Cellars Hill Wind Farm

Application Number: **02764** Commencement Date: **30/01/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Cellars Hill Wind Farm

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Wind Farm

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/01/2061

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Proponent, Cellars Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd, proposes the construction and operation of the Cellars Hill Wind Farm (the proposed action), comprising up to 56 wind turbine generators (WTGs) with a total installed capacity of up to 350 MW. Each turbine is expected to be capable of generating approximately 6.2 MW. At this stage, the expected tip height will be up to 247 m and hub height will be up to 166 m.

A battery energy storage system (BESS) is also proposed to be developed as part of the proposed action. The BESS will have a storage and discharge capacity of up to 600 MW / 2400 MWh.

The proposed action will connect to the existing 220 kV transmission line running through the site (‘project area’), meaning no external transmission lines will be created.

Key components of the proposed action include the development, construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of:

- Up to 56, approximately 6.2 MW WTGs, with a total generating capacity of 350 MW, a hub height of up to 166 m and a maximum tip height of up to 247 m above foundation level including hardstands.
- A BESS facility with an approximate capacity of 600 MW / 2400 MWh, comprising battery packs, inverters, and associated equipment.
- Substation and switchyard, and associated transmission connection works, connecting to the existing 220 kV transmission line internal to the project area.

Additional works which are expected to be required to facilitate the proposed action include:

- Electrical and communication reticulation to connect WTGs and BESS to an internal substation/s.
- Site operation and maintenance (O&M) facilities.
- Access and egress points from public roads (Highland Lakes Rd, Meadsfield Rd and Southernfield Rd/Waddamana Rd).
- Internal operational access tracks and associated infrastructure within the project area.
- Local and regional road upgrades may be required to accommodate oversize and overmass (OSOM) vehicles and turbine components and safe site access and egress. This may include small segments of road outside of the immediate project area, subject to further studies including a traffic impact assessment.
- Temporary car parking for construction works and for ongoing operations and maintenance activities.
- Temporary fencing for construction works and permanent fencing around the substation, BESS, O&M facility. Gates and signage at site access points.
- Civil works required to provide cleared areas for construction buildings and works.
- Temporary and permanent meteorological masts or lidar/sonar devices for measuring wind speeds.
- Temporary quarries to supply rock for wind farm foundations and access tracks, and a temporary concrete batching plant for construction.
- Vegetation removal, offset planting and additional planting for landscape screening purposes.
- Temporary laydown areas for construction
- Other uses, facilities and buildings associated with the proposed action.

The project area comprises several private (and one Crown Land lot used for forestry) landholdings covering approximately 8,460 hectares (ha) located within the Central Highlands Council Local Government Area (LGA). The project area is located approximately 10km northwest of Bothwell, 34km east of Tarraleah, 28 km north of Hamilton and 72km from Hobart. The proposed action is located in the Central Highlands Renewable Energy Zone (T-3 REZ), as designated by both the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the State Government.

The area is remote, sparsely populated and there are few non involved dwellings within 5 km of the project area. The terrain is hilly and contains a mixture of grazing land, pine and eucalypt forestry plantations, and native vegetation. Nearby towns include Bothwell, approximately 10km to the south-east, Osterley, approximately 7km to the west, and Ouse, approximately 15km to the south-west.

The proposed action is unique in that it is a ‘landowner led’ development in which the major landowner is also the developer. As a local landowner and long standing community member, the Proponent is committed to engaging deeply and respectfully with the community and neighbours concerning the proposed action.

The purpose of the proposed action is to generate and supply renewable energy to the National Electricity Market (NEM). The proposed action is proposed as part of a broader vision for a ‘Highlands Renewable Energy Hub’, and will be collocated with the Weasel Solar Farm and a future Renewable Energy Business Park (subject to separate and future assessments and approvals), helping to create new opportunities for future industry and local employment in the Central Highlands based on more affordable, greener energy. This presents a unique opportunity to have regional production of green fuel and fertilisers as well as data centres, timber processing and associated facilities, that could provide quality long term jobs to revitalise Bothwell and the wider region.

To inform the EPBC referral and as part of early site investigations, the Proponent engaged Nature Advisory, a leading ecology and biodiversity consultant, to prepare an Overview Flora and Fauna Assessment (refer to Attachment 1 ‘Overview Flora and Fauna Assessment’, Section 1 – Appendix 3, page 1 – 61) and a Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) assessment (refer to Attachment 2 ‘MNES assessment’, Section 1 – Appendix 3, page 1 – 28).

Simultaneous with this referral, the Project has been declared as a Major Project (MP) under section 60O of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (Tas) (LUPA Act) by the Tasmanian Minister for Planning.

As a declared to be a MP, an assessment criteria specific to the Project will be determined by a panel to be established in the Tasmanian Planning Commission. These assessment criteria will guide the development of an environmental impact assessment under the LUPA Act assessment process, referred to as a Major Project Impact Statement (MPIS).

