Tasmania’s Next Iconic Walk (NIW)

Application Number: **03283** Commencement Date: **19/12/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Tasmania’s Next Iconic Walk (NIW)

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Tourism and Recreation

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Accommodation

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/04/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/12/2029

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) proposes to develop the Next Iconic Walk (NIW/the Proposal) to create a new multi-day walking experience near the Tyndall Range in the west coast region of Tasmania.

The Proposal includes the development of approximately 31 km of walking track, that will commence from the Lake Spicer Gateway (trailhead) and conclude at the Lake Margaret Power Station (see Attachment A – Era Advisory (2025), *Next Iconic Walk Environmental Impact Statement*, Section: 1.3 Proposal Overview, Figure 1.1, page 4. For reference, a number of appendices to Attachment A (the Environmental Impact Statement [EIS]) are separately attached in other sections of this submission (i.e. Attachments B, C, D, F, G, I, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R) and those not referred to elsewhere in this submission are attached in this section (see Attachments T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, AB, AC, AD, AE). Except for the approximately 2km section of existing boardwalk alongside the Lake Margaret Power Station Pipeline, the remainder of the walking track (approximately 29km) will be newly constructed track through untracked landscape. The walking track will include gravel, rock, timber, stone and FRP. Quantities are to be established during detailed design. Construction materials will be sourced locally where possible to minimise the transport of materials to site and reduce the risk of introducing weeds and pathogens. The walking track will be constructed by specialised track construction companies in accordance with relevant standards. The type and extent of disturbance and impacts on the environment will depend on the track construction strategy. In low lying or poorly drained areas the track will involve the construction of an elevated boardwalk. Footings will be installed by either driving in posts or placed in holes dug by hand or mechanical auger. Mostly sections of boardwalk will be constructed sequentially, with previous sections of boardwalk constructed used to access new section, resulting in relatively minimal vegetation trampling during construction. The majority of the track will involve vegetation clearing to expose mineral earth - this is likely to be completed by a combination of hand tools and motorised equipment (chainsaws, whipper snippers, pole saws). Depending on slope and soil type some excavation will be required to provide appropriate benching and allow for quick and effective draining of the track surface. Where possible natural rock and gravel surfaces will be sought to avoid excessive excavation and reduce the amount of additional gravel and rock required to be brought in to build up the track surface to ensure it is hard wearing and drains well. The final track surface is expected to be on average 750mm wide with the disturbance footprint during construction 1000mm wide (see Section 2.1 and 2.2 of this referral).

The route of the walking track has been developed to optimise the visitor experience while minimising impacts on environmental, visual, cultural heritage and historic heritage values. The potential direct and indirect impacts on the environment have been considered and documented in Attachment A - Era Advisory (2025), *Next Iconic Walk Environmental Impact Statement*, as part of the Tasmanian State Government requirement for a Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA). The RAA will be progressed in parallel to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) referral process and will detail any necessary controls to address any concerns or impacts. The daily distances and duration of the walk have been designed with consideration of the relative remoteness and climate of the west coast region.

Three shelters will be provided along the walking track (one for each day of the walk) to provide for rest and emergency shelter. At the shelter locations there will be vegetation clearing and some excavation to install footings for the structure. It is anticipated that the structures will be pre-fabricated off-site so there will be no cutting or drilling on site, just use of power tools to fix/screw components together. At the end of the walk a shelter and toilet will be constructed in the Lake Margaret Power Station precinct. This will be constructed on an area previously used as a tramway and later an access track, and is largely a previously cleared area. Some minor trimming of surrounding vegetation may be required.

Several lookouts will be developed along the track alignment. Where possible rocks and other natural barriers will be used where required but in some cases barriers will need to be constructed using timber or steel frames with wire or steel inserts. There will be some vegetation clearance and hardening of these sites most likely with gravel surfaces. Most have been selected on existing rocky outcrops where minimal works other than installation of signs or interpretation would be required.

At the closest point, the NIW track is approximately 6 km to the west of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA), with the Proposal hut sites further than this (see Map 1 - Regional Context Map - in Attachment P).

Insert: Map 1 - Regional Context Map (Attachment P)

The Proposal is a three-day, two-night walk, with accommodation nodes near Lake Huntley and near Lake Mary, each accommodating up to 44 visitors. The accommodation options at each site are: a communal hut to accommodate up to 22 people; six stand-alone pods for up to 12 people; and camping platforms (four at Lake Huntley and three at Lake Mary) for up to 10 people. Ranger huts with capacity for up to three people will be located at both nodes. The accommodation has been designed to provide comfort and safety in all weather conditions.

The overnight nodes will involve large areas of vegetation clearing for hazard management areas and building footprints. These will be cleared using machinery (whipper snippers, chainsaws). The buildings will involve a number of individual footings that will involve excavation and pouring of concrete. The excavation will be completed using mechanical drills/augers to ensure footings reach bedrock or a stable substrate. In some cases footings may be drilled directly into bedrock where this is close to the surface. There will be additional excavations around the footprint of the building to create swale drains to direct surface runoff around the buildings and away from the footings. Similarly, there will be excavations for pipework associated with the grey water systems between buildings and irrigation trenches. The irrigation trenches are constructed above ground and will involve some minor excavations for the footings/frame for the trench.

Power will be provided to the accommodation nodes through a hybrid renewable energy system of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, micro-hydro and battery storage. Water for the micro-hydro systems will be extracted from Lake Huntley and Lake Mary outflows, and returned back to the outflow streams, with negligible to minor impact on aquatic values even at flow rates well above expected demand (see Attachment B – Entura (2024), *Tasmania's Next Iconic Walk Aquatic Values Assessment*, Section: 4, page 38). The development of the accommodation nodes will include Hazard Management Areas (HMAs) - where fuel loads are reduced through removal and trimming vegetation - and additional mitigation measures for potential bushfire risk (including fire hose reels and sprinkler systems).

Helicopter operations will be essential for the construction and ongoing operation of the Proposal. Two service and construction depots are proposed, the first on the Lake Spicer Track near the junction with Anthony Road (north service and construction depot), and a second along Lake Margaret Road (south service and construction depot). The proposed helicopter flight paths will minimise disturbance to the TWWHA, and helicopter operations will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant fly neighbourly advice (see Attachment A – Era Advisory (2025), *Next Iconic Walk Environmental Impact Statement*, Section: 2.2.6, Figure 2.3 and Section: 2.4, page 23-24). Walkers will check in to the NIW at a visitor facility in Queenstown and reach the trailhead by shuttle bus. The existing Lake Spicer Track will have minor upgrades to facilitate safer 4WD vehicle access to the trailhead and upgrades to the intersection with Anthony Road.

The construction footprint will be minimised through offsite prefabrication of infrastructure components where possible. Disturbed areas and temporary vegetation clearance will be rehabilitated to the pre-existing native vegetation community upon completion of construction.

The disturbance area which includes the construction footprint and permanent operational footprint for the Proposal (including bushfire HMAs around buildings) is outlined in Table 1 (see Attachment O - Tables 1-11, *Table 1: Proposal Project Area and Disturbance Area,* page 1). The total estimated disturbance area for the Proposal is 6.9 Ha. The overall project area, which includes a 25m buffer either side of the planned track corridor to allow for micro-siting during construction, is 146.6 Ha.

Insert: Table 1: Project Proposal Area and Disturbance Area (Attachment O)

Further detail on the individual infrastructure components and other elements of the proposed action are included in Attachment A – Era Advisory (2025), *Next Iconic Walk Environmental Impact Statement:*

- Section: 1.3 Introduction
  - Proposal overview (page 2-5)
  - 1.6 Adjacent activities (page 6).
- Section: 2 Proposal description
  - 2.2 Proposal components (page 14-29)
  - 2.3 Cost and staging (page 29-30)
  - 2.4 Construction (page 30-35)
  - 2.5 Commissioning and operation (page 35-36)
  - 2.6 Decommissioning and rehabilitation (page 36-37)
  - 2.7 Ancillary infrastructure (page 37)
  - 2.8 Offsite (page 37).

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? *

The following information is taken from the EIS (see Attachment A – Section: 1.7, page 6-12):

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) provides a framework for the protection of nationally and internationally important ecological and heritage values.

World heritage areas such as the TWWHA are protected under the EPBC Act. The landscape and visual impact assessment undertaken for the Proposal identified that the NIW will not be visible from the TWWHA (see Attachment C – Section: 2.3.6, page 22).

Other matters of national environmental significance relevant to the Proposal include listed threatened species, ecological communities and migratory species. The natural values assessment concluded that threatened species, ecological communities and migratory species will not be significantly impacted by the Proposal (see Attachment D - Section: Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, page 116 and Attachment E – Sections: Summary of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from the project area, page 1; and Species-by-species consideration of Guidelines, page 16 and Attachments AF, Ag, AH and AI - appendices to Attachment D).

Tasmania Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA): was created under the EPBC Act 1999 and covers the whole of the State of Tasmania. The NIW proposal is mainly in non-forest vegetation communities and will not impact the native forest estate in Tasmania.

National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002

The Proposal is located on reserved and Crown land, managed by PWS under the NPRM Act and *Crown Lands Act 1976*, respectively.

The RAA process is the environmental impact assessment system used by PWS to assess the potential impacts of proposals on reserve land. The NIW Proposal has been classified as a Level 3 RAA and must demonstrate compliance with all relevant conservation and land use legislation, statutory management plans and the management objectives of the class of reserve, PWS policies and procedures, and the potential impacts on the values associated with a reserve (see PWS (2022), Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) Process Overview – Guideline, refer: <www.parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Guideline%20RAA%20process%20overview.pdf>). Any conditions imposed on the Proposal will be incorporated into a final Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

As there are no statutory management plans applicable to the Proposal Site, the Proposal must demonstrate that it can proceed in a manner consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved, having regard to the management objectives for that class of reserved land, pursuant to s.30 of the NPRM Act. The Proposal will be assessed, as part of the RAA process, against the objectives for the management of the relevant classes of reserved land provided in Schedule 1 of the NPRM Act (see Table 2 in Attachment O, page 2).

Insert: Table 2: Objectives for management of reserved land under Schedule 1 of the NPRM Act (Attachment O)

Crown Lands Act 1976

The Proposal is located on PWS managed reserved land, Hydro Tasmania managed land, and unallocated Crown land (southern service and construction depot). The planning permit application will require consent from, or declaration of notification to, all landowners.

Land Use Planning and Approvals (LUPA) Act 1993

The Proposal requires assessment against the planning scheme pursuant to the Tasmanian *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. The West Coast Council is the relevant planning authority for assessment of the discretionary planning permit application.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* provides for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage which is of significance to the Aboriginal people of Tasmania. The Aboriginal Heritage assessment determined that the Proposal will not impact known Aboriginal heritage sites and that there is a low to very low potential for undetected Aboriginal heritage sites to be present (see Attachment F – CHMA (2025), *Stage 2 Detailed Aboriginal heritage Assessment - Next Iconic Walk*, Section: 11.2, page 82).

Building Act 2016 and Urban Drainage Act 2013

Building and plumbing approval from the West Coast Council may be required.

Fire Services Act 1979

The Proposal must comply with the fire safety obligations established under the *Fire Services Act 1979* and *General Fire Regulations 2021*.

Forest Practices Act 1985

A Forest Practices Plan (FPP) is required to clear a threatened native vegetation community, or more than one hectare of vegetation, except under certain circumstances. The total vegetation clearance will be more than one hectare; however, no threatened native vegetation communities will be subject to clearance or conversion. As a planning permit under the LUPA Act will be sought for the Proposal, an FPP is not required (see Attachment D - Section: Tasmanian Forest Practices Act 1985 and associated Forest Practices Regulations 2017, page 121).

Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995

Under Part 6 of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*, approval is required for works to a place entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. The sole registered historic heritage feature intersected by the Proposal is the Lake Margaret Power Scheme, which is a permanent registration on the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR ID 10863). CHMA noted that it was likely that the proposed works would have negligible impact and a certificate of exemption granted (see Attachment G - Section: 7.2, page 41).

Mineral Resources Development Act 1995

The Proposal will not inhibit the issuing of mineral exploration licences or leases under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995.*

Mining (Strategic Prospectivity Zones) Act 1993

The Proposal falls within the Mt Read Strategic Prospectivity Zone (SPZ). The *Mining (Strategic Prospectivity Zones) Act 1993* was enacted to provide security for mining access. The Proposal must be consistent with the reserve management objectives, including to provide for exploration activities and utilisation of mineral resources. The PWS has been consulting regularly with the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC), Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) and individual mineral exploration licence holders throughout the Proposal development.

Nature Conservation Act 2002

Schedule 3A of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* lists Tasmanian threatened native vegetation communities. The natural values assessment identified two threatened native vegetation communities within the Proposal Site: *Athrotaxis selaginoides – Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest (RKF) and *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest (RKP) (see Attachment D - Section: Vegetation types, page 3). The natural values assessment identified that these communities will not be significantly impacted by the works or ongoing operations (see Attachment D - Section: Vegetation types, page 4).

The *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021* provide for the protection of wildlife and the products of wildlife. The natural values assessment did not identify any potential impacts (see Attachment D - Section: Threatened Fauna, page 2 and page 81). Based on advice from ECO*tas,* a permit under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and regulations is unlikely to be required for the Proposal.

Threatened Species Protection Act 1995

The *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSP Act) provides for the protection of listed flora and fauna species. The natural values assessment identified impacts to threatened flora species can largely be avoided through micro-siting of the Proposal elements (see Attachment D - Section: Threatened Fauna, page 2 and page 81). The requirement for a Permit to Take under the TSP Act will be continually reviewed and subject to micro-siting within the Proposal.

Water Management Act 1999

The Proposal involves taking water from Lake Huntley and Lake Mary to generate hydro-electric power. Hydropower developments in Tasmania with potential aquatic impacts are subject to an application for a water licence under the *Water Management Act 1999* (see Attachment B – Section: Executive Summary, page 1).

State Policies

State Policies are made under the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* (SPP Act) to articulate the Tasmanian Government's strategic policy direction on matters of State significance related to the sustainable development of natural and physical resources, land use planning, land management, environmental management and environment protection.

The State Policy relevant to the Proposal is the *State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997* (SPWQM). It must be demonstrated that any discharge to receiving waters caused by the Proposal (e.g. surface run-off during construction and operation) does not prejudice Protected Environmental Values. The PWS has committed to undertake baseline and regular water sampling to monitor ongoing water quality (see Attachment A – Section: 6.12.4, page 120).

The *Tasmanian Reserve Management Code of Practice* (refer: <www.parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Tasmanian-Reserve_Management_Code_of_Practice_2003.pdf>) is the result of a commitment under the Tasmanian *Regional Forest Agreement* (RFA) to develop and implement a code of practice to cover all environmental practices in reserves. The code of practice specifies standards for the assessment of activities in the reserve system that must be followed, these standards will be met as the Proposal will be assessed for compliance through the RAA process.

