April 2025 with most sightings of the species in large River Red Gum trees outside the construction footprint in the Rosanna Parklands.

While there is potential habitat present within the Project boundary for threatened species, the targeted surveys did not identify any appropriate breeding habitat or significant habitat for any fauna species. Fauna habitat present within the Project boundary is largely degraded, with higher quality habitat plentiful within the region (**Refer to Attachment 1-- MNES Report, Section 3.5, pp 23-24**).

Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) – EPBC Act

No threatened ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act or FFG Act were identified within the Project boundary

While EVCs associated with the Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Plain TEC were present within the Investigation Area, as the TEC is restricted to the Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregion, which does not overlap with the Project boundary, the TEC is considered not present within the investigation area (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3.5.1, pp 23-24**).

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

Degraded grassy woodland habitat occurs throughout the Rosanna Parklands, rail corridor and detached areas to the west of the Project boundary. Small sections of higher-quality diverse native vegetation can be found interspersed throughout the Project boundary (**Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3.3, pp 16-19**).

Most of the vegetation within the Project boundary is remnant, although indigenous, non-indigenous and non-native planted trees and shrubs are common throughout public open spaces and the road reserves. (**Refer to 'Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3.3, pp 16-19**).

Native vegetation

6.36 hectares of native vegetation was recorded within the Project boundary, and the extent of native vegetation patches within the construction footprint was 1.52 hectares across 7 habitat zones (**Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3.1.1, Table 2, pp 13**). Native vegetation within the construction footprint accords with the following two Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC)s:

- Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) (1.50 ha across five patches)
- Creekline Grassy Woodland (EVC 68) (0.02 ha of one patch). (**Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3.1.1, Table 2, pp 13**)

Both EVCs occur within the Gippsland Plain bioregion and have a bioregional conservation status of Endangered.

Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) within the Project boundary is typically characterised by an indigenous canopy of River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus milliodora*) with a diverse understory of indigenous trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses. Non-indigenous canopy species as well as exotic grasses are also present. This EVC is present within Rosanna Parkland, Macleod Park, as well as in patches along the rail corridor. (**Attachment 1, MNES Report, Section 3.1.1.1, pp 13-14**)

Creekline Grassy Woodland (EVC 68) is present within Roseanna Parklands along the fringes of Salt Creek. The vegetation presents as a modified version of the EVC, containing a mixture of indigenous, non-indigenous natives and non-native species. (**Attachment 1, MNES Report, Section 3.1.1.2, pp 14**)

Geology and Soils

Based on the Geological Survey of Victoria 1:63,360 Yan Yean Map indicates that the Project boundary is located on Quaternary Age River Alluvium underlain by Silurian Age Dargile Formation deposits consisting of interbedded siltstones and sandstones.

The fill on the site generally consisted of dark brown topsoil with organic matter throughout with minor fragments of brick and rock. The natural soil consisted of brown to orange silty clay. Grey siltstone was encountered at one location in the south-eastern portion of the site at a depth of 0.6 metres. The natural soil profile encountered during the assessment of the site is consistent with soil developed on Quaternary Age River Alluvium and Silurian Age Formation deposits.

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 world heritage properties or national heritage places within the Project boundary or the immediate vicinity that could be impacted by the proposed works (**Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix B, EPBC Act Protected Matters Report (PMST)**).

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

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Project boundary.

There is a moderate to high likelihood of previously unrecorded Aboriginal cultural heritage being present within the Project boundary. Pursuant to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)* and relevant regulations, a CHMP is required for the Project as the proposed works are within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity and are a high impact activity (construction of rail infrastructure). A CHMP is being prepared to identify measures to avoid, minimise, and mitigate impacts to sites of cultural heritage significance in consultation with the RAP. The CHMP will not be publicly available and cannot be shared.

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. *

Salt Creek flows north to south, along the east of the Project boundary, and along this waterway there are alluvial deposits and remnant native vegetation.