For the purposes of this Project, it is requested that a 'one-off' bilateral agreement under section 45 of the EPBC Act be entered into between the Australian Government and the Tasmanian Government to allow the MP pathway to be coordinated with the EPBC Act processes. This will allow for the assessment criteria to be issued in accordance with both the LUPA Act and the EPBC Act, and to prepare a single MPIS which covers both processes, in-lieu of a separate EIA guideline and environmental impact statement. This will allow for a coordinated assessment, ensuring the matters required to be assessed under both the LUPA Act and the EPBC Act are considered in one process.

Due to the early stage of overall project design, an *Actual* Disturbance Footprint of directly or indirectly impacted areas has not been determined. Instead, following the precautionary principle, a *Potential* Disturbance Footprint comprising the whole project area has instead been identified for the purposes of this referral under the EPBC Act. It should be noted that the *Actual* Disturbance Footprint, and subsequently direct impact areas will be a vastly smaller area than the *Potential* Disturbance Footprint identified, likely about 5% of the total project area. Notable is the land close to Highlands Lakes Road, which will not host turbines but rather is included in the Potential Disturbance Footprint only for internal transmission and road access purposes. The identification of this direct impact area will be subject to continued consideration and assessment of key factors such as MNES.

While the project design is in it's early stages, a number of assessments have been undertaken, along with consultation with landowners, both involved and non-involved to inform the design development. These assessments and consultation have resulted in revisions to the project design resulting in a smaller project area and size.

Over the course of 2025, the Project layout will continue to be refined, noting that WTGs typically occupy a relatively small amount of land and can be micro sited to avoid and minimise specific and localised impacts as they may arise.

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? *

Planning Application

Planning approvals in Tasmania are administered through the LUPA Act. The project area is located within the Central Highlands Council LGA and is regulated under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (the Planning Scheme) incorporating the State Planning Provisions and Central Highlands Local Provision Schedule (CHLPS).

Wind farms and electricity transmission infrastructure are classed as 'Utilities' under the Planning Scheme and require planning permission in accordance with the Planning Scheme and LUPA Act. The Wind Farm, BESS, and substation components of the Project are located within the Agriculture and Rural Zones, whilst transmission infrastructure will be developed across the Agriculture and Utilities Zones.

All other components of the Project are considered to be ancillary uses to the primary wind farm use. Exact locations have not been finalised and are subject to ongoing assessment.

All proposed uses and developments for the Project are 'Discretionary' in the subject zones and require planning permission to be carried out.

Wind farms with the capacity to generate more than 30 MW of electricity are listed in Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (Tas) (EMPC Act) as a Level 2 Activity. Level 2 Activities ordinarily require referral to the Environment Protection Authority of Tasmania (EPA) and assessment by the Board of the EPA. As the Project is seeking declaration as a MP, assessment under the EMPC Act is not required.

In this instance, the Project has been declared as a MP under Division 2A the LUPA Act. As a declared MP, the planning, environmental, heritage and ecological assessments for the Project (including the permissions under both the LUPA Act and, should a bilateral agreement be entered into, the EPBC Act) will be assessed through a single process administered and assessed by an independent panel assembled by the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Flora and Fauna Assessment

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth.) (EPBC Act) protects certain threatened species and ecological communities and migratory species that have been declared Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

A MNES Assessment (refer to Attachment 2 'MNES assessment', Section 1 – Appendix 3, page 1 – 28) has been undertaken and has informed, and will continue to inform the siting and design of the proposed action. Listed species within the MNES Assessment could be impacted if high-quality habitat is disturbed or removed. To minimise the impact, further assessments and targeted surveys will need to be conducted to inform the layout of the proposed action.

The *Nature Conservation Act 2004* (Tas) (NC Act) lists threatened native vegetation communities in Tasmania. Generally, these communities do not directly translate to threatened ecological communities (TECs) listed under the EPBC Act, however, for the purposes of this referral, communities consistent with the species composition and habitat requirements of the TECs have been considered. Offsets may be required if areas of these communities are unavoidably impacted by a development.

The *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (Tas) (TSP Act) identifies those species of flora and fauna considered to be threatened within the State. A Permit to Take is required to disturb or destroy any of these communities.

In this instance, a declaration has been sought for the Project to be determined a MP under the LUPA Act. If the Project is declared to be an MP, the permissions required under the TSP Act and NC Act would be assessed through a single process administered and assessed by an independent panel assembled by the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Community Engagement Framework

Community and stakeholder engagement has commenced, and will continue to be informed by:

- RecFIT's Draft Guideline for Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Projects (2022).
- CEC's Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects (2018).
- International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum.

State and Federal Policy Targets

A number of targets have been set by both the Tasmanian and Federal Governments in relation to renewable energy and emissions, that are advanced by this Project. These are:

- A Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target (TRET) to reach 150% of 2020 levels through renewable electricity generation by 2030 and 200% by 2040.
- A Tasmanian legislated target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 60% below 1990 levels by 2050, and Net Zero emissions by 2050.
- A Federal Government emissions reduction target of 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 and Net Zero by 2050.
- A Federal Government's Renewable Energy Target (RET) of 82% by 2030.