Parks and Wildlife Service policies

The key PWS policies relevant to the Proposal are:

The design, construction and maintenance of the walking track is consistent with PWS Walking Track Classification System P-036 (refer: <www.parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Walking_Track_Classification_Policy_.pdf>). The walking track design, construction and maintenance will be consistent with and regulated by conditions set out in the Authority to undertake works.

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. *

Stakeholder consultation and engagement activities have been undertaken by the PWS during both the feasibility study and Proposal development stages of the NIW project over a six-year period from 2019-2025. For a summary of the range of consultations undertaken, key market research and consultation findings and changes following consultations refer to Attachment H – PWS (2025), *Next Iconic Walk Project Update - Consultations and Market Research,* page 1-3 or refer: <www.parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/projects-and-programs/next-iconic-walk/project-updates>).

When the NIW project was first announced the PWS called for public submissions on the proposed location of the walk, with 24 public proposals considered as part of identifying the preferred location for the NIW (see Attachment I – PWS (2019), *Tasmania's Next Iconic Walk Location Assessment Report*, Appendix 1, page 17-42 and Appendix 2, page 43-44) or refer: < www.parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/projects-and-programs/next-iconic-walk/project-updates>.

During the feasibility study stage of the project, from 2019 – 2021 more than 1,900 individuals, businesses and organisations contributed their ideas, thoughts and expert advice on the project. External consultants were engaged during this stage to conduct the following stakeholder engagement activities; walking and outdoor adventure company consultation, Aboriginal community consultation, as well as surveys, focus groups and market testing (see Attachment J – SGS Economics and Planning (2021), *Tasmania's Next Iconic Walk Feasibility Study*, Section: 5, page 31-49) or refer: < www.parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/projects-and-programs/next-iconic-walk/project-updates>.

From 2021 – 2025 the PWS continued consultation with stakeholders through design workshops, presentations, site inspections, meetings and various other methods.

Stakeholder consultation included eight public information sessions held across Tasmania in August and September 2024, where over 200 people attended and had the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft concept plans and ask questions of the project team.

Additional market research was conducted in October 2024 with over 2,000 people surveyed on the concept designs and product offerings.

Initial engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community was undertaken by CHMA led by Aboriginal community members trained as Aboriginal Heritage Officers (AHOs) in 2021 as part of the feasibility study (see Attachment J – SGS Economics and Planning (2021), *Tasmania's Next Iconic Walk Feasibility Study*, Section: 5.9, page 47) or refer: < www.parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/projects-and-programs/next-iconic-walk/project-updates>.

Following the feasibility study CHMA undertook a more detailed site investigation and further consultations with the Aboriginal community during 2023 (see Attachment F – CHMA (2025), *Stage 2 Detailed Aboriginal heritage Assessment - Next Iconic Walk*, Section: 9.0, page 71 - 75).

In August 2024 the PWS contracted an Aboriginal engagement consultant (Jenname) to further engage with the Aboriginal community in relation to the project, which included some consideration of Aboriginal interpretation opportunities. Jenname and milangkani projects will undertake additional consultation with the Aboriginal community as interpretation outputs and concept designs are developed by milangkani projects.

As part of the PWS RAA process, the NIW draft EIS was made available for public consultation on the PWS 'Have Your Say' website from 11 October to 21 November 2025. A total of 115 public submissions were received during the 'Have Your Say' period. The PWS will review the feedback raised by the public and prepare a Submissions Report addressing the feedback received. The Submissions Report will become publicly available and accompany the final EIS submitted for approval. The report will include changes to the Proposal in response to the feedback received.

In addition to the PWS ‘Have Your Say’ period, there will be three additional advertised opportunities for public comment and input into the Proposal, which are:

- When this EPBC Act referral is considered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
- When a Development Application is lodged with the West Coast Council.
- When the Tasmanian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works reviews the Proposal.

Additional Information:

Further detail on the engagement undertaken and outcomes can be found within Attachment A – Era Advisory (2025), *Next Iconic Walk Environmental Impact Statement*, Section: 4 Engagement:

- Section: 4 Engagement
  - 4.1 Engagement undertaken to date (page 44-45).
  - 4.2 Summary of engagement outcomes (page 46)
  - 4.3 Aboriginal engagement (page 46)

4.4 Stakeholder engagement and public consultation (page 47)

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.

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	58259330901
Organisation name	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Organisation address	7000 TAS

Referring party details

Name	Keith Ryan
Job title	Project Director
Phone	1300827727
Email	niw@parks.tas.gov.au
Address	1/171 Westbury Road Prospect TAS

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	58259330901
Organisation name	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Organisation address	GPO Box 1751 Hobart 7001 TAS

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Jason Jacobi
Job title	Secretary
Phone	1300827727
Email	jason.jacobi@nre.tas.gov.au
Address	134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, TAS

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 PWS is a division of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) which has a strong focus on environmental management. NRE Tas is the lead agency in Tasmania responsible for the sustainable management, use and protection of natural resources and cultural heritage. The Secretary of NRE Tas, Jason Jacobi, is the Director General of Lands and the Director of National Parks and Wildlife. NRE Tas is responsible for natural values management, including conservation of threatened species and communities and management and protection of Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage.

NRE Tas has 6 strategic priorities outlined in the strategic plan (see Attachment S) including:

- priority 2 focusing on delivering best practice legislative and regulatory systems and support programs (including developing legislation, systems, policies and processes to protect natural resources and associated education, awareness and compliance programs)
- priority 3 focusing on putting Tasmanian Aboriginal people at the heart of managing land and sea Country (including greater consultation, collaboration, engagement and partnerships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people)
- priority 4 focusing on protecting and strengthening Tasmania's cultural and natural values (including responding to climate change, meeting state, national and international obligations to conserve and manage Tasmania's cultural and natural values and promoting stewardship off these values)
- priority 5 focusing on enabling authentic and rewarding experiences of Tasmania (including facilitating appropriate and sensitive developments and strategically managing resources and assets for long-term sustainably).

The PWS was established in 1971 to present, protect and manage Tasmania’s extraordinary landscapes in partnership with the community. The PWS is responsible for managing 40 per cent of the land area of Tasmania which includes over 800 reserves, 19 National Parks, three world heritage areas along with marine reserves and marine conservation areas covering in excess of 2.9 million hectares of land and water. In addition, the PWS are responsible for the future potential production forest (FPPF) lands.

The PWS works to conserve the State's natural and cultural heritage while providing for sustainable use and economic opportunities for the Tasmanian community.

Refer: ‘Managing our Parks and Reserves’, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service for further information <www.parks.tas.gov.au/about-us/managing-our-parks-and-reserves>

The PWS is responsible for Tasmania's reserves, and for protecting the environmental and cultural values of reserves. The Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) process has been developed to guide decisions about appropriate use or development and the management of associated environmental impacts in Tasmania's reserves. The RAA process considers if a use or development proposal is acceptable on reserved land. The RAA process considers legislative requirements statutory management plans and management objectives of the class of reserve, PWS policies and procedures, and the potential impacts on or risks to natural, cultural and social values associated with a reserve.

The RAA process is equivalent to an environmental impact assessment process. PWS has adopted the RAA process to clearly identify assessments for proposals on land and waters managed by PWS including reserves subject to the *National Parks and Reserve Management Act 2002* or *Crown Lands Act 1976.*

PWS assess proposals for developments on PWS managed land in accordance with PWS policies and guidelines and ensures that the reserve area management objectives specified in the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and *Nature Conservation Act 2002* or applicable reserve area management plan are addressed in decision making.

The PWS/NRE Tas is not currently the subject of proceedings under Commonwealth or State law for actions relating to the protection of environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

No executive officers of PWS have personally ever had proceedings brought against them under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

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

The PWS is not a corporation, however, the following information is provided on the PWS environmental policy and planning framework:

PWS is responsible for Tasmania's reserves and for protecting the biophysical and cultural values of reserves. The internal PWS Environmental Management Policy (P-030) states the PWS will:

1. Identify and where practical reduce adverse environmental impact arising from past, current or planned work of the PWS through planning and prioritising management actions.
2. Take all reasonable and practical steps to ensure that PWS activities take into account impacts on biophysical and cultural values, and activities are conducted in a manner that minimises any adverse effects on these values.
3. Consult and work with employees, stakeholders, park visitors, commercial operators and the broader community to achieve environmental management objectives.
4. Provide training and development programs aimed specifically at maintaining and improving our capacity to achieve our environmental management policy.
5. Develop and implement a management system modelled on the Australian Standards Environmental Management System ISO 14001.
6. Monitor, review and report on our performance on a regular basis, to allow continual improvement.

PWS have developed the Reserve Activity Assessment process to guide decisions about appropriate use or development and the management of associated environmental impacts in Tasmania's reserves.

The RAA process is equivalent to an environmental impact assessment process. PWS has adopted the RAA process to clearly identify assessments for proposals on land and waters managed by PWS including reserves subject to the *National Parks and Reserve Management Act 2002* or *Crown Lands Act 1976*.

The roles of the PWS in the RAA process are:

- as a proponent for reserve area infrastructure proposals;
- as an assessment process manager for assessment of external proponent proposals and
- as a stakeholder in other agency assessment processes for proposals in or adjacent to reserved areas.

PWS ensures that the reserve area management objectives specified in the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and *Nature Conservation Act 2002* or applicable reserve area management plan are addressed in decision making.

Where public consultation is appropriate, comment is invited on a draft RAA prepared by the proponent. Public consultation is included in all Level 3 RAA processes – the NIW is subject to a Level 3 RAA process.

The Level 3 RAA process is aimed at effectively and efficiently assessing and managing environmental impacts of proposals. The process addresses statutory requirements and expert advice and considers community views.

At the completion of the Level 3 RAA process PWS publish an Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) with recommendations including a Submissions report and statement of reasons, along with copies of all public submissions received during the ‘Have Your Say’ period.

Refer: ‘Managing our Parks and Reserves/Reserve Activity Assessment’, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service for further information <www.parks.tas.gov.au/about-us/managing-our-parks-and-reserves/reserve-activity-assessment>

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	58259330901
Organisation name	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Organisation address	GPO Box 1751 Hobart 7001 TAS

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Jason Jacobi
Job title	Secretary
Phone	1300827727
Email	jason.jacobi@nre.tas.gov.au
Address	134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, TAS

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	58259330901
Organisation name	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Organisation address	7000 TAS
Representative's name	Keith Ryan
Representative's job title	Project Director
Phone	1300827727
Email	niw@parks.tas.gov.au
Address	1/171 Westbury Road Prospect TAS

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	58259330901
Organisation name	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Organisation address	GPO Box 1751 Hobart 7001 TAS
Representative's name	Jason Jacobi
Representative's job title	Secretary
Phone	1300827727
Email	jason.jacobi@nre.tas.gov.au
Address	134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, TAS

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

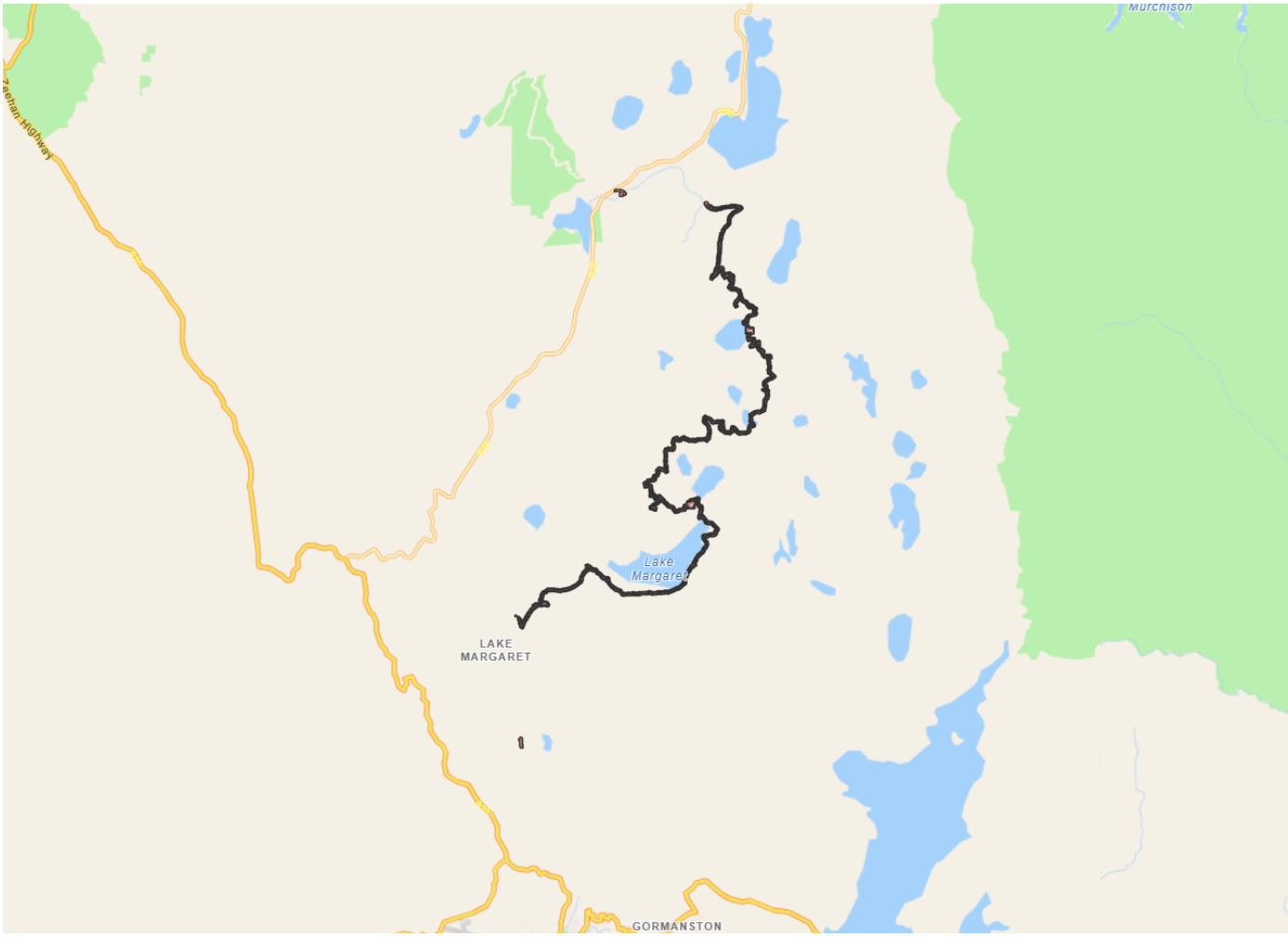
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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: 146.56 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 6.90 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Lake Spicer Track, located off Anthony Road (B28)

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

Tasmania

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

No

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

The Proposal intersects three different parcels of reserved land: the Tyndall Regional Reserve, Lake Beatrice Conservation Area, a small section of unallocated Crown land. These three parcels of reserved land are managed by the PWS, who is the applicant. The Proposal also intersects Hydro Tasmania managed land (part of the Lake Margaret hydro power scheme). The PWS has been negotiating with Hydro Tasmania on the specific details for an anticipated long-term licence (e.g 99 year) for the construction, operation, management and maintenance of the Next Iconic Walk on hydro managed land.