Banyule Creek is directly east of the Project boundary and Plenty River flows approximately 2.5 kilometres to the east of the area.

Based on data available in publicly available databases, the depth to the regional groundwater at the site is expected to be approximately 10-20 metres below ground level. The direction of regional groundwater flow is expected to be toward Salt Creek, which is within the Project boundary.

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 properties within or adjacent to the Project boundary. (Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix B, EPBC Act Protected Matters Report (PMST)).

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 places within or adjacent to the Project boundary. (Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix B, EPBC Act Protected Matters Report (PMST)).

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

*

The Project is not likely to have any direct or indirect impact on any wetland as it is not located in or near a Ramsar Wetland or a wetland listed in '*A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia*' compiled by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (Refer to **Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 3.2, page 16**).

The closest Ramsar Wetland to the Investigation Area (IA) is Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula, located approximately 30 kilometres to the south west of the IA. The closest Nationally Important wetland is the Yarra River wetland, located approximately 14.5 kilometres to the east of the IA.

One waterway, Salt Creek, intercepts the IA and has been excluded from the Project boundary. As no direct impacts will occur to Salt Creek, any indirect impacts downstream of the location of the Project are not anticipated.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass
No	No	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface
No	No	<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo
No	No	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
No	No	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
No	No	<i>Delma impar</i>	Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard
Yes	Yes	<i>Dianella amoena</i>	Matted Flax-lily
No	No	<i>Diuris fragrantissima</i>	Sunshine Diuris, Fragrant Doubletail, White Diuris
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i>	Eastern Dwarf Galaxias, Dwarf Galaxias
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	Clover Glycine, Purple Clover
No	No	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
Yes	Yes	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Isoodon obesulus obesulus</i>	Southern Brown Bandicoot (eastern), Southern Brown Bandicoot (south-eastern)
Yes	Yes	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot
No	No	<i>Lepidium aschersonii</i>	Spiny Peppergrass
No	No	<i>Lissolepis coventryi</i>	Swamp Skink, Eastern Mourning Skink
No	No	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Southern Bell Frog, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
No	No	<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Nannoperca obscura</i>	Yarra Pygmy Perch
No	No	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	<i>Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida</i>	Eltham Copper Butterfly
No	No	<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	Plains-wanderer
No	No	<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Pomaderris vacciniifolia</i>	Round-leaf Pomaderris
No	No	<i>Prasophyllum suaveolens</i>	Fragrant Leek-orchid
No	No	<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	Australian Grayling
Yes	Yes	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	<i>Pterostylis chlorogramma</i>	Green-striped Greenhood
No	No	<i>Pterostylis cucullata</i>	Leafy Greenhood
No	No	<i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i>	Pilotbird
No	No	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	<i>Senecio macrocarpus</i>	Large-fruit Fireweed, Large-fruit Groundsel
No	No	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail
No	No	<i>Synemon plana</i>	Golden Sun Moth
No	No	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Xerochrysum palustre	Swamp Everlasting, Swamp Paper Daisy

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain
No	No	Natural Damp Grassland of the Victorian Coastal Plains
No	No	Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain
No	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

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

Yes

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

Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*)

Within the Project boundary, 20 Matted Flax-lily patches covering 47.13 square metres were recorded **(Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 4.2, pp 26-29)**. The design of the proposed action has responded to the results of the Matted Flax-lily targeted surveys, by avoiding direct impacts the majority of identified patches of Matted Flax-lily.

Direct impacts to one isolated patch and the possibility of indirect impacts to further two patches covering 2.72 square metres were unavoidable through design changes. The two patches assessed as being potentially indirectly impacted are located within 1.1 and 1.3 metres respectively of a proposed retaining wall. **(Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 4.2, pp 26-27)**.