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. *

As part of the development process, extensive engagement has already been carried out, including with:

- Involved and adjoining landowners – introductory meetings and project design briefings
- Central Highlands Council – Numerous meetings with Councillors and Niche Planning to discuss the Project and the Bothwell Structure Plan which is currently under development
- State Government (Ministers, Coordinator General, ReCFIT, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania) – Numerous meetings to detail the Project and discuss the MP approval pathway and to seek a Sensitive Matters Request
- Tasmanian First Nation groups and organisations (Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, Aboriginal Heritage Council, Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania) – introduced to the Project and invited to the Community Drop-In Session held in December 2024
- Community and key business groups – letter of introduction sent to community and key business groups, including offer to attend Community Drop-In Session
- Local Resident Action Groups – phone briefing about the Project
- Broader community – a project website has launched to provide the community with information regarding the Project and an opportunity to seek further information on the Project.

A key part of the engagement strategy was the carrying out of a Community Drop-In Session held in December 2024. The event was attended by a variety of locals, authorities, neighbours and interested groups, where a suite of information was made available on the project and the key issues, along with experts on hand to answer questions.

As the Project continues to be developed, consultation and engagement will continue to feature as an important driver. The following initiatives will soon be undertaken:

- Ongoing consultation with key Government and Government authorities.
- Ongoing discussions with the community, including additional Community Drop-In Sessions, offers of meetings where required and updates to the project website
- Further engagement with key business groups
- Engagement with Traditional Owners.

The Proponent is committed to meaningful and respectful engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities, ensuring that First Nations peoples can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition. A detailed First Nations Engagement and Communication Plan will be developed during the MPIS stage. This Plan will help guide investment in and support First Nations peoples in determining how they wish to engage with and benefit from the Project. The Proponent's approach extends beyond statutory requirements and will focus on fostering strong, long-term relationships and supporting local First Nation participation, employment, and procurement opportunities throughout the Project's lifecycle.

A key requirement for the Project is the completion of an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Report (AHAR), which involves both assessment and consultation. Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA) has been engaged to lead this process, preparing a draft investigation that will be submitted to Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania for review and endorsement once finalised. As part of this process, CHMA and the proponent will conduct engagement with the Tasmanian First Nations community and any Registered Indigenous Parties.

This engagement will capture perspectives on the cultural heritage significance of the area, along with broader environmental, cultural, social, and economic considerations related to the Project. It will include site histories, significant places, and links to major events.

The Proponent aims to create long-term, sustainable pathways for First Nations economic participation. The Cellars Hill Wind Farm presents a unique opportunity for Aboriginal communities to engage in the clean energy sector, contributing to skills development, employment, and business growth. Discussions will explore opportunities for direct or indirect involvement, which may include procurement, energy subsidies and community benefit programs supported by this Project.

A Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy has been prepared and will be periodically updated to reflect the progress of the Project and any emerging engagement needs. A Community and Stakeholder Engagement Summary Report will be prepared for lodgement with the MPIS.

The following initial key stakeholder groups have been identified within the strategy as key interested parties, many of which have already been engaged:

- Central Highlands Council
- State Government (ReCFIT, Coordinator General, EPA, Energy Ministers and Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs)
- State Planning Office
- Tasmanian Planning Commission
- Federal Government (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water [DCCEEW])
- Traditional Landowners
- Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
- Aboriginal Heritage Council
- Tasmanian Heritage Council
- Involved landowners
- Neighbouring residents and local landholders
- TasNetworks
- Local business groups and community groups
- Local service providers (Fire Brigade etc)
- Natural resource management groups
- Asset and existing infrastructure owners and mangers
- Employment services

- Real estate and accommodation providers
- Local chambers of commerce and development enterprise

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	90656657984
Organisation name	COGENCY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 6, 84 William Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Referring party details

Name	Billy Greenham
Job title	Associate Director

Phone	0452593428
Email	hello@cogencyaustralia.com.au
Address	Level 6 West, 84 William Street, Melbourne 3000 VIC

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	672485255
Organisation name	Cellars Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Organisation address	LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Andrew Clark
Job title	Director
Phone	0428 228 238
Email	andrew.clark@alternatepath.com.au
Address	9 Mona Street, Battery Point TAS 7004

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. *

This Project is a landowner-led development by Cellars Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd, a company founded by Alternate Path and local landowners. Alternate Path is a private company specialising in renewable energy development.

The major landowner is a local, multi generation Tasmanian farming family. Other land within the project area is owned by private landowners and Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

The Proponent has a long history in the Central Highlands region and have been grazing sheep and cattle on their farm for over 150 years. More recently, the family has engaged in the development of renewable energy facilities within the Central Highlands region, including the Cattle Hill Wind Farm (EPBC Number 2009/4839) and the Weasel Solar Farm (soon to be referred).

There are no 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.

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

Whilst the person proposing the action is not a corporation, the directors of the company have a long history of responsible environmental management and land stewardship, including the successful development of the Cattle Hill Wind Farm, along with the numerous sustainable