The Hydro Tasmania board and CEO have provided written support of the Proposal including the NIW track alignment and concept plans for proposed infrastructure at the end of the walk near Lake Margaret Power Station. Final approval is subject to confirming the specifics and signing a long-term licence agreement between the PWS and Hydro Tasmania. This licence agreement will be signed prior to commencing construction.

See Attachment A – Section: 5.1 Land tenure and reserves, Figure 5.1, page 50.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Proposal area is approximately 31 km long and sits between Lake Plimsoll in the north and Lake Margaret Village in the south. The Proposal area is located to the east of the Tyndall Range of mountains, which form part of the larger West Coast Range.

The start point for the Proposal is located approximately 19 km directly south of Tullah, which is approximately 29 km when driving via Anthony Road (from Tullah) and approximately 37 km when driving via the Zeehan Highway and Anthony Road (from Queenstown). The end point for the walk sits approximately 8.5 km directly north of Queenstown, which is approximately 13 km when driving via the Zeehan Highway and Lake Margaret Road (see Map 1 in Attachment P).

Insert: Map 1: Regional Context Map (Attachment P)

Both Anthony Road and Lake Margaret Road will be used as the access routes for the visitor shuttle service during operation of the walk and will be used by trucks to deliver materials to the north and south construction and service depots both during construction and ongoing servicing of the walk. The Anthony Road and Lake Spicer Track intersection will be upgraded to improve safety and minimise transfer of gravel onto the sealed Anthony Road.

The vast majority of the Proposal sits within the 'Environmental Management' zone under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. Sections of the Proposal on Hydro Tasmania managed land to the south and west of Lake Margaret are within the 'Rural' zone and the shuttle pick up point at the end of the walk is likely to sit within the 'Utilities' zone associated with the Lake Margaret Power Station (see Attachment A – Section: 5.11.1 Zoning and Overlays, page 61, and Figure 5.4, page 63). The proposed actions will not require any changes to zoning to facilitate the development.

Surrounding the Proposal area, the land to the east (over 60 km), north (over 15 km) and west (over 2 km) of is zoned as 'Environmental Management'. Most of the land to the south of the Proposal area until the edge of Queenstown (over 7 km) is zoned as 'Rural'.

The following information, which provides a good overview of the characteristics of the Proposal area, is taken from the natural values assessment of the Proposal undertaken by ECO*tas* (see Attachment D - Section: Study Area, page 18-27):

The project area is characterised by the dominant north-south trending Tyndall Range. The eastern side of the range is topographically complex characterised by an undulating plateau area dominated by dramatic cliffs along the Tyndall Range and numerous glacially-formed lakes.

There are numerous ephemeral drainage features draining the 'swampy' areas to the east.

The geology of the area is complex, associated with the Mount Reid volcanic region. In general, the dominant landform features consist of Cambrian-age conglomerate, quartzites, bedded sandstone and siltstone. Geomorphologically, the landscape has been dramatically 'carved' by glaciers with Lake Huntley being a dramatic example of a glacial lake with well-formed glacial ice scouring at the eastern side of the lake. Quaternary-age glacial deposits and landscape features such as lateral and terminal moraine formations dominate the lower slopes surrounding the Tyndall Range. Very large glacial erratic rocks are obvious landscape features on the middle and lower slopes and plain country surrounding the Tyndall Range. The geology and glacial features of the study area and surrounds are recently described by Corbett & Corbett (2024). The geology is mentioned because of its influence on vegetation classification, association with threatened flora, and to a lesser extent, threatened fauna.

A large portion of the vegetation in the area is 'fire-altered' with evidence from past fires dominating the vegetation in the area. The close proximity to Queenstown to the south and past mineral exploration activities have led to numerous fires that have burnt large portions of the area in the vicinity of Lake Margaret/Mount Sedgwick, the western slopes of the Tyndall Range and, according to Kirkpatrick (1977), a very large fire associated with the construction of the Lake Spicer exploration track completely burnt out the Lake Dora plateau area in 1972 and in the Red Hills area (Lake Plimsoll) where Kirkpatrick (1977) noted

numerous fires occurring in the mid-1970s. Only remnant 'fire-sensitive' vegetation persists on humid fire-protected east- and south-facing slopes, vegetation protected by geographical features such as cliffs and lakes and on the alpine plateau of Mount Tyndall. Corbett & Corbett (2024) highlight the "large area of well-preserved alpine vegetation, including deciduous beech and pencil pine forests and cushion moorlands, [that have] escaped the many fires which have affected the adjacent slopes and lowland areas". The fire history is mentioned because of its influence on vegetation expression (and hence classification) and likelihood of threatened flora (and to a lesser extent, threatened fauna).

Most of the study area is very natural with limited anthropogenic disturbance, fire history being the main influence on the vegetation. In the northern section, the Lake Spicer Track is present: this is a 4WD track used for mining exploration, recreational four-wheel driving and reserve access for fishing and camping.

In the southern section, the Lake Margaret Power Station and associated infrastructure including the historic wooden pipeline that runs from Lake Margaret dam to the power station (along which the proposed walking track will traverse for a section) is present.

The original pipeline was constructed out of cedar and was replaced after 23 years by locally sourced king billy pine. Slopes above the Lake Margaret Power Station had evidence of old cut stumps, including old king billy pine stumps (seen on upper slopes).

An old dozer track runs down the ridgeline to the east of the Lake Margaret Power Station (proposed walking track will roughly follow this old track).

The lower slopes to the east of the power station were cleared during the power station construction period (construction began in 1911).

The upper reaches of the infrastructure associated with the Lake Margaret Power Station is on Lake Mary where there is a penstock on the southern outlet.

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

Existing Uses:

There is some limited existing use of the Proposal area and surrounds (see Attachment A – Section: 5.8 Recreation, page 59).

The Lake Spicer 4WD track, used to access the start of the Proposal, is publicly accessible via a locked boom gate with keys provided to members of the public on request by PWS. This track is used by 4WD enthusiasts, or those using the track to access nearby lakes for fishing and camping (with the track terminating at Lake Spicer). The track passes Lake Rolleston which is one of only 4 lakes in Tasmania stocked with Brook Trout, providing a specific point of attraction for some fishers. The track was originally established for mineral exploration in the area and is still used by mineral exploration licence holders as an access track when undertaking mineral exploration activities in the area. Much of the area sits within the Mt Read Strategic Prospectivity Zone (SPZ) and there are three mineral exploration licences that cover much of the proposed track alignment (see Attachment A – Section: 5.5 Mining leases and exploration licences, Figure 5.3, page 58). Near Lake Rolleston there are some remote huts used as base camps by mineral exploration companies and other recreational users.

The Tyndall Range, located to the west of the Proposal, is accessed by walkers on a rough and steep access track that receives relatively low usage compared with other tracks around Tasmania. This track leads walkers onto the plateau where unmarked routes are followed across low lying vegetation to access nearby peaks including Mt Tyndall, Mt Geikie, The Bastion and various lakes including Lake Tyndall which is a popular camping location.

Rock climbers, and bushwalkers also use the Tyndall Plateau track to access the top of the cliffs overlooking Lake Huntley. A very small number of walkers will camp on the plateau and use this as a base to walk off the eastern side of the plateau, walking to nearby Mt Sedgwick and return. The rise in popularity of people seeking out ‘Abels’, Tasmanian summits over 1100 meters above sea level (m a.s.l), has increased use of the area given the proximity of Mt Sedgwick, Mt Geikie and Mt Tyndall to each other.

At the southern end of the Proposal area hydro-electricity generation is a major use. Many of the lakes passed along the NIW track alignment are interconnected and lead to Lake Margaret, which is the source of water for the Lake Margaret Power Station. At the western end of Lake Margaret there is a dam, pipeline and other infrastructure required to transport water from the dam wall to the power station.

Leading to the dam there are vehicle tracks and walking tracks/old tramways used by Hydro Tasmania to inspect, maintain and manage the penstock and pipeline and other hydro infrastructure to ensure continued power generation. Surrounding the power station are various buildings and old houses that formed part of the now abandoned Lake Margaret Village. There is one house still maintained and used for accommodation of Hydro Tasmania staff and other contractors working at Lake Margaret.

Leaving the power station are high voltage transmission lines that take the power back towards Queenstown and into the Tasmanian power grid. These power lines run beside the Lake Margaret Road that is managed by Hydro Tasmania and has a boom gate to prevent public access (see Attachment A – Section: 5.11, Figure 5.5, page 69). Members of the public can only access the Lake Margaret Village and Power Station area on a tour undertaken by a commercial tour provider. Access to the site is highly restricted.

The vast majority of the proposed walking track alignment is untracked, in a relatively natural state and has limited current use. There were historic routes used by residents of the Lake Margaret Village to access Lake Margaret, Lake Mary and Mt Sedgwick as day trips out of Lake Margaret. There is documented evidence of early explorers and mineral prospectors traversing the whole area. There are some undeveloped routes from the south onto the Tyndall Plateau via Hamilton Moraine, however these are not marked on maps or promoted by the PWS publicly.

To the west of the Tyndall Plateau there are transmission lines and a water race that run parallel to the mountain range and Anthony Road (a major highway connecting Tullah and Queenstown and providing direct access to the Henty Mine with the tailings dam 3.5 km west of the start point of the walk). There are also various 4WD access tracks to service these transmission towers and canal along the western flank of the Tyndall Range (see Attachment A – Section: 5.11, Figure 5.5, page 69).

Proposed Uses:

The PWS proposes to develop and operate a multi-day walking track as an ongoing use of the area. Visitors that have booked for the NIW experience will be delivered to the start of the walk (via Anthony Road and Lake Spicer Track) and collected from the end of the walk (via Lake Margaret Road) by a shuttle service. Visitors will spend three days and two nights traversing the landscape and spend the two nights at overnight nodes near Lake Huntley and Lake Mary. PWS staff will walk into the overnight nodes.

Existing uses of the surrounding area for walking, four-wheel driving, fishing and mineral exploration will continue with the same level of access that is currently provided.

Hydro Tasmania will continue to manage the Lake Margaret Road, Power Station and associated infrastructure and only allow public access to the old Lake Margaret Village or Power Station via a commercial guided tour.

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

Geoconservation

The Proposal crosses a heavily glacially modified landscape and falls completely within terrain that has been repeatedly glaciated over the Quaternary Period (last 2.6 million years). Glacial features of the area are recognised in the state listing of the 'Tyndall Range Glacial Features (2974)' geoconservation site which covers the whole Proposal area.

There are also numerous areas the Proposal crosses that are part of the 'Western Tasmania Blanket Bogs (2527)' geoconservation site. ECO*tas* (2025) note that while the Western Tasmania Blanket Bogs are potentially widespread across the Proposal area, their presence is perhaps quite limited (see Attachment D - Section: Geoconservation, page 4*).*

The Tyndall Range glacial features and Western Tasmanian blanket bogs geoconservation sites are generally robust landscape-scale features. The current Proposal poses very little risk to the form, structure or geomorphic processes within or adjacent to the project's footprint and broader area (see Attachment D - Section: Western Tasmania Blanket Bogs, page 112).

TWWHA

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) is located approximately 6 km from the closest point of the Proposal. Although not located in or immediately adjacent to the TWWHA, careful consideration has been given to the siting of the Proposal to ensure it is not visible from the TWWHA, thereby maintaining natural beauty and landscape values of the area (see Attachment C – *S*ection: 2.3.6, page 22).

See section 4.1.1 Impact Details (World Heritage) of this submission for a more detailed discussion on the TWWHA and potential impacts.

Threatened Flora

No plant species listed as threatened on the Commonwealth EPBC Act are known from database information, or were detected as a consequence of field assessment, from the study area (see Attachment D - Section: Threatened Flora, page 112 and Attachment E – Sections: Summary of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from the project area, page 2).

See section 4.14 Impact Details (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) of this submission for a more detailed discussion on threatened flora.

Endemic Flora

ECO*tas* (2025) notes that the Tyndall Range area is a high conservation value area in Tasmania in terms of paleoendemic flora and evolutionary significance and is "unusual among the western mountains in that virtually all the alpine zone is unburned and dominated by gymnosperms or deciduous beech" (Kirkpatrick 1984) (see Attachment D - Section: Endemic Flora, page 80). ECO*tas* (2025) suggests that it is likely that the proposed trail alignment can be achieved with limited direct impact on the conservation significant and/or paleoendemic flora of the area (see Attachment D - Section: Endemic Flora, page 71).

Threatened Fauna

Three fauna species listed as threatened on the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) are known from database information, or were detected as a consequence of field assessment, from the Proposal area including:

- *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil);
- *Dasyurus maculatus* subsp*. maculatus* (spotted tailed quoll); and
- *Dasyurus viverrinus* (eastern quoll) (see Attachment D - Section: Threatened Fauna, page 113).

The Proposal area is considered to support potential habitat (to varying degrees of marginality) of six fauna species threatened on the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Each of the following species were considered separately in Attachment E – Section: Species-by-species consideration of Guidelines, pages 16 - 27):

- spotted tailed quoll;
- Tasmanian devil;
- eastern quoll ;
- *Aquila audax* subsp*. fleayi (Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle)*;
- *Carinascincus microlepidotus* (boulder cool-skink); *and*
- *Carinascincus orocryptus* (heath cool-skink).

See section 4.14 Impact Details (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) of this submission for a detailed discussion on each of these species.

Threatened Vegetation Communities

ECOtas (2025) noted that the Protected Matters Report by the Commonwealth of Australia in 2024 identified the following threatened ecological communities may, or are likely to, occur within the area:

- Alpine *Sphagnum* Bogs and Associated Fens [Endangered];
- Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by Black Gum or Brookers Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / E*. brookeriana*) [Critically Endangered]; and
- Tasmanian White Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) Wet Forest [Critically Endangered].

Through on-site surveys, twenty different TASVEG vegetation mapping units were identified across the Proposal area. None of the identified mapping units equate to threatened ecological communities listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. (see Attachment D - Section: Conservation significance of identified native vegetation types, page 35 and Section: Vegetation types, page 113 and Attachment E – Section: Summary of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from project area, page 2).