Indirect impacts during construction and operation may include: **(Refer to Attachment 4 - Threatened Species Management Plan, Section 2.1, pp 4)**

- Increased shading from the retaining wall
- Habitat destruction and disturbance
- Soil compaction leading to degradation of Matted Flax-lily health and reduced recruitment within suitable habitat
- Altered hydrology and dewatering leading to degradation of Matted Flax-lily individuals and habitat
- Increased sedimentation leading to degradation of Matted Flax-lily individuals and habitat
- Increased dust generation and deposition leading to degradation of Matted Flax-lily individuals and habitat
- Foot traffic during construction, leading to repeated direct and indirect disturbance of Matted Flax-lily individuals and habitat
- Introduction and spread of weeds and diseases.

As a precaution the three impacted patches will be salvaged and translocated to a receptor site approximately 1 kilometre north of the Project boundary in accordance with the Translocation Management Plan. **(Refer to Attachment 5 - Translocation Management Plan, Section 4.2, pp 26-29)**

Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*)

All patches of native vegetation and scattered trees within the Project boundary are considered suitable foraging habitat for the Gang-gang Cockatoo. The Project will have potential direct impacts to a maximum of 2.30 hectares of foraging habitat for the Gang-gang Cockatoo, and potential indirect impacts to a further 2.55 hectares **(Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 4.3, pp 29)**. When considering the availability of potential habitat within the broader landscape based on modelled native woodland cover, the proposed action has the potential to impact <1% of potential foraging habitat for the Gang-gang Cockatoo within a 5 kilometre radius of the Investigation Area **(Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix F.2, Gang-gang Cockatoo Significant Impact Assessment)**

Potential indirect impacts to the Gang-gang Cockatoo's habitat during construction works include:

- Increased habitat fragmentation and edge effects on foraging habitat for the species
- Altered hydrology and dewatering leading to degradation of foraging habitat for the species
- Air and dust pollution degrading the quality of the airspace environment
- Introduction of weeds leading to degradation of foraging habitat
- Noise pollution on foraging habitat for the species. **(Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 4.3, pp 29)**

The Threatened Species Management Plan outlines mitigations that will be implemented to avoid and minimise these impacts **(Refer to Attachment 4 - Threatened Species Management Plan, Sections 3-5, pp 7-15)**.

Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)

All patches of native vegetation and scattered trees within the Project boundary are considered suitable foraging habitat for the Grey-headed Flying-fox, as they are eucalypt dominated and within 8 kilometres of a Flying-fox camp (Yarra Bend Park). The Project will have potential direct impacts to a maximum of 2.38 hectares of foraging habitat for the Grey-headed Flying-fox and potential indirect impacts to a further 2.62 hectares (**Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 4.4, pp 29**).

Potential indirect impacts on Grey-headed Flying-fox during construction works include:

- Increased habitat fragmentation and edge effects on foraging habitat for the species
- Altered hydrology, and dewatering leading to degradation of foraging habitat for the species
- Air and dust pollution degrading the quality of the airspace environment
- Introduction of weeds, leading to the degradation of foraging habitat
- Noise pollution on foraging habitat for the species (**Refer to Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 4.4, pp 29**).

The Threatened Species Management Plan outlines mitigations that will be implemented to avoid and minimise these impacts (**Refer to Attachment 4 – Threatened Species Management Plan, Sections 3-5, pp 7-15**).

Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*)

Suitable foraging habitat for Swift Parrot occurs within the Project boundary, with potential direct impacts anticipated to 0.20 hectares of suitable foraging habitat. Additional potential indirect impacts to 0.08 hectares of suitable foraging habitat is anticipated due to encroachment on the TPZ of suitable foraging trees. (**Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Section 4.5, pp 29-30 and Appendix F.4, Swift Parrot significant impact assessment**).

The majority of the vegetation within the Project boundary does not contain key foraging flora species for the Swift Parrot. The Project boundary is situated within an altered urban environment and dominated by common urban fauna such as Noisy Miners and Rainbow Lorikeets which are known to compete with Swift Parrot (**Refer to Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Section 3.4.1.4, pp 22**).

Whilst an assessment of the number of suitable Swift Parrot foraging trees within the surrounding landscape has not been completed, many of the preferred foraging tree species for Swift Parrot are regularly planted in street scapes and urban gardens, and are expected to be abundant in the local area. Furthermore, local conservation areas beyond the Project boundary such as Cherry Street Grassland Reserve, Greswell Nature Conservation Reserve and Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary are also important foraging locations for Swift Parrot based on historical records (**Refer Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix F.4, Swift Parrot significant impact assessment**). Whilst the Swift Parrot may occasionally and opportunistically forage within the Project boundary the proposed action is unlikely to reduce the amount of foraging habitat for Swift Parrot in the local landscape or impact the species movement.

Potential indirect impacts on the Swift Parrot during construction include:

- Altered hydrology and dewatering leading degradation on foraging habitat for the species
- Air and dust pollution degrading the quality of the airspace environment
- Introduction of weeds, leading to the degradation of foraging habitat.
- Noise pollution on foraging habitat for the species. (**Refer to Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Section 4.5, pp 29-30**).

The Threatened Species Management Plan outlines mitigations that will be implemented to avoid and minimise these impacts (**Refer to Attachment 4 – Threatened Species Management Plan, Sections 3-5, pp 7-15**).

White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

As White-throated Needletails are predominately aerial and have broad habitat requirements, the species is able to forage over most habitat types, and vegetation within the Project boundary may provide suitable foraging habitat, with potential direct impacts to the species from this removal (**Refer to Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Appendix F.5, White-throated Needletail significant impact assessment**).

In Australia, the White-throated Needletail is mostly aerial, flying at heights less than 1 metre up to more than 1000 metres above the ground. They forage above most habitat types but are most often seen above wooded areas feeding on various flying insects such as beetles, cicadas, flying ants, bees, wasps, flies, termites, moths, locusts and grasshoppers. The species has very broad habitat requirements for roosting within woodland and forest habitat types in Australia and it is possible that the species' does roost in trees within the Project boundary.

White-throated Needletails are likely to forage occasionally in the airspace within the Project boundary and may roost in trees within the Project boundary, but unlikely to have a substantial association with the terrestrial habitats and the Project is unlikely to pose a significant risk to the species.

Potential indirect impacts to White-throated Needletail habitat during construction include:

- Altered hydrology and dewatering leading to degradation on foraging habitat for the species
- Air and dust pollution degrading the quality of the airspace environment, and
- The introduction of weeds (**Refer to Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Section 4.6, pp 30**).

The Threatened Species Management Plan outlines mitigations that will be implemented to avoid and minimise these impacts (**Refer to Attachment 4 – Threatened Species Management Plan, Sections 3-5 , pp 7-15**).

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. *

Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*) - potentially significant

The proposed action has the potential to directly impact one isolated patch of Matted Flax-lily and indirectly impact two patches of Matted Flax-lily covering 2.72 square metres which are located within 1.1 and 1.3 metres respectively of a proposed retaining wall (**Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Section 4.2, Table 5, pp 27**)

Impacts to the three patches of Matted Flax-lily may have a significant impact without the implementation of mitigations (**Refer to Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Appendix F.1, Matted Flax-lily significant impact assessment**). It is possible that the potential loss of the three patches may lead to the long-term decrease in the size of a population or potentially modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent of decline, as it is unlikely that there would be natural recruitment of the species to compensate for the loss. Due to the proximity of works to extant populations of the Matted Flax-lily, it is possible that invasive species and the potential introduction of diseases may indirectly impact the Matted flax-lily. Additionally, the loss of three patches may interfere with the recovery of the species due to a marginal decline in population size.

Without mitigation measures, it is possible that the Project could have significant impacts on the three patches of Matted Flax-lily.

Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) - not significant

A Significant Impact Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the *Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant impact guidelines 1.1*. See **Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix F.2, Gang-gang Cockatoo Significant Impact Assessment**.

Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) - not significant

A Significant Impact Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the *Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant impact guidelines 1.1*. See **Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix F.3, Grey-headed Flying-fox Significant Impact Assessment**.

Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) - not significant

A Significant Impact Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the *Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant impact guidelines 1.1*. See **Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix F.4, Swift Parrot Significant Impact Assessment**.

White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) - not significant

A Significant Impact Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the *Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant impact guidelines 1.1*. See **Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix F.5, White-throated Needletail Significant Impact Assessment**.

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

No

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

*

While the Project will impact threatened species, the residual impacts to MNES are not considered to be significant.

Matted Flax-lily

The potential for direct impacts to one patch of Matted Flax-lily and potential indirect impacts to a further two patches of Matted Flax-lily are proposed to be mitigated through the salvage, propagation and translocation of the potentially impacted individuals to a suitable location within close proximity of the Project. Translocation of Matted Flax-lily has proven to be a successful mitigation strategy on multiple recent projects. There have been at least 23 recorded translocations of Matted Flax-lily, with the estimated success rate at over 90%.

The Project proposes to translocate the three impacted Matted Flax-lily patches to a translocation site under conservation management within 1 kilometre of the salvage site (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 5.2.2, pp 32-33**). The propagation of additional plants within a nursery, the proposed salvage and translocation exercise is expected to increase the overall size of the local Matted Flax-lily population both in terms of area and number of ramets (**Refer to Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Appendix F.1, Matted Flax-lily significant impact assessment**).

The chosen receptor site, Cherry Street Grassland Reserve, contains an extant population of both remnant and translocated Matted Flax-lily. Vegetation at the site is dominated by remnant woodland with sparse shrubby understory consistent with the habitat requirements for Matted Flax-lily (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 5.2.2, pp 32-33**).

With the implementation of the proposed translocation and mitigation controls for retained Matted Flax-lily, residual impacts to Matted Flax-lily are not considered to be significant when assessed against the MNES Significant Impact Guidelines. Refer to (**Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Appendix F.1, Matted Flax-lily significant impact assessment**)

Other MNES

The Project will result in direct and indirect impacts to the potential foraging habitat of the following listed species:

- Grey-headed Flying-fox
- Gang-gang Cockatoo
- Swift Parrot
- White-throated Needletail.

The initial impacts to these species, without mitigation, have been assessed as unlikely to be significant (**Attachment 1 – MNES Report.pdf, Section 6, pg 34-38**).

As no residual significant impact will occur to any MNES as a result of the proposed action, it is not considered to constitute a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

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. *

Avoidance and minimisation of any impacts to MNES has been a priority throughout Project design. As such, design has been progressed in a manner that avoids and minimises direct and indirect impacts where possible (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 5, pp 31-33**).

Extensive design workshops were undertaken between 2024 and 2025 to refine the final design and Project boundary to minimise the impacts to Matted Flax-lily. The design and construction methodology were changed as a result of these workshops with direct impacts to the majority of known patches of Matted Flax-lily avoided. Direct impacts to one isolated patch of Matted Flax-lily were unable to be avoided. A further two patches of Matted Flax-Lily have the potential to be indirectly impacted by the current design. A list of design changes that were made to avoid and minimise impacts are detailed in **Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 5.1, pp 31-32**.

As detailed in the Translocation Management Plan (**Attachment 5 – Translocation Management Plan, pp all pages**), all potentially impacted Matted Flax-lily will be salvaged, propagated, and translocated into an appropriate receiver site (i.e, Cherry Street Grassland Reserve). An agreement between Darebin City Council and VIDA for the management of the site has been obtained (**this supersedes paragraph 5, Section 13 of Attachment 5 – Translocation Management Plan, pp 56**). Salvage and translocation of the three patches of Matted Flax-lily will mitigate potential indirect impacts to the species during construction and avoid the potential loss of these patches as a result of those impacts (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 5.2.2, pp 32-33**). The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) were invited to review and provide comment on the Translocation Management plan, with no comments being returned.