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

Elevation of the study area varies from approximately 320 m a.s.l in the Lake Margaret Power Station area to approximately 950 m a.s.l. (Chin Lookout location near Solo Tarn), with most of the study area being between approximately 700-900 m a.s.l. (see Attachment A – Section: 1.3, Figure 1-2, page 5).

3.2 Flora and fauna

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

The natural values of the Proposal area were assessed by ECO*tas* and included a detailed description of the vegetation types, structure, composition and distribution across the Proposal area (see Attachment D – Section: Vegetation types, page 32-53). The track alignment traverses 17 different vegetation community types including alpine heathland, buttongrass moorland, scrub, rainforest and wet eucalypt forests.

See section 3.2.2 of this submission for a more detailed description of vegetation communities.

The key findings related to flora and fauna in the natural values assessment were outlined in Attachment D and Attachment E - Section: Summary of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from project area.

Threatened Flora

No plant species listed as threatened on the Commonwealth EPBC Act are known from database information, or were detected as a consequence of field assessment, from the study area (see Attachment D – Section: Threatened flora, page 1).

Two plant species listed as threatened on the Commonwealth EPBC Act plant were identified by the Commonwealth of Australia in the protected matters report for the study area:

- *Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor (*grassland paperdaisy) [EPBCA: Endangered (EN)] – ECO*tas* (2025) concluded: “potential habitat absent (wholly atypical of reported sites)” and “this species was not detected (no significant seasonal constraint on detection/and/or identification)” (Attachment E – Table 1, page 2).
- *Pseudocephalozia paludicola* (alpine leafy liverwort) [EPBCA: Vulnerable (VU)] - ECO*tas* (2025) concluded: “Potential habitat absent (wholly atypical of reported sites)” (Attachment E – Table 1, page 2-3).

Five plant species listed as threatened on the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSPA) are known from database information (historically and/or contemporaneously) from the broader study area, with two detected as a consequence of field assessment from the study area, as follows:

- *Luzula atrata* (slender woodrush) [TSPA: rare(r)] – one recent record close to but outside the study area;
- *Pimelea milliganii* (silver riceflower) [TSPA: r] – historical and recent records within broader study area;
- *Persoonia muelleri* subsp. *angustifolia* (narrowleaf geebung) [TSPA: r] – historical records within the southern part of study area but no confirmed recent records;
- *Orites milliganii* (toothed orites) [TSPA: r] – historical and recent records; and
- *Planocarpa sulcata* (grooved cheeseberry) [TSPA: r] – historical and recent records.

The presence of populations of threatened flora (*Orites milliganii* and *Planocarpa sulcata*) means that parts of the site subject to the Priority Vegetation Area overlay are “a threatened flora species” [sic] such that they meet the intent of “priority vegetation” (in relation to this value) pursuant to C7.3.1(b) of the *State Planning Provisions*.

Threatened Fauna (see Attachment D – Section: Threatened Fauna, page 2 and Attachment E – Table 2, page 3-10)

Several fauna species listed as threatened on the Commonwealth EPBC Act and/or the Tasmanian TSPA are known from database information, or were detected as a consequence of field assessment, from the study area, as follows:

- *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil) [EPBC Act: Endangered (EN); TSPA: endangered (e)] – records from the wider area and four scat locations recorded as part of present study;
- *Dasyurus maculatus* subsp. *maculatus* (spotted tailed quoll) [EPBC Act: Vulnerable (VU); TSPA: r] – records from the wider area and one scat location recorded as part of present study; and
- *Dasyurus viverrinus* (eastern quoll) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – records from the wider area but no direct evidence from present study.

The study area is considered to support potential habitat (to varying degrees of marginality) of the following threatened fauna species:

- *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: e] – potential habitat widespread but no evidence of active dens recorded (some limited potential denning habitat under large erratics, scats recorded);
- *Dasyurus maculatus* subsp. *maculatus* (spotted tailed quoll) [EPBC Act: VU; TSPA: r] – see above;
- *Dasyurus viverrinus* (eastern quoll) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – see above;
- *Aquila audax* subsp. *fleayi* (Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: e] – no known nests within 1,000 m of study area; marginal potential nesting habitat in relatively nearby Dante Rivulet gully system searched with no nests detected;
- *Haliaeetus* [syn. *Ichthyophaga*] *leucogaster* (white-bellied sea-eagle) [EPBC Act: -; TSPA: vulnerable (v] – assessment and conclusions as for wedge-tailed eagle;
- *Carinascincus microlepidotus* (boulder cool-skink) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – within recently modelled range with potential habitat present; and
- *Carinascincus orocryptus* (heath cool-skink) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – within recently modelled range but with highly marginal potential habitat present.

In addition to the above fauna species there are a number of migratory and other bird species listed as threatened on the Commonwealth EPBC Act plant were identified by the Commonwealth of Australia in the protected matters report for the study area:

- *Calidris acuminata (*sharp-tailed sandpiper) [EPBC Act: VU] – project area does not support suitable habitat such as 'brackish, fresh and aline havitats including dams, lagoons, lakes, mudflats, saltmarshes and wetlands' at elevations below 30m a.s.l;
- *Calidris ferruginea* (curlew sandpiper) [EPBC Act: Critical (CR)] – project area does not support suitable habitat such as 'estuaries, mudflats, lagoons, wetlands and saltmarshes' at elevations below 90m a.s.l;
- *Ceyx azureus subsp. diemenensis [syn. Alcedo azurea subsp. diemenensis]* (Tasmanian azure kingfisher) [EPBC Act: EN] - Potential foraging habitat absent (no permanent watercourses with suitable flow, pools or depth) and potential breeding habitat absent (as above);
- *Gallinago hardwickii* (Lathams snipe) [EPBC Act: VU] - Potential habitat absent, except in the most general of senses;
- *Hirundapus caudacutus* (white-throated needletail) [EPBC Act: VU] - Potential habitat widespread but this is a species that flies at high altitude, very fast and highly mobile, feeding on the wing and virtually never perches and should not require further consideration;
- *Lathamus discolor* (swift parrot) [EPBC Act: CR] - Potential foraging habitat absent because there is no *Eucalyptus globulus* or *Eucalyptus ovata* and potential nesting habitat absent (no hollow-bearing trees). Significant habitat absent and the assessment area is not within the SE potential breeding range or the NW breeding areas;
- *Neophema chrysostoma* (blue-winged parrot) [EPBC Act: VU] - Potential foraging habitat possibly present and Potential breeding habitat absent (no hollow-bearing trees) and the species may use the

area opportunistically for foraging as part of its annual residency (or over-wintering/permanent residency) in the State but at the scale of the project and within the context of the nearby reserves as well as the absence of typical forested nesting habitat (and noting no clearing of this per se, with tracks only through understorey of any forest), this species should not require further consideration;
- *Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera* (Goulds petrel) [EPBC Act: EN] - the whole project area does not support potential habitat, which is “open ocean”;
- *Tyto novaehollandiae subsp. castanops* (Tasmanian masked owl) [EPBC Act: VU] - Potential nesting habitat absent (no hollow-bearing trees) and significant habitat absent such that this species is unlikely to use the greater study area, except highly opportunistically, given the elevation of the site; and
- *Prototroctes maraena* (Australian grayling) [EPBC Act: VU] - Potential habitat absent as the study area is located in the upper reaches of rivers, well outside the habitat requirements for this species.

See section 4.1.4 Impact details (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) and section 4.1.5 Impact details (Migratory Species) of this submission for further information on these listed species.

Aquatic Ecology

An assessment was undertaken of the potential impacts of the Proposal on the aquatic ecology of the lakes and streams in close proximity to the overnight nodes. The impacts on aquatic ecology were assessed by Entura (see Attachment B) and the key findings were:

- Native aquatic biological values surveyed in both lakes include the fish species *Galaxias brevipinnis* (climbing galaxias), the crayfish *Astacopsis tricornis*; macroinvertebrates, and the aquatic plant species *Isolepis fluitans*. A platypus was observed in Lake Huntley and are likely to be present in Lake Mary. Introduced brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) have also been stocked in Lake Mary and would have a self-sustaining population.

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

General information

A total of 161 vascular plant species were recorded from the study area, comprising 98 dicotyledons (including 55 endemic and eight naturalised species), 34 monocotyledons (including 13 endemic, one species with a distribution within Australia restricted to Tasmania and three naturalised species), four gymnosperm species (all endemic), 23 pteridophyte species (including two endemic species and one species with a distribution within Australia restricted to Tasmania) and two magnoliid species (both native).

Notably, only around 7% of the recorded plant species are introduced/naturalised, not unsurprising reflecting the relative natural state of the study area.

Of particular note is that around 48% of the recorded vascular flora is endemic to Tasmania (74 species endemic to the State and a further two species that within Australia only occur within Tasmania, otherwise known from New Zealand).

Additional surveys at different times of the year may detect additional short-lived herbs and grasses but a follow-up survey is not considered warranted because of low likelihood of further species with a high priority for conservation management being present, especially at the scale of the relatively small project footprint (see Attachment D – Section: Plant species, page 39).

Vegetation types

The study area supports the following TASVEG mapping units:

- western alpine heathland (HHW);
- buttongrass moorland with emergent shrubs (MBS);
- western buttongrass moorland (MBW);
- *Leptospermum* forest (NLE);
- *Leptospermum scoparium – Acacia mucronata* forest (NLA);
- *Nothofagus gunnii* rainforest scrub (RFS);
- *Athrotaxis selaginoides – Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest (RKF);
- *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest (RKP);
- *Nothofagus – Leptospermum* short rainforest (RML);
- *Nothofagus – Phyllocladus* short rainforest (TASVEG code: RMS);
- *Nothofagus – Atherosperma* rainforest (RMT);
- *Leptospermum* with rainforest scrub (SRF);
- western subalpine scrub (SSW);
- western wet scrub (SWW);
- *Eucalyptus nitida* forest over *Leptospermum* (WNL);
- *Eucalyptus nitida* forest over rainforest (WNR);
- water, sea (OAQ);
- lichen lithosere (ORO);
- permanent easements (FPE); and
- extra-urban miscellaneous (FUM).

None of the identified mapping units equate to threatened ecological communities listed under the Commonwealth *EPBC Act* (see Attachment D – Section: Vegetation types, page 113-114).

Occurrences of *Athrotaxis selaginoides – Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest (RKF) and *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest (RKP) equate to native vegetation communities (with the same names, respectively) listed as threatened on Schedule 3A of the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

The remainder of the identified TASVEG mapping units do not equate to native vegetation communities listed as threatened on Schedule 3A of the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

The presence of “native vegetation…[that]…forms an integral part of a threatened native vegetation community as prescribed under Schedule 3A of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*” means that the parts of the site subject to the Priority Vegetation Area overlay that support these communities meet the intent of “priority vegetation” (in relation to this value) pursuant to C7.3.1(a) of the *State Planning Provisions*.

The TASVEG vegetation mapping units were described by ECO*tas* (2025) including detailed descriptions of structure, lifeforms, species composition and images of each of the native vegetation communities (see Attachment D – Section: Appendix A - Vegetation community structure and composition, page 140-155).

Soil Types and Condition

Site information pertaining to the capability of the land to sustain development without causing environmental harm or undue risk to capital was collected from desktop and field survey by Geo-Environmental Solutions (GES). Field survey was undertaken utilising a 70mm auger with soil samples assessed according to AS2870-2011 and AS/NZS1547-2012 for suitability for construction and on-site waste management (see Attachment K – Section: 2, page 5).

Geology

GES (2024) notes the Lake Huntley overnight node falls within the Mineral Resources Tasmania, Southwest Tasmania 1:25 000 sheet, which indicates the local area is underlain by Cambrian conglomerate and correlates. Site inspection confirmed this unit as the parent materials for soils forming in the proposed construction area. The soil onsite consists of humic topsoils overlying gravel-cobble materials (see Attachment K - Section: 2, page 5).

GES (2024) notes the Lake Mary overnight node falls within the Mineral Resources Tasmania, Southwest Tasmania 1:25 000 sheet which indicates the local area is underlain by Glacial and glacigene deposits. Site inspection confirmed this unit as the parent materials for soils forming in the proposed construction area. The soil onsite consists of humic topsoils overlying gravel-cobble materials (see Attachment K - Section: 2, page 33).

Soil distribution

The soils found on both sites show a close correlation with underlying geological material and are therefore classified according to geological association (i.e., Podsol on over glacial deposits). Soil distribution within the proposed development areas at the hut sites was relatively uniform, with some variation in depth according to topographic position expected (see Attachment K - Appendix 3, page 18 and page 46).

The soils are single grain and are likely to have good permeability throughout the profile. The soils have an AS2870-2011 site classification of **Class S** (Slightly reactive) and therefore are expected to exhibit slight ground surface movement with soil moisture variations. The estimated soil permeability at a depth of 0.2m is approximately 100mm/hour or 2.4m/day indicating the soils are highly permeable with a good capacity to accept wastewater flows. The sandy soils in the proposed wastewater disposal area are classified as Category 2 (SANDY LOAM) according to AS/NZS1547-2012 for on-site wastewater disposal.

Soils of this type are generally stable and are highly permeable. The topsoils on site may be prone to surface erosion when denuded of cover. Therefore, care will be taken during site clearing and construction to ensure soil erosion does not occur, and that local surface water values are maintained. A soil and water management plan (SWMP) will be developed, implemented, and monitored for all construction activities.

Glaciation and geology of the area

Roberts (2025), noted the evidence of glaciation in the proposal area:

"The proposed Next Iconic Walk traverses the western Tyndall Range, within the central part of Tasmania's West Coast Range. Due to its elevation and exposure to moisture-laden westerly air masses, high parts of the West Coast Range provided appropriate conditions for the formation and expansion of glaciers when global temperatures were several degrees cooler during glaciations….

…The most extensive and diverse glacial evidence from anywhere in the West Coast Range is found in the Tyndall Range. These were some of the first glacial features scientifically documented in Tasmania (Moore, 1893) (see Attachment L – page 4-5).

"The proposed walk falls completely within the extent of Quaternary glacial limits. Consequently, the entire track and all nodes are located on sediments deposited by or in association with glaciers, on bedrock sculpted by glaciers, or on sediment or rock that has been only slightly modified since glaciers disappeared." (see Attachment L – page 11).

The main units along the proposed walk are of four main types:

• Glacier-modified bedrock with little to no deposition hosts various signs of mechanical abrasion by debris-laden ice.

• Subglacial traction till 'smeared' over bedrock includes elongate, ice-sculpted bedforms, and common erratics.

• Till comprising various end and lateral moraines recording glacier margins for ridges of various shape and height, typically with high concentrations of erratics.

• Melt-out till emplaced by melting of stagnant ice form hummocky surfaces comprising kettle holes separated by low, actuate ridges of more competent diamicton." (see Attachment L – page 12).