In preparing the Translocation Management Plan, potential impacts to the receiver site were also considered, as the site currently hosts a number of MNES. The Salvage and Translocation Plan includes a number of controls to avoid potential impacts (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 5.2.2, pp 32-33**).

Matted Flax-lily and habitat for other MNES that is within the Project boundary and to be retained will be protected in-situ via environmental controls during construction as detailed in **Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Section 5.2.1, pp 32**.

Matted Flax-lily patches that are to be retained within the Project boundary will be protected through the establishment of No-Go Zones to avoid any unintended impacts during construction. Matted Flax-lily No-Go Zones will be managed as detailed in the Threatened Species Management Plan (**Attachment 4 – Threatened Species Management Plan, Section 4.2, pp 10-14**).

While other MNES were not assessed as being significantly impacted, efforts have been taken to avoid and minimise these impacts have been taken (**Attachment 4 – Threatened Species Management Plan, Section 4.2, pp 10-14**).

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

No offsets are proposed as the Project will not have a residual significant impact to any MNES.

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
No	No	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
No	No	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey
No	No	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

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. *

Flora and fauna assessments that have been undertaken determined that only one listed migratory species, White-throated Needletail, has the potential to be present in the Project boundary (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix C, MNES likelihood of occurrence assessment**). No other listed migratory species has the potential to be impacted by the proposed action.

White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

In Australia, the White-throated Needletail is mostly aerial, flying at heights less than 1 metre up to more than 1000 metres above the ground. They forage above most habitat types but are most often seen above wooded areas feeding on various flying insects such as beetles, cicadas, flying ants, bees, wasps, flies, termites, moths, locusts and grasshoppers. The species has very broad habitat requirements for roosting and it is possible that the species' does roost in trees within the Project boundary.

White-throated Needletails are likely to forage occasionally in the airspace within the Project boundary, but unlikely to have a substantial association with the terrestrial habitats and the Project is unlikely to pose a significant risk to the species.

Potential indirect impacts to White-throated Needletail habitat during construction include:

- Altered hydrology and dewatering leading to degradation on foraging habitat for the species
- Air and dust pollution degrading the quality of the airspace environment, and

The introduction of weeds (**Refer to Attachment 4 – Threatened Species Management Plan, Section 2.5, pp 6-7**).

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

*

No

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

The White-throated Needletail was considered a threatened species but is also listed as a migratory species under the EPBC Act, and a separate significant impact assessment was completed.

The species is predominately aerial and may occasionally forage in the airspace within the Project boundary. However, these direct impacts and various indirect impacts were considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the White-throated Needletail, with no significant criteria of the EPBC Act significant guidelines for migratory species exceeded (**Refer to Attachment 1- MNES Report, Appendix F.5, White-throated Needletail significant impact assessment**).

As the habitat within the Project boundary is not considered important habitat for the species, and the proposed action will not result in the introduction of an invasive species or seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion of the species, the potential indirect impacts to the species are not considered to be significant.

(Refer to Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Appendix F.5, Whit-throated Needletail significant impact assessment) for the full significant impact assessment for the White-throated Needletail.

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.

*

Potential impacts to the White-throated Needletail have been assessed against the Significant Impact Criteria for migratory species (**Attachment 1 - MNES Report, Appendix F.5, White-throated Needletail significant impact assessment**).

The significant impact assessment concludes that the Project is unlikely to have a significant impact on White-throated Needletail when assessed against migratory species referral guidelines. This is because the species is primarily aerial and can roost in a range of woodland and forest habitat types across Australia, therefore the impacts are expected to be negligible to the species.

Mitigation measures are not necessary to avoid a significant impact to White-throated Needletail.

Due to the lack of a significant impact without the implementation of mitigations, the proposed action is not considered a controlled action.