Roberts (2025) concludes:

"The proposed Next Iconic Walk provides important opportunities to highlight Tasmania's glacial geoheritage as well as bolster geoconservation features, which are extremely rare in mainland Australia. The glacial geoheritage of the area comprises diverse features recording glacial deposition, sculpting, and erosion. Geological deposits span subglacial, englacial or possible supraglacial, ice-marginal, and proglacial sequences. Geomorphological features include countless glacial erratics, numerous moraines and glacially streamlined surfaces of wide-ranging type and scale, and large-scale alpine features carved into bedrock, especially cirques. Potential eskers and glacio-karst features require field confirmation, but if present are some of the few examples of such features anywhere in Tasmania and, thus, Australia.

The planned route and infrastructure already avoid most potential issues related to glacially inherited features including impacting geoheritage and contributing to geohazards in glacially formed landscapes. Fine-tuning of the track alignment within the 50-m-wide envelope allotted for minor adjustments will enable any remaining localised features to be avoided. Due to their size some extensive glacial features, such as large lateral moraine or glacially streamlined surfaces, cannot be avoided. However, these features are generally robust and will not suffer if tracks are thoughtfully aligned and constructed." (see Attachment L-page 19).

3.3 Heritage

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

The heritage values of the Proposal area were assessed by Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA), and for details of the key findings see Attachment G - Section: Executive summary, page 1-2.

There are no Commonwealth heritage places owned or controlled by the Australian Government within the Proposal area.

Historic Heritage

There is one State-registered historic heritage feature that is intersected by the Proposal. This is the Lake Margaret Power Scheme, which is a Permanent Registration on the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR ID 10863). The southern portion of the Next Iconic Walk Proposal (from Lake Mary through to the Lake Margaret Power Station and Village) is situated within the THR listed boundaries of the Lake Margaret Power Scheme.

There were some significant constraints in surface visibility across parts of the study area, due to dense vegetation cover and difficulty accessing some sections of the proposed track, which limited the effective survey coverage of the field survey. The overwhelming impression generated from the field survey assessment is that the archaeological potential is low to very low. If undetected features are present, they are most likely to be subtle features associated with either early mining activity, forestry, or the development of the Lake Margaret Power Scheme. These features would be most likely to occur within the THR listed boundaries of the Lake Margaret Power Scheme.

CHMA (2025) concluded the construction of the proposed infrastructure associated with the Next Iconic Walk is unlikely to have any direct significant impacts on any heritage features associated with the Lake Margaret Power Scheme (see Attachment G - Section: Executive summary, page 1-2).

TWWHA

As noted in Section 3.1.3 of this submission, the Proposal is located near the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area which is on the World Heritage register and National Heritage register.

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

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values of the Proposal area were assessed by Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA), (see Attachment F):

Aboriginal Heritage

The following provides a summary overview of the key findings of the Aboriginal heritage assessment and consultation program undertaken to date for the Proposal. It is again noted that the Aboriginal heritage assessment works are ongoing, as is the engagement and consultation program with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

- The available ethnographic information indicates that the Project Area is situated within the traditional lands of the Peternidic clan from the North West Nation (see Attachment F – Section: 3.0, page 16).
- The Aboriginal Heritage Register (AHR) search results have identified two registered Aboriginal heritage sites that are reported to be situated within a 500m radius of the Proposal area. These are sites AH2379 and AH14132 which are both classified as occupied Aboriginal rockshelters (see Attachment F – Section: 4.4, page 35). Note details of the locations of these sites have been redacted from publicly available documentation to protect these sites.
- The survey assessment resulted in the recording of two Aboriginal heritage sites. Both sites are classified as Occupied Aboriginal rockshelters and correlate with previously recorded Aboriginal sites that have already been placed on the Aboriginal Heritage Register (sites AH2379 and AH14132). Both sites are confirmed as being situated outside the Proposal Area and will be avoided and protected (see Attachment F – Section: 7.1, page 50).

No Aboriginal heritage sites or suspected cultural heritage features have been identified within the actual boundaries of the Proposal area and it is assessed that there is a low to very low potential for undetected Aboriginal heritage sites to be present (see Attachment F – Section: 7.2, page 55).

3.4 Hydrology

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

The Next Iconic Walk proposes to use renewable energy sources (a combination of micro-hydro and solar) to provide power to the overnight nodes for the Proposal. A key feature of the huts is that they are intended to be primarily powered by micro-hydro schemes, similar to that already in operation at Lake Tahune near Frenchman's Cap. The power supply will primarily be for hut heating and cooking, but electricity would also be used for drying, communications, lighting, ventilation recharging back-up batteries and miscellaneous services. It is noted that some additional power is to be sourced through solar panels to augment the micro-hydro schemes.

As part of the design process, a hydrological assessment was undertaken by Island Renewables to determine the viability of micro-hydro at these two sites and to provide a hydrological baseline for Entura's aquatic ecology assessment.

Island Renewables (2024) notes the Lake Huntley site is extremely well suited for micro-hydro with the steep topography immediately downstream of the lake providing the benefit of short pipe and cable runs with approximately 60 m of static head available. With the design load and inclusion of the site's maximum PV solar capacity, the micro-hydro will have negligible effect on the lake levels and outflows (see Attachment M – Executive Summary, page 7).

Similarly, Island Renewables (2024) indicates the Lake Mary site also has a very good micro-hydro opportunity using the outflow of Lake Mary which has a good size catchment, 70 m of static head, and an outflow structure suitable for repurposing as the intake for the micro-hydro. The proximity of the Lake Mary turbine to the proposed walking track alignment potentially presents some noise issues which may require a slight re-alignment of the walking track and/or turbine positioning. With the proposed design load and hybrid system design, the micro-hydro will have negligible effect on lake levels and outflows (see Attachment M – Executive Summary, page 7).

Lake Mary Catchment

Lake Mary is at 730 m a.s.l and is the last of five small lakes which enter Lake Margaret as part of the Lake Margaret Power Scheme. Historically, the raising of lake levels via the stop logs on the outlet stream allowed Hydro Tasmania to store winter flows to be released to Lake Margaret for additional power generation over summer. The stop logs are now permanently closed. The Yolande River (hereafter referred to as the lake outflow or outflow stream) exits the southern point of the lake and flows for 560 m before entering Lake Margaret (see Attachment B - Figure 2.1, page 5 and Section: 3.2.1, page 9).

Figure 4.1 (see Attachment N – Figure 4.1, page 11) shows the location and catchment area of Lake Mary which comprises an area of 4.64 km2.

Lake Huntley Catchment

Lake Huntley is directly next to the Tyndall Range on Tasmania's West Coast at approximately 725 m a.s.l and is situated within the Lake Beatrice Conservation Area. The outlet from the lake forms the headwaters of the Anthony River, which continues in a north easterly direction for 1.8 km to Lake Rolleston. After Lake Rolleston, the Anthony River flows for another 2 km before its natural course is inundated and regulated by Lake Plimsoll for hydro power generation. Lake Huntley is a crater lake at the head of a glacial valley and the cliffs of the Tyndall Range directly abut the western shore of the lake (see Attachment B - Figure 2.2 and Section: 3.3.1, page 26).

Figure 5.1 (see Attachment N - Figure 5.1, Page 18) shows the location and catchment area of Lake Huntley which comprises an area of 1.8 km2, with the lake making up 25% of the catchment area.

The hydrological modelling of the proposed impact of the micro-hydro system was assessed by the Hydro-Electric Corporation (trading as Entura) and the key findings were: (see Attachment N).

Streamflow simulations have been developed representing inflows and catchment storage. From these, streamflow duration curves have been derived, both with and without maximum hydro utilisation. The results are presented as flow reliability (see Attachment N - Table 6.1, page 25). The flow exceedance curves are provided in Attachment N - Appendix B, page 28. Within the limitations of the modelling (see Attachment N - Section: 6.1, page 25) the modelled flows indicate that water reliability appears very high for operation under 10 l/s and high for operation under 20 l/s.

The reliability results presented here are conservative because they do not consider supplementation with solar operation which would reduce the use of the hydro-turbines, particularly over summer when solar operation would be highest and when flows are likely to be at their lowest. Operation of the micro-hydro system under conditions supporting primarily solar operation is discussed in a separate report by Island Renewables (2024) (see Attachment M*).* The operational flow regime that is assessed in the aquatic ecology report has solar operation included (See Attachment B).

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

TWWHA Impact Assessment

The Proposal is not located in or immediately adjacent to the TWWHA, which is located approximately 6 km from the closest point of the Proposal (see Map 1 - Regional Context Map in Attachment P).

ECO*tas* (2025) noted that the Proposal was not within a World Heritage property and more the 5 km outside the boundary and did not consider the impacts on natural values of the TWWHA further on that basis (see Attachment E – Section: Summary of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from project area, page 14).

The MNES Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1, set out the significance impact criteria for each MNES, which are intended to assist in determining whether the impacts of a project on a MNES are likely to be significant impacts.

The significant impact criteria for World Heritage areas state:

An action is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a declared World Heritage property if there is a real chance or possibility that it will cause:

- *one or more of the World Heritage values to be lost*
- *one or more of the World Heritage values to be degraded or damaged, or*
- *one or more of the World Heritage values to be notably altered, modified, obscured or diminished.*

Similarly, the significant impact criteria for National Heritage places state:

An action is likely to have a significant impact on the National Heritage values of a National Heritage place if there is a real chance or possibility that it will cause:

- *one or more of the National Heritage values to be lost*
- *one or more of the National Heritage values to be degraded or damaged, or*
- *one or more of the National Heritage values to be notably altered, modified, obscured or diminished.*

Within these overarching significant impact criteria, the MNES Significant Impact Guidelines provide examples of the levels of impact on a World Heritage and National Heritage values that are likely to be significant. These are examples and are not intended to be exhaustive, but nonetheless provide a gauge against which self-assessment can be made. These examples are separated, in the guidelines, for World Heritage and National Heritage and also those places with natural heritage values, cultural heritage values and indigenous heritage values. The following sections provide an analysis of the project against these examples, to assist in determining the likelihood of a significant impact.

World Heritage values are the natural and cultural heritage values contained within the property and are derived from the Statement of Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) outlines in the TWWHA Management Plan (2016, page 224), refer: < www.nre.tas.gov.au/conservation/tasmanian-wilderness-world-heritage-area-(twwha)/twwha-management-plan>

An action is likely to have a significant impact on natural heritage values of a World Heritage property/National Heritage place if there is a real chance or possibility that the action will result in one or more of the following outcomes. The information in Table 3 and 4 (see attachment O, Table 3, page 3-7, and Table 4, page 8-12) reviews the proposal against the Matters of National Environmental Significance, Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 for World Heritage properties.

Insert: Attachment O, Table 3 - Significant impact considerations for World/National Heritage properties with natural heritage values

Insert: Attachment O, Table 4 - Significant impact considerations for World/National Heritage properties with cultural and Indigenous heritage values

A summary of the key points from Table 3 and Table 4 include:

- The built infrastructure at the overnight nodes has been located so it will not be visible from the TWWHA and this has been confirmed through a landscape and visual impact assessment (see Attachment C referenced in Table 3).
- The Proposal is 6 km from the TWWHA boundary at the closest point (which is not a point accessed by visitors to the TWWHA).
- The closest hut site is 10.5 km from the nearest peak in the TWWHA (with no recognised track and only a route not promoted by the PWS), 18 km form the closest recognised walking track (on the Lyell Highway) and 32 km from the closest walking track not accessible by car within the TWWHA.
- In comparison the Lake Spicer Track (a 4WD vehicle track) is 2.7 km from the TWWHA boundary at the closest point and sits between the Proposal and the TWWHA. The area is covered by a mineral exploration licence and on occasions remote drilling rigs have been in place in this area.
- Other notable infrastructure in the area in close proximity to the TWWHA includes:
    - Anthony Dam - 4.5 km from the TWWHA Boundary
    - Murchison Dam - 3.1 km from Victoria Peak in the TWWHA
    - Anthony Road (the highway between Tullah and Queenstown) - 3.5 km from Victoria Peak in the TWWHA
    - Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre and village - 270 m from the TWWHA boundary and 8.5 km from Marions Lookout (a notable high point on a recognised walking track in the TWWHA).
- The Proposal will not impact Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the TWWHA or any Aboriginal heritage sites in the immediate footprint of the Proposal area. The Aboriginal Heritage Officers commended the PWS for locating the Proposal outside the TWWHA (see Attachment F referenced in Table 4).
- The preferred helicopter mobilisation routes will be from Latrobe or Launceston (due to proximity and reduced cost) and will avoid overflight of the TWWHA. Helicopters mobilising from Hobart will follow the *Fly Neighbourly Advice for the WHA* Noise and fly at a minimum of 4000 ft (and as high as possible and safe to do so), avoid sensitive areas, and fly over the Lyell Highway which has a lower wilderness quality rating to the rest of the TWWHA due to the presence of the highway and vehicle traffic (See Attachment A referenced in Table 3). Refer below on mitigations relating to helicopter operations.

Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

Potential environmental impacts and excessive noise associated with traffic (including helicopters) during construction (see Attachment A – Appendix B, page 159).

- Low noise generating plant and equipment will be used where practicable. Noise emitting equipment will be regularly inspected, maintained and replaced (as required) in accordance with the PWS asset management system.
- Ensure any machinery to be used is muffled, well maintained and in good working order.
- During construction, operation of noise generating machinery and equipment will be restricted, where applicable, in accordance with the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Noise) Regulations 2016*.
- Speed limits will be applied to access roads to the Proposal Site (e.g. Lake Spicer Track). Construction traffic will be restricted to daylight hours where practicable and closure of Lake Spicer Track may be required in some limited circumstances.
- Helicopters will use set flight paths and avoid the TWWHA where possible. When required, the helicopters will operate in accordance with the *Fly Neighbourly Advice for the WHA*. The set flight paths are to avoid the Tyndall Plateau and known or formalised walking tracks. Signage will be placed at the entrance to the Tyndall Track to notify users of potential operations in the area.

Disturbance of Aboriginal heritage during excavation and site clearing (see Attachment A – Appendix B, page 155).

- All construction personnel will be made aware of the Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) and their obligations under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*. This will be facilitated through the implementation of a Cultural Heritage Awareness induction for contractors. A copy of the UDP will be kept on site during all ground disturbance and construction work.
- All PWS staff and tourism operators who undertake regular management, research or other activities associated with the Proposal will complete the Aboriginal Heritage Awareness Training (AHAT) modules that have been developed by Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania.
- Areas proposed for development for the NIW that were inaccessible during the Aboriginal cultural heritage survey will be surveyed when initial vegetation clearing has been completed. The results of the survey will be presented in a separate Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

The TWWHA is also recognised as a National Heritage site (see section 4.1.1.3 of this submission for a discussion on World Heritage impacts that equally applies to National Heritage). No other National Heritage sites are located within or adjacent to the Proposal footprint. The nearest National Heritage Place after the TWWHA is the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape, which is around 50km north west of the NIW Proposal.

Table 3 and Table 4 in Attachment O (see section 4.1.1.3 in this submission) provide a detailed review of the Proposal against the significant impact guidelines with no element of the Proposal suggesting a significant impact on the TWWHA natural values or Aboriginal cultural heritage values. A summary of the key points from these tables include:

- The built infrastructure at the overnight nodes has been located so it will not be visible from the TWWHA and this has been confirmed through a landscape and visual impact assessment.
- The Proposal is 6 km from the TWWHA boundary at the closest point (which is not a point accessed by visitors to the TWWHA).
- The closest hut site is 10.5 km from the nearest peak in the TWWHA (with no recognised track and only a route not promoted by the PWS), 18 km form the closest recognised walking track (on the Lyell Highway) and 32 km from the closest walking track not accessible by car within the TWWHA.
- In comparison the Lake Spicer Track (a 4WD vehicle track) is 2.7 km from the TWWHA boundary at the closest point and sits between the Proposal and the TWWHA. The area is covered by a mineral exploration licence and on occasions remote drilling rigs have been in places in this area.
- Other notable infrastructure in the area in close proximity to the TWWHA includes:
    - Anthony Dam - 4.5 km from the TWWHA Boundary
    - Murchison Dam - 3.1 km from Victoria Peak in the TWWHA
    - Anthony Road (the highway between Tullah and Queenstown) - 3.5 km from Victoria Peak in the TWWHA
    - Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre and village - 270 m from the TWWHA boundary and 8.5 km from Marions Lookout (a notable high point on a recognised walking track in the TWWHA).
- The Proposal will not impact Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the TWWHA or any Aboriginal heritage sites in the immediate footprint of the Proposal area (see section 4.1.2.10 referring to mitigation measures associated with helicopter use near the TWWHA). The Aboriginal Heritage Officers commended the PWS for locating the Proposal outside the TWWHA.

The preferred helicopter mobilisation routes will be from Latrobe or Launceston (due to proximity and reduced cost) and will avoid overflight of the TWWHA. Helicopters mobilising from Hobart will follow the *Fly Neighbourly Advice for the WHA* Noise and fly at a minimum of 4000 ft (and as high as possible and safe to do so), avoid sensitive areas, and fly over the Lyell Highway which has a lower wilderness quality rating to the rest of the TWWHA due to the presence of the highway and vehicle traffic.

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.

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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. *

No Ramsar Wetlands are located within the Proposal footprint. No Ramsar Wetlands are located downstream of or adjacent to the Proposal footprint.

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	Yes	Aquila audax fleayi	Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, Wedge-tailed Eagle (Tasmanian)
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	Yes	Carinascincus microlepidotus	Boulder Cool-skink, Southern Snow Skink
No	Yes	Carinascincus orocryptus	Heath Cool-skink, Mountain Skink
No	No	Ceyx azureus diemenensis	Tasmanian Azure Kingfisher
No	Yes	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (Tasmanian population)	Spotted-tail Quoll, Spot-tailed Quoll, Tiger Quoll (Tasmanian population)
No	Yes	Dasyurus viverrinus	Eastern Quoll, Luaner
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor	Hoary Sunray, Grassland Paper-daisy
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Prototroctes maraena	Australian Grayling
No	No	Pseudocephalozia paludicola	Alpine Leafy Liverwort
No	No	Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera	Gould's Petrel, Australian Gould's Petrel
No	Yes	Sarcophilus harrisii	Tasmanian Devil
No	No	Tyto novaehollandiae castanops (Tasmanian population)	Masked Owl (Tasmanian)

Ecological communities

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

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

Yes

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

The impact of the Proposal on threatened species (at both State and Commonwealth level) was assessed by ECO*tas* (see of Attachment D - Section: Summary of Key Findings, page 116-120). ECO*tas* (2025) also produced an addendum to their main report that focused specifically on assessing the impacts to matters of national environmental significance (see Attachment E). A summary of the key findings of these two reports are listed below.

Threatened Vegetation Communities

The study area does not support ecological communities listed on the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). ECO*tas* (2025) noted that the Protected Matters Report by the Commonwealth of Australia in 2024 identified the following threatened ecological communities may, or are likely to, occur within the area:

- Alpine *Sphagnum* Bogs and Associated Fens [Endangered];
- Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by Black Gum or Brookers Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / E*. brookeriana*) [Critically Endangered]; and
- Tasmanian White Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) Wet Forest [Critically Endangered].

Through on-site surveys, twenty different TASVEG vegetation mapping units were identified across the Proposal area. None of the identified mapping units equate to threatened ecological communities listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. On this basis, the Proposal as indicated would not impact on listed threatened vegetation communities (see Attachment D - Section: Additional “Matters of National Environmental Significance” – Threatened Ecological Communities, page 106 and Appendix A, page 140-155 and Attachment E – Section: Summary of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from project area, page 2).

Threatened flora

The study area does not support threatened flora species listed under the EPBC Act, nor significant potential habitat of such species, noting that site assessment has not identified any such species. ECO*tas* (2025) noted that the Protected Matters Report by the Commonwealth of Australia in 2024 identified the following threatened ecological communities may, or are likely to, occur within the area (see Table 5 in Attachment O, page 12.

See Attachment O, Table 5. Listed threatened flora, as listed in CofA (2024)

On the basis of the review in Table 5, the Proposal as indicated would not impact on listed threatened flora (see Attachment D -Section: Threatened Flora, page 54 and Appendix C, page 160-161 and Attachment E – Section: Summary of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from project area, Table 1, page 2-3).

Threatened fauna

Several fauna species listed as threatened on the Commonwealth EPBC Act and/or the Tasmanian TSPA are known from database information, or were detected as a consequence of field assessment, from the study area (see Attachment D – Section: Threatened Fauna, page 2). ECO*tas* (2025) noted that the Protected Matters Report by the Commonwealth of Australia in 2024 identified a number of threatened fauna species or species’ habitat that may occur within the area (see Table 6 in Attachment O, page 13-21) taken from ECO*tas* (2025) (see Attachment E – Section: Summary of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from project area, Table 2, page 3-10) and summarised below:

- *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil) [EPBC Act: Endangered (EN); TSPA: endangered (e)] – records from the wider area and four scat locations recorded as part of present study;
- *Dasyurus maculatus* subsp. *maculatus* (spotted tailed quoll) [EPBC Act: Vulnerable (VU); TSPA: r] – records from the wider area and one scat location recorded as part of present study; and
- *Dasyurus viverrinus* (eastern quoll) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – records from the wider area but no direct evidence from present study.

The study area is considered to support potential habitat (to varying degrees of marginality) of the following threatened fauna species:

- *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: e] – potential habitat widespread but no evidence of active dens recorded (some limited potential denning habitat under large erratics, scats recorded);
- *Dasyurus maculatus* subsp. *maculatus* (spotted tailed quoll) [EPBC Act: VU; TSPA: r] – see above;
- *Dasyurus viverrinus* (eastern quoll) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – see above;
- *Aquila audax* subsp. *fleayi* (Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: e] – no known nests within 1,000 m of study area; marginal potential nesting habitat in relatively nearby Dante Rivulet gully system searched with no nests detected;
- *Haliaeetus* [syn. *Ichthyophaga*] *leucogaster* (white-bellied sea-eagle) [EPBC Act: -; TSPA: vulnerable (v] – assessment and conclusions as for wedge-tailed eagle;
- *Carinascincus microlepidotus* (boulder cool-skink) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – within recently modelled range with potential habitat present; and
- *Carinascincus orocryptus* (heath cool-skink) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – within recently modelled range but with highly marginal potential habitat present.

See Attachment O, Table 6. Listed threatened fauna, as listed in CofA (2024)

- *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil) [EPBC Act: Endangered (EN); TSPA: endangered (e)] – records from the wider area and four scat locations recorded as part of present study;
- *Dasyurus maculatus* subsp. *maculatus* (spotted tailed quoll) [EPBC Act: Vulnerable (VU); TSPA: r] – records from the wider area and one scat location recorded as part of present study; and
- *Dasyurus viverrinus* (eastern quoll) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – records from the wider area but no direct evidence from present study.

The study area is considered to support potential habitat (to varying degrees of marginality) of the following threatened fauna species:

- *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: e] – potential habitat widespread but no evidence of active dens recorded (some limited potential denning habitat under large erratics, scats recorded);
- *Dasyurus maculatus* subsp. *maculatus* (spotted tailed quoll) [EPBC Act: VU; TSPA: r] – see above;
- *Dasyurus viverrinus* (eastern quoll) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – see above;
- *Aquila audax* subsp. *fleayi* (Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: e] – no known nests within 1,000 m of study area; marginal potential nesting habitat in relatively nearby Dante Rivulet gully system searched with no nests detected;
- *Haliaeetus* [syn. *Ichthyophaga*] *leucogaster* (white-bellied sea-eagle) [EPBC Act: -; TSPA: vulnerable (v] – assessment and conclusions as for wedge-tailed eagle;
- *Carinascincus microlepidotus* (boulder cool-skink) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – within recently modelled range with potential habitat present; and
- *Carinascincus orocryptus* (heath cool-skink) [EPBC Act: EN; TSPA: -] – within recently modelled range but with highly marginal potential habitat present.

Each of these species are considered separately in section 4.1.4.6 of the submission against the significant impact guidelines.

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

No

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

ECO*tas* (2025) in their assessment of natural values across the proposal area, indicated that the only MNES that required further consideration under the *Guidelines* is the potential habitat of a small suite of listed fauna species, which are considered in the Table 7-10 in Attachment O (page 22-33) (see Attachment E – Section: Species-by-species consideration of Guidelines, pages 16 - 27).

See Table 7 (Attachment O, page 22-24). Assessment against Significant Impact Criteria for **Vulnerable mammalian species** under the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1*

On the basis of the review of the criteria for **Vulnerable species** under the *Significant Impact Guidelines* policy statement (CofA 2013) presented in Table 7, the proposal would not result in significant impacts.

Table 8a (Attachment O, page 25-26). Assessment against Significant Impact Criteria for **Endangered mammalian species (Tasmanian devil)** under the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1*

Table 8b (Attachment O, page 27-28). Assessment against Significant Impact Criteria for **Endangered mammalian species (eastern quoll)** under the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1*

*On the basis of the review of the criteria for **Endangered mammalian species** under the Significant Impact Guidelines policy statement (CofA 2013) presented in Table 8a and 8b, the proposal as indicated would not result in significant impacts.*

Table 9a* (Attachment O, page 29-30). Assessment against Significant Impact Criteria for **Endangered reptilian species (boulder cool-skink)** under the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1*

Table 9b (Attachment O, page 31). Assessment against Significant Impact Criteria for **Endangered reptilian species (heath cool-skink)** under the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1*

On the basis of the review of the criteria for **Endangered reptile species** under the *Significant Impact Guidelines* policy statement (CofA 2013) presented in Table 9a and 9b, the proposal as indicated would not result in significant impacts.

Table 10 (Attachment O, page 32-33). Assessment against Significant Impact Criteria for **Endangered avian species** under the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1*

On the basis of the review of the criteria for **Endangered avian species** under the *Significant Impact Guidelines* policy statement (CofA 2013) presented in Table 10, the proposal as indicated would not result in significant impacts.

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. *

The Proposal is not considered a controlled action in relation to threatened flora species and ecological communities because the area does not support any ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act or any threatened flora species or significant potential habitat of such species.

The Proposal is not considered a controlled action in relation to threatened fauna species because the assessment of several listed fauna species that have potential habitat did not identify any significant impacts when assessed against the significant impact guidelines (see section 4.1.4.6 of the submission).

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. *

Disturbance of habitat for threatened fauna (see Attachment D - Section: Threatened Fauna, page 132 and Attachment A – Appendix B, page 156).

Apart from the generic commitment to minimise the extent of “clearance and conversion” and/or “disturbance” to native vegetation, specific management in relation to threatened fauna is not required or proposed.

If any features suspected of being a den of the Tasmanian devil or spotted-tailed quoll are detected during construction (noting that no such features have been detected to date), works will cease within 50 m of any such feature and specialist advice sought from a suitably qualified ecologist (to determine the status of the feature). If a den is confirmed, management actions will be determined in consultation with officers from NRE Tas, but generally in accordance with *Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals that may Impact on the Tasmanian Devil (Sarcophilus harrisii)* (DPIPWE 2015).

Excessive vegetation disturbance (see Attachment A – Appendix B, page 157).

- Vegetation disturbance will be limited to the proposed construction footprint. The proposed construction footprint will be clearly articulated to the construction contractor through electronic means, onsite documentation and (where appropriate) physical demarcation. It will be specified that all works, vehicles and materials will be confined to the designated impact areas.

- For areas of specific ecological value (e.g. threatened flora locations) that are not within the final Proposal footprint and can be retained, exclusion zones will apply. These will be marked on construction plans, communicated to all construction personnel and, where they lie adjacent to the works area, will also be physically cordoned off with temporary fencing (or similar) to avoid inadvertent impacts.

- Site inductions will include information on threatened flora species to assist in identification.

- Where possible, Proposal elements are to be micro-sited during construction to avoid threatened flora species. Appropriate permits will be sought for any residual impact on threatened flora species.

- Disturbed areas and temporary vegetation clearance will be rehabilitated to the pre-existing native vegetation community upon completion of construction.

- Cleared native vegetation will be left on site (outside of HMAs) in a stable condition to provide ongoing habitat.

- Mats should be used to protect vegetation from trampling during construction.

Introduction and spread of noxious weeds, vermin, feral species or pathogens into the area (see Attachment A – Appendix B, page 157).

- Potential biosecurity impacts during construction and are to be managed through the Biosecurity Plan.

- The risk of importing contaminated materials during construction will be reduced by sourcing materials from sites which have been subject to a weed and disease hygiene assessment and identified as being free of weeds and pathogens.

- All construction vehicles, machinery (including helicopter skids), and equipment will be cleaned in accordance with the Tasmanian Washdown Guidelines for Weed and Disease Control (DPIPWE, 2004). Washdown will be undertaken:

- Prior to equipment/machinery arriving on site
- After operating within an infested/infected area, or after transporting weeds or soil known to be infected with a weed seed or plant pathogen
- Prior to working in proximity to waterways.

- Washdown points will include effective effluent management systems as outlined in the Tasmanian Washdown Guidelines for Weed and Disease Control (DPIPWE, 2004).

- Construction materials must be stockpiled away from soils infected with Phytophthora (for example, storage on the Lake Spicer Track or at the service and construction depots must be separate from in situ soils).