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

While mitigation measures are not necessary to avoid a significant impact to White-throated Needletail, avoidance of any impacts to MNES has been a priority throughout Project design.

The proposed mitigations in the Threatened Species Management Plan will further reduce the Project's impact on White-throated Needletail (**Attachment 4, Threatened Species Management Plan, Section 4, pp 10-14**).

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

No offsets are proposed as the Project will not have a residual significant impact to any MNES.

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.

*

No Nuclear actions proposed within or adjacent to the Project Boundary.

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.

—

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 boundary is not located within or adjacent to the 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 boundary is not located within or adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef (**Refer to Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Appendix B, EPBC Act Protected Matters Report (PMST)**).

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 does not involve water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas Reef (Refer to Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Appendix B, EPBC Act Protected Matters Report (PMST)).

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.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Commonwealth land area
No	No	Defence - SIMPSON BARRACKS - WATSONIA

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 is not located within or adjacent to 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.

*

The Project does not impact Commonwealth heritage places overseas (**Refer to Attachment 1 – MNES Report, Appendix B, EPBC Act Protected Matters Report (PMST)**).

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

The objective of the Project is to remove the Ruthven Street level crossing. Removal of the level crossing is required to improve safety, reduce congestion, and create more reliable travel times for 12,600 drivers each weekday.

As the road and rail alignment are already established, no substantial alternatives for the Project were available and works in the vicinity of this level crossing cannot be avoided. Multiple concepts were investigated to determine the best solution to remove the level crossing. See below for details.

The proposed program is not expected to have an elevated impact compared to alternate timing.

Alternatives that were considered but that are not being proposed

Six design solutions were investigated to remove the level crossing at Ruthven Street, Macleod. The six solutions investigated were:

- Rail Over Road
- Rail Under Road
- Road Under Rail
- Road Over Rail
- Hybrid (Road Over Rail / Rail Under Road)
- Road Closure.

An analysis of the six solutions was completed during design development. Each design option was reviewed against key Project considerations including:

- Flora and Fauna impacts – Matted Flax-lily and Studley Park Gums are located throughout the Project boundary. Choosing a design solution that avoids and minimises impacts to Matted Flax-lily and Studley Park Gums is a priority.
- Connectivity - The level crossing links to important roads and connections like Ruthven Street, Chapman Street, Ellesmere Parade, and McNamara Street. Maintaining vehicle connectivity in the Project design is a key consideration when choosing a level crossing solution.
- Timeframe – Building major infrastructure in residential areas poses challenges, with construction impacts affecting the local community and passengers. VIDA Rail is seeking to minimise the overall timeframe for the Project to minimise disruptions to the community.
- Land acquisition – VIDA Rail aims to avoid acquisition of private homes and businesses, where possible. Choosing a design solution that avoids land acquisition is a preference for the Project.
- Disruptions – Minimising disruptions to road users and rail passengers are important considerations when choosing the Project design and VIDA Rail aims to minimise disruptions, where possible.

The rail under road solution is the worst performing solution from an ecological perspective as there would be impacts to both the Matted Flax-lily and Studley Park Gum. Any impacts to the Studley Park Gum will result in loss of a significant proportion of a threatened species and meet criterion 3 of the “Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects”, requiring referral of the Project under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The rail under road option would also put the rail corridor at high risk of flooding during heavy rain event, result in significant tree and vegetation loss, and impact Rosanna Parklands, which has been recommended for inclusion onto the VHR as part of Elliston Estate (Merchant Builders) and Rosanna Parklands. For these reasons, the option was discounted.

The four road solutions (road under rail, road over rail, hybrid, and road closure) did not impact Matted Flax-lily or the Studley Park Gum but they were discounted due to:

- reduced connectivity for the community from the truncation of Ellesmere Parade (road under rail), loss of functionality of local collector roads (road over and hybrid), or by closing Ruthven/Chapman

Street (road closure).