- The following measures will avoid damage to mature myrtle trees vulnerable to myrtle wilt:

- Machinery will be 'stepped back' at least 3 m from the base of the tree to minimise risk of contact. If contact might occur, the trunk will be wrapped with a temporary protector such as hessian or a tarpaulin to minimise damage to bark.
- Damage to low-hanging branches of mature myrtles will be avoided.
- The use of mature myrtles as braces for infrastructure (e.g. bridges) will be avoided.
- Long-term storage of materials against mature myrtles will be avoided.

- Construction vehicles and machinery must remain on formed tracks during upgrade works to the entrance of the Lake Spicer Track.

- Potential biosecurity impacts during construction and are to be managed through the Biosecurity Plan.

Excessive noise during the construction phase associated with vehicles (including helicopters) (see Attachment A – Appendix B, page 159).

- Low noise generating plant and equipment will be used where practicable. Noise emitting equipment will be regularly inspected, maintained and replaced (as required) in accordance with the PWS asset management system.

- Ensure any machinery to be used is muffled, well maintained and in good working order.

- During construction, operation of noise generating machinery and equipment will be restricted, where applicable, in accordance with the Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Noise) Regulations 2016.

- Speed limits will be applied to access roads to the Proposal Site (e.g. Lake Spicer Track). Construction traffic will be restricted to daylight hours where practicable and closure of Lake Spicer Track may be required in some limited circumstances.

- Helicopters will use set flight paths and avoid the TWWHA where possible. When required, the helicopters will operate in accordance with the fly neighbourly advice for the TWWHA and Mount Field National Park. The set flight paths are to avoid the Tyndall Plateau and known or formalised walking tracks. Signage will be placed at the entrance to the Tyndall Track to notify users of potential operations in the area.

Excessive lighting impact on the surrounding environment, including to fauna during construction (see Attachment A – Appendix B, page 160).

- Minimise work being conducted outside of daylight hours.

- No lighting to be left on when the site is vacant of personnel.

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

As there are no significant impacts to threatened ecological communities, flora or fauna, no offsets are required.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
No	No	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail

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

No

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

The impact of the Proposal on migratory species was assessed by ECO*tas* (see Attachment D - Section: Appendix D, page 162 – 167 and Attachment E – Section: Summary of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from project area, Table 3, page 10 - 14). Table 11 in Attachment O (page 34-37) shows ECO*tas*' assessment of each listed migratory species or species' habitat is likely to, or may, occur within the area.

Insert: Attachment O Table 11, page 34-37: Listed migratory species, as listed in CofA (2024)

The proposed action will not substantially modify (including by fragmenting, altering fire regimes, altering nutrient cycles or altering hydrological cycles), destroy or isolate an area of important habitat for a migratory species; result in an invasive species that is harmful to the migratory species becoming established in an area of important habitat for the migratory species; or seriously disrupt the lifecycle (breeding, feeding, migration or resting behaviour) of an ecologically significant proportion of the population of a migratory species.

The proposed action will result in a very small proportion of potential habitat loss with removal of larger trees avoided during track construction and hut sites located in open areas free of large trees. The area of potential impact is effectively a negligible proportion of the extent of potential habitat in the area. The proposed action will not have a significant impact on migratory species and is not a controlled action.

Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

Apart from the generic recommendation to minimise the extent of "clearance and conversion" and/or "disturbance" to native vegetation, along with the general management strategies outlined below, no specific management in relation to migratory species is required or proposed.

Excessive vegetation disturbance (see Attachment A – Appendix B, page 157).

- Vegetation disturbance will be limited to the proposed construction footprint. The proposed construction footprint will be clearly articulated to the construction contractor through electronic means, onsite documentation and (where appropriate) physical demarcation. It will be specified that all works, vehicles and materials will be confined to the designated impact areas.
- For areas of specific ecological value (e.g. threatened flora locations) that are not within the final Proposal footprint and can be retained, exclusion zones will apply. These will be marked on construction plans, communicated to all construction personnel and, where they lie adjacent to the works area, will also be physically cordoned off with temporary fencing (or similar) to avoid inadvertent impacts.
- Site inductions will include information on threatened flora species to assist in identification.
- Where possible, Proposal elements are to be micro-sited during construction to avoid threatened flora species. Appropriate permits will be sought for any residual impact on threatened flora species.
- Disturbed areas and temporary vegetation clearance will be rehabilitated to the pre-existing native vegetation community upon completion of construction.
- Cleared native vegetation will be left on site (outside of HMAs) in a stable condition to provide ongoing habitat.
- Mats should be used to protect vegetation from trampling during construction.

Introduction and spread of noxious weeds, vermin, feral species or pathogens into the area (see Attachment A – Appendix B, page 157).

- Potential biosecurity impacts during construction and are to be managed through the Biosecurity Plan.
- The risk of importing contaminated materials during construction will be reduced by sourcing materials from sites which have been subject to a weed and disease hygiene assessment and

identified as being free of weeds and pathogens.
- All construction vehicles, machinery (including helicopter skids), and equipment will be cleaned in accordance with the Tasmanian Washdown Guidelines for Weed and Disease Control (DPIPWE, 2004). Washdown will be undertaken:
    - Prior to equipment/machinery arriving on site
    - After operating within an infested/infected area, or after transporting weeds or soil known to be infected with a weed seed or plant pathogen
    - Prior to working in proximity to waterways.
- Washdown points will include effective effluent management systems as outlined in the Tasmanian Washdown Guidelines for Weed and Disease Control (DPIPWE, 2004).
- Construction materials must be stockpiled away from soils infected with Phytophthora (for example, storage on the Lake Spicer Track or at the service and construction depots must be separate from in situ soils).
- The following measures will avoid damage to mature myrtle trees vulnerable to myrtle wilt:
    - Machinery will be 'stepped back' at least 3 m from the base of the tree to minimise risk of contact. If contact might occur, the trunk will be wrapped with a temporary protector such as hessian or a tarpaulin to minimise damage to bark.
    - Damage to low-hanging branches of mature myrtles will be avoided.
    - The use of mature myrtles as braces for infrastructure (e.g. bridges) will be avoided.
    - Long-term storage of materials against mature myrtles will be avoided.
- Construction vehicles and machinery must remain on formed tracks during upgrade works to the entrance to the Lake Spicer Track.
- Potential biosecurity impacts during construction and are to be managed through the Biosecurity Plan.

Excessive noise during the construction phase associated with vehicles (including helicopters) (see Attachment A – Appendix B, page 159).

- Low noise generating plant and equipment will be used where practicable. Noise emitting equipment will be regularly inspected, maintained and replaced (as required) in accordance with the PWS asset management system.
- Ensure any machinery to be used is muffled, well maintained and in good working order.
- During construction, operation of noise generating machinery and equipment will be restricted, where applicable, in accordance with the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Noise) Regulations 2016*.
- Speed limits will be applied to access roads to the Proposal Site (e.g. Lake Spicer Track). Construction traffic will be restricted to daylight hours where practicable and closure of Lake Spicer Track may be required in some limited circumstances.
- Helicopters will use set flight paths and avoid the TWWHA where possible. When required, the helicopters will operate in accordance with the fly neighbourly advice for the TWWHA and Mount Field National Park. The set flight paths are to avoid the Tyndall Plateau and known or formalised walking tracks. Signage will be placed at the entrance to the Tyndall Track to notify users of potential operations in the area.

Excessive lighting impact on the surrounding environment, including to fauna during construction (see Attachment A – Appendix B, page 160).

- Minimise work being conducted outside of daylight hours.
- No lighting to be left on when the site is vacant of personnel.

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

The proposed action is not related to or adjacent to any nuclear activities.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

The proposed action is wholly terrestrial and not within or adjacent to a Commonwealth marine protected area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The proposed action is within Tasmania and not within or adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef.

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

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

No

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

The proposed action is not related to large coal mining development or coal seam gas.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

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

No

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

The proposed action is not 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.

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

No

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

The proposed action is in Tasmania and not within or adjacent to Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

The primary objective of the Next Iconic Walk is to create a multi-day walking experience featuring overnight accommodation in the specific geographical area (identified in the location assessment report - see Attachment I). It will be a new track and a new experience in response to a clear demand for more walking opportunities demonstrated through the feasibility study (see Attachment J).

If the track is not built there will be a level of unmet demand for overnight walking tracks and increasing pressure placed on existing overnight walks across Tasmania. Many of the more popular walks are experiencing increasing environmental and social impacts with increasing numbers and crowding at campsites. In response to these pressures, the PWS introduced a registration scheme for the more popular overnight walks during covid-19. These are consistently booked out during the peak summer walking season – illustrating the strong demand for overnight walking in Tasmania. As these walks are booked out people tend to explore less popular or less well-known areas where the track and campsite infrastructure may not be as well developed as on the popular walks. Therefore, if the track is not built there is likely to be increased unstructured use of the Tyndall Range area which inevitably involves off track walking and camping at sites that have not been hardened to minimise the environmental impacts. Similarly, these areas often do not have toilets, so unless walkers are carrying out their own waste there are the potential environmental impacts associated with back country toileting.

Additionally, if the track is not built there will also be unrealised economic benefits that are anticipated to flow from the project, particularly to the West Coast, which does not have the diversity of employment opportunities seen in other regions of Tasmania. The job opportunities for people on the west coast will remain with the traditional employers and the tendency for young people to move away from the area for education and employment will continue.

Alternatives Considered in Development of the Proposal

A range of alternatives were considered in the development of the Proposal through various consultation activities, market research, environmental and heritage investigations, and economic modelling.

Location

The Tyndall Range region was selected as the location for the Next Iconic Walk following an assessment of public proposals and previous investigations into Tasmania's potential walk offerings (PWS, 2019). Thirty-five (35) different locations across Tasmania were assessed to determine the location for the Proposal. The locations were assessed for the experience they offered visitors, potential environmental impacts, economic benefits, level of community support, and constructability/servicing considerations (PWS, 2019). Further information on location selection assessment process and locations assessed can be found in Attachment I (Appendix 1, page 17-42 and Appendix 2, page 43-44) or refer: < www.parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/projects-and-programs/next-iconic-walk/project-updates>.

Walk Options

Once the Tyndall Range was selected as the preferred location for the walk, 50 potential walk options within the Tyndall Range region were then developed and investigated by PWS. Preliminary assessments of environmental and cultural heritage values helped inform the different track and hut location options. Ultimately, five options were developed for market testing and following market testing, two options proceeded to the detailed feasibility study and were subject to a cost-benefit analysis (a two-day, one-night loop track and a three-day, two-night through track). The feasibility study identified the preferred option as a three-day two-night hut-based through walk starting near Lake Plimsoll and ending at Lake Margaret Village (SGS Economics & Planning, 2021) (see Attachment J - Section 5.5, page 35 and Section 5.7, page 42) or refer: < www.parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/projects-and-programs/next-iconic-walk/project-updates>.

Following the feasibility study further refinement of the track alignment and overnight node locations has occurred. The locations of the accommodation nodes have been informed by a variety of technical assessments, including input from environmental, heritage, engineering, construction and visual impact specialists.

Key requirements for the macro-siting of the accommodation nodes included:

- Avoiding known Aboriginal heritage sites and features.
- Avoiding or minimising potential impacts to threatened flora and fauna.
- Avoiding the environmentally sensitive Tyndall Plateau rich in endemic flora.
- Minimising potential visual and landscape impacts from key objective points on the Tyndall Plateau, in particular, selected high points such as Mt Geike and Mt Tyndall.
- Minimising potential visual and landscape impacts from the TWWHA, particularly from the closest high point at Eldon Peak.
- Minimising potential visual and landscape impacts to/from the Lake Spicer Track.
- Siting the accommodation nodes to optimise visitor experience, including walking distance, elevation and visual amenity.
- Optimising solar access (based on studies of sun shading by geographical features at various times of the year).
- Siting the accommodation nodes for protection from wind and other weather conditions.
- Siting the accommodation nodes near significant water bodies for back up water sources in the event of a bushfire.

Hut Locations

From the perspective of this referral under the EPBC Act, a notable alternative that was subsequently discounted was the second overnight node location. The second overnight node was proposed for a site on the peak of a small knoll/hill sitting below ‘The Chin’ and Mt Geikie at the end of the Tyndall Range near Solo Tarn. Various concept designs for the buildings in this location were developed, and all of these would have been visible from the nearest mountain peak in the TWWHA (Eldon Peak). The potential visual impact on the TWWHA was one of the key considerations in the decision to move the overnight node from this location to a site closer to Lake Mary, approximately 200 m lower in elevation, that would not be visible from the TWWHA. The first overnight node has always been located near Lake Huntley (although initially relocated after an assessment of solar angles and shading) and will not be visible from the TWWHA.

Campground Location

An alternative campground between the two overnight nodes was also considered, and designed, as an option to differentiate hut-based and tent-based accommodation. However, the separate camping node was removed from the proposal, and tent platforms will instead be provided at the Lake Huntley and Lake Mary overnight nodes. In part this was in response to feedback from bushwalkers during public information sessions (concerned about safety along with servicing and management of this site) but also to reduce the environmental impacts of accommodation nodes (including infrastructure, number of toilets and servicing requirements). The change reduces the overall development footprint compared to the previous alternative proposed and simplifies the servicing requirements / number of operational flights each year.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Next Iconic Walk Enviornmental Impact Statement -Era Advisory- 2 September 2025.pdf Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposal	02/09/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att AA – EIS Appendix T – Bushfire Hazard Management Plan - Era - 24 Feb 2024 - part 1 pg 1-40.pdf EIS Appendix T - Bushfire Hazard Management Plan - Part 1	23/02/2024	No	High
#3.	Document	Att AA – EIS Appendix T – Bushfire Hazard Management Plan - Era - 24 Feb 2024 - part 2 pg 41-184.pdf EIS Appendix T - Bushfire Hazard Management Plan - Part 2	23/02/2024	No	High
#4.	Document	Att AB – EIS Appendix U – Fire Engineering Report - Safyre - 24 January 2025.pdf EIS Appendix U - Fire Engineering Report	23/01/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Att AC – EIS Appendix Y – Building Services Report - COVA - 25 July 2025.pdf EIS Appendix Y - Building Services Report	25/07/2025	No	High
#6.	Document	Att AD – EIS Appendix Z – Geotechnical Assessment Report - GES - September 2024.pdf EIS Appendix Z - Geotechnical Assessment Report	01/09/2024	No	High
#7.	Document	Att AE – EIS Appendix AA – Landslide Risk Assessment - GES - 18 August 2025.pdf EIS Appendix AA - Landslide Risk Assessment	18/08/2025	No	High
#8.	Document	Att B Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk Aquatic Values Assessment -Entura- 13 September 2024.pdf Aquatic Ecology Values Assessment for the Proposal	13/09/2025	No	High
#9.	Document	Att O Tables 1-11.pdf A combined document of all tables referred to in the submission	05/01/2026	No	High
#10.	Document				

		Att T – EIS Appendix H – Biosecurity Plan - Ecotas - 27 August 2025.pdf EIS Appendix H - Biosecurity Plan	27/08/2025	No	High
#11.	Document	Att U – EIS Appendix I – Site Analysis - Era Advisory - 2 September 2025.pdf EIS Appendix I - Site Analysis - Summary analysis of site values and potential impacts of major components of the Proposal	02/09/2025	No	High
#12.	Document	Att V – EIS Appendix J – Architectural Drawings - JAWS - Part 1 Drawings 1 - 11.pdf Architectural Drawings - part 1 - Drawings 1-11	06/08/2025	No	High
#13.	Document	Att V – EIS Appendix J – Architectural Drawings - JAWS - Part 2 Drawings 12 - 27.pdf Architectural Drawings - part 2 - Drawings 12-27	06/08/2025	No	High
#14.	Document	Att W – EIS Appendix K – Interpretation Identity & Themes - Charlie Bravo Designs - Aug 2025.pdf EIS Appendix K - Interpretation themes and walk identity report	01/07/2024	No	High
#15.	Document	Att X – EIS Appendix N – Stormwater Report - GES - July 2024.pdf EIS Appendix N - Stormwater Report	01/07/2024	No	High
#16.	Document	Att Y – EIS Appendix Q – Visitor Risk Control Plan - PWS - 2 September 2025.pdf EIS Appendix Q - Visitor Risk Control Plan	02/09/2024	No	High
#17.	Document	Att Z – EIS Appendix S – Soil and Water Management Plan - GES - 24 July 2025.pdf EIS Appendix S - Soil and Water Management Plan	24/07/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Next Iconic Walk Enviornmental Impact Statement -Era Advisory- 2 September 2025.pdf Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposal	01/09/2025		High
#2.	Document				

		Att AF – Natural Values Appendix E – NVA Reports - NRE Tas - 27 Mar 2024 ORIGINAL.pdf Appendix to Att D - Natural Values Report - Search results from Natural Values Atlas - Original Version containing sensitive information on location of threatened species and communities	26/03/2024	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att AF – Natural Values Appendix E – NVA Reports - NRE Tas - 27 Mar 2024 REDACTED.pdf Appendix to Att D - Natural Values Report - Search results from Natural Values Atlas - Redacted Version with sensitive information on location of threatened species and communities redacted	26/03/2024	No	High
#4.	Document	Att AG – Natural Values Appendix F – Biodiversity VA Reports - FPA - 27 Mar 2024 ORIGINAL.pdf Appendix to Att D - Biodiversity Values Report - Original Version with sensitive information on location of threatened species and communities	26/03/2024	Yes	High
#5.	Document	Att AG – Natural Values Appendix F – Biodiversity VA Reports - FPA - 27 Mar 2024 REDACTED.pdf Appendix to Att D - Biodiversity Values Report - Redacted Version with sensitive information on location of threatened species and communities redacted	26/03/2024	No	High
#6.	Document	Att AH – Natural Values Appendix G – Protected Matters Report - DCCEEW - 27 March 2024.pdf Appendix to Att D - Protected Matters Report from DCCEEW	26/03/2024	No	High
#7.	Document	Att AI – Natural Values Report App H – NVA Geosite Reports - NRETas - 17 Mar 2024 ORIGINAL.pdf Appendix to Attachment D - Natural Values Atlas Report for Geosites - Original report containing sensitive information on geosite locations	16/03/2024	Yes	High
#8.	Document	Att AI – Natural Values Report App H – NVA Geosite Reports - NRETas - 17 Mar 2024 REDACTED.pdf Appendix to Attachment D - Natural	16/03/2024	No	High

		Values Atlas Geosite Reports - Redacted Version of natural values atlas reports with sensitive information on Geosite locations redacted			
#9.	Document	Att B Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk Aquatic Values Assessment -Entura- 13 September 2024.pdf Aquatic Ecology Values Assessment for the Proposal	12/09/2025	No	High
#10.	Document	Att D Natural Values Assessment of Next Iconic Walk -ECOtas- 31 July 2025.pdf Natural Values Assessment for the Proposal	31/07/2025	No	High
#11.	Document	Att E Natural Values EPBCA Significant Impact Assessment -ECOtas- 1 Dec 2025.pdf Natural Values significant impact assessment for the Proposal	30/11/2025	No	High
#12.	Document	Att F Aboriginal Heritage Assessment - Next Iconic Walk -CHMA- 02 February 2025 - ORIGINAL.pdf Aboriginal heritage assessment original version containing sensitive information	01/02/2025	Yes	High
#13.	Document	Att F Aboriginal Heritage Assessment - Next Iconic Walk -CHMA- 02 February 2025 - REDACTED.pdf Aboriginal Heritage Assessment with sensitive information redacted	01/02/2025	No	High
#14.	Document	Att G Historic Heritage Assessment Report - Next Iconic Walk Project - CHMA- 02 February 2025.pdf Historic Heritage Assessment of the proposal	01/02/2025	No	High
#15.	Document	Att O Tables 1-11.pdf A combined document of all tables referred to in the submission	05/01/2026	No	High
#16.	Document	Attachment C Next Iconic Walk Visual Impact Assessment (Orbit) 25 June 2025 part 1 page 1-27.pdf Part 1 of visual impact assessment for the Proposal	25/06/2025	No	High
#17.	Document	Attachment C Next Iconic Walk Visual Impact Assessment (Orbit) 25 June 2025 part 2 page 28-60.pdf Part 2 of visual impact assessment for the Proposal	25/06/2025	No	High

#18.	Document	Attachment C Next Iconic Walk Visual Impact Assessment (Orbit) 25 June 2025 part 3 page 61-145.pdf Part 3 of visual impact assessment for the Proposal	25/06/2025	No	High
#19.	Link	Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania https://parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Guideline%20R..			High
#20.	Link	Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania https://www.parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Tasmanian..			High
#21.	Link	Parks and Wildlife Tasmania https://parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Walking_Track..			High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Next Iconic Walk Enviornmental Impact Statement -Era Advisory- 2 September 2025.pdf Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposal	01/09/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att F Aboriginal Heritage Assessment - Next Iconic Walk -CHMA- 02 February 2025 - REDACTED.pdf Aboriginal Heritage Assessment with sensitive information redacted	01/02/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att H Next Iconic Walk - Project Update - Consultations and Market Research February 2025.pdf Summary of public consultations and market research	31/01/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att I Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk - Location assessment report - 19 July 2019 - ORIGINAL.pdf Original version of Location Assessment Report containing sensitive personal information	19/07/2019	Yes	High
#5.	Document	Att I Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk - Location assessment report - 19 July 2019 - REDACTED.pdf Redacted version of Location Assessment Report with sensitive information redacted	19/07/2019	No	High

#6.	Document	Att J Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk Stage 1 Feasibility Study report - SGS Economics- 23 July 2021.pdf Feasibility study for the proposal	23/07/2021	No	High
#7.	Link	Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania https://parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/projects-an..			High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att S NRE Tas Strategic Plan 2022-27 - NRE Tas - December 2022.pdf Strategic Plan for NRE Tas	30/11/2022	No	High
#2.	Link	Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania https://parks.tas.gov.au/about-us/managing-our-p..			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.	Link	Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania https://parks.tas.gov.au/about-us/managing-our-p..			High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Next Iconic Walk Enviornmental Impact Statement -Era Advisory- 2 September 2025.pdf Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposal	01/09/2025	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Next Iconic Walk Enviornmental Impact Statement -Era Advisory- 2 September 2025.pdf	01/09/2025	No	High

Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposal					
#2.	Document	Att D Natural Values Assessment of Next Iconic Walk -ECOtas- 31 July 2025.pdf Natural Values Assessment for the Proposal	30/07/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att P Maps 1-5.pdf Maps 1-5 of the proposal	18/12/2025	No	High

3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Next Iconic Walk Enviornmental Impact Statement -Era Advisory- 2 September 2025.pdf Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposal	01/09/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att D Natural Values Assessment of Next Iconic Walk -ECOtas- 31 July 2025.pdf Natural Values Assessment for the Proposal	30/07/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att E Natural Values EPBCA Significant Impact Assessment -ECOtas- 1 Dec 2025.pdf Natural Values significant impact assessment for the Proposal	30/11/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Attachment C Next Iconic Walk Visual Impact Assessment (Orbit) 25 June 2025 part 1 page 1-27.pdf Part 1 of visual impact assessment for the Proposal	24/06/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Attachment C Next Iconic Walk Visual Impact Assessment (Orbit) 25 June 2025 part 2 page 28-60.pdf Part 2 of visual impact assessment for the Proposal	24/06/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Attachment C Next Iconic Walk Visual Impact Assessment (Orbit) 25 June 2025 part 3 page 61-145.pdf Part 3 of visual impact assessment for the Proposal	24/06/2025	No	High

3.1.4 Gradient relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Next Iconic Walk Enviornmental Impact Statement -Era Advisory- 2 September 2025.pdf Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposal	01/09/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk Aquatic Values Assessment -Entura- 13 September 2024.pdf Aquatic Ecology Values Assessment for the Proposal	12/09/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att D Natural Values Assessment of Next Iconic Walk -ECOtas- 31 July 2025.pdf Natural Values Assessment for the Proposal	30/07/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att E Natural Values EPBCA Significant Impact Assessment -ECOtas- 1 Dec 2025.pdf Natural Values significant impact assessment for the Proposal	30/11/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att D Natural Values Assessment of Next Iconic Walk -ECOtas- 31 July 2025.pdf Natural Values Assessment for the Proposal	30/07/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att K Onsite Wastewater Assessment Lake Huntley and Lake Mary -GES- December 2024.pdf Soil and land capability assessment for the hut sites	30/11/2024	No	High
#3.	Document	Att L Glacial Feature Assessment for the Next Iconic Walk -Roberts- 19 August 2025.pdf Glacial features assessment for the proposal	19/08/2025	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	Att G Historic Heritage Assessment Report - Next Iconic Walk Project - CHMA- 02 February 2025.pdf Historic Heritage Assessment of the proposal	01/02/2025	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att F Aboriginal Heritage Assessment - Next Iconic Walk -CHMA- 02 February 2025 - REDACTED.pdf Aboriginal Heritage Assessment with sensitive information redacted	01/02/2025	No	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk Aquatic Values Assessment -Entura- 13 September 2024.pdf Aquatic Ecology Values Assessment for the Proposal	12/09/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att M Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk Energy Supply -Island Renewables- 29 July 2025.pdf Energy supply report for the proposal	29/07/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att N Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk Hydrological Modelling -Entura- 20 September 2024.pdf Hydrological modelling of the proposal area	20/09/2024	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	Att A Next Iconic Walk Enviornmental Impact Statement -Era Advisory- 2 September 2025.pdf Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposal	01/09/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att E Natural Values EPBCA Significant Impact Assessment -ECOtas- 1 Dec 2025.pdf Natural Values significant impact assessment for the Proposal	30/11/2025	No	High

#3.	Document	Att F Aboriginal Heritage Assessment - Next Iconic Walk -CHMA- 02 February 2025 - REDACTED.pdf Redacted version of Aboriginal Heritage Assessment with sensitive information redacted	21/01/2026	No	High
#4.	Document	Att O Tables 1-11.pdf A combined document of all tables referred to in the submission	05/01/2026	No	High
#5.	Document	Att P Maps 1-5.pdf Maps 1-5 of the proposal	18/12/2025	No	High
#6.	Document	Attachment C Next Iconic Walk Visual Impact Assessment (Orbit) 25 June 2025 part 1 page 1-27.pdf Part 1 of visual impact assessment for the Proposal	24/06/2025	No	High
#7.	Document	Attachment C Next Iconic Walk Visual Impact Assessment (Orbit) 25 June 2025 part 2 page 28-60.pdf Part 2 of visual impact assessment for the Proposal	24/06/2025	No	High
#8.	Document	Attachment C Next Iconic Walk Visual Impact Assessment (Orbit) 25 June 2025 part 3 page 61-145.pdf Part 3 of visual impact assessment for the Proposal	24/06/2025	No	High
#9.	Link	NRE Tas https://nre.tas.gov.au/conservation/tasmanian-wi..			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	Att O Tables 1-11.pdf A combined document of all tables referred to in the submission	05/01/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att D Natural Values Assessment of Next Iconic Walk -ECOtas- 31 July 2025.pdf Natural Values Assessment for the Proposal	30/07/2025	No	High

#2.	Document	Att E Natural Values EPBCA Significant Impact Assessment -ECOtas- 1 Dec 2025.pdf Natural Values significant impact assessment for the Proposal	30/11/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att O Tables 1-11.pdf A combined document of all tables referred to in the submission	05/01/2026	No	High

4.1.4.6 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att E Natural Values EPBCA Significant Impact Assessment -ECOtas- 1 Dec 2025.pdf Natural Values significant impact assessment for the Proposal	30/11/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att O Tables 1-11.pdf A combined document of all tables referred to in the submission	05/01/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Next Iconic Walk Enviornmental Impact Statement -Era Advisory- 2 September 2025.pdf Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposal	01/09/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att D Natural Values Assessment of Next Iconic Walk -ECOtas- 31 July 2025.pdf Natural Values Assessment for the Proposal	30/07/2025	No	High

4.1.5.3 (Migratory Species) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A Next Iconic Walk Enviornmental Impact Statement -Era Advisory- 2 September 2025.pdf Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposal	01/09/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att D Natural Values Assessment of Next Iconic Walk -ECOtas- 31 July 2025.pdf	30/07/2025	No	High

Natural Values Assessment for the Proposal					
#3.	Document	Att E Natural Values EPBCA Significant Impact Assessment -ECOtas- 1 Dec 2025.pdf Natural Values significant impact assessment for the Proposal	30/11/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att O Tables 1-11.pdf A combined document of all tables referred to in the submission	05/01/2026	No	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att I Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk - Location assessment report - 19 July 2019 - REDACTED.pdf Redacted version of Location Assessment Report with sensitive information redacted	18/07/2019	No	High
#2.	Document	Att J Tasmanias Next Iconic Walk Stage 1 Feasibility Study report - SGS Economics- 23 July 2021.pdf Feasibility study for the proposal	22/07/2021	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	58259330901
Organisation name	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Organisation address	7000 TAS
Representative's name	Keith Ryan
Representative's job title	Project Director
Phone	1300827727
Email	niw@parks.tas.gov.au
Address	1/171 Westbury Road Prospect TAS

☑ 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, **Keith Ryan of Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania**, 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	58259330901
Organisation name	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Organisation address	GPO Box 1751 Hobart 7001 TAS
Representative's name	Jason Jacobi

Representative's job title	Secretary
Phone	1300827727
Email	jason.jacobi@nre.tas.gov.au
Address	134 Macquarie Street, Hobart, TAS

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

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

☑ I, **Jason Jacobi of Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania**, 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, **Jason Jacobi of Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania**, 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.