- compulsory acquisition requirements.
 - 15 residential units, 7 houses, and 1 large commercial property (road under rail)
 - 14 residential units, 5 houses, 3 commercial properties, and 1 large commercial property (road over rail).
 - 2 residential units and 3 houses (hybrid).
- impacts to Rosanna Parklands, which has been recommended for inclusion onto the VHR.

The road under rail solution, road over rail solution, and hybrid solution all require compulsory acquisition of homes and businesses. These three solutions also heavily impact the intersections connecting to Ruthven and Chapman streets and impact heritage sites. For these reasons, the options were discounted.

The road closure solution was discounted as it restricts movement between residents in the west and the local trader precinct in the east, with the nearest rail crossings at Lower Plenty Road, 1.4 kilometres away, and Watsonia Road, 2.7 kilometres away.

While the rail over road solution has the potential to impact three patches of Matted Flax-lily, it's the preferred option for the following reasons:

- All Studley Park Gums are avoided
- No private property acquisition is required
- There will be improved vehicle connectivity between the residents in the west and the strip shops in the east when the level crossing is removed

The construction methodology has a shorter Project timeframe and minimises disruptions compared with the rail under road, road under rail, road over rail, and hybrid solutions.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	11/11/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

1.3.2.18 (Person proposing to take the action) If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 2 - Sustainability Policy.pdf Policy outlining the commitment to environmental, social and economic sustainability principles	12/10/2022	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 3 - Transport Infrastructure Decarbonisation Strategy.pdf Policy outlining VIDAs commitments to decarbonising transport infrastructure as part of the Victorian Government's Net Zero commitment.	01/01/2024	No	High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High
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3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

3.3.1 Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

4.1.1.3 (World Heritage) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

4.1.2.3 (National Heritage) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

4.1.3.3 (Ramsar Wetland) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	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	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 4 - Threatened Species Management Plan.pdf A plan outlining measures that will be taken to protect and manage impacts to threatened species that have the potential to be impacted by the project	10/11/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Attachment 5 - Translocation Management Plan.pdf A plan proposing the salvage, propagation and transplantation of matted flax-lily plants potentially impacted by the project	11/11/2025	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	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the	10/11/2025	No	High

potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

4.1.4.10 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 4 - Threatened Species Management Plan.pdf A plan outlining measures that will be taken to protect and manage impacts to threatened species that have the potential to be impacted by the project	10/11/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Attachment 5 - Translocation Management Plan.pdf A plan proposing the salvage, propagation and transplantation of matted flax-lily plants potentially impacted by the project	10/11/2025	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	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Attachment 4 - Threatened Species Management Plan.pdf A plan outlining measures that will be	11/11/2025	No	High

taken to protect and manage impacts to threatened species that have the potential to be impacted by the project

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	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	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	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 4 - Threatened Species Management Plan.pdf A plan outlining measures that will be taken to protect and manage impacts to threatened species that have the potential to be impacted by the project	10/11/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

4.1.9.3 (Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence

#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High
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4.1.11.3 (Commonwealth heritage places overseas) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Attachment 1 - MNES Report.pdf Report which assesses potential impacts to MNES that occur or have the potential to occur within the Project Area, referred to in this report as the 'Project Boundary'.	10/11/2025	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	57194323595
Organisation name	AECOM AUSTRALIA PTY LTD & GHD PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 11, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000
Representative's name	Amanda Hill
Representative's job title	Principal Environmental Scientist
Phone	+61466297449
Email	amanda.hill@aecom.com
Address	L18, 91 King William Street

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, **Amanda Hill of AECOM AUSTRALIA PTY LTD & GHD 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	69981208782
Organisation name	Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA)
Organisation address	Level 9, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000
Representative's name	Chris Yue

Representative's job title	A Program Director - North Western Program Alliance
Phone	1800 105 105
Email	contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au
Address	Level 9, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

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

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

I, **Chris Yue of Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA)**, 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, **Chris Yue of Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA)**, 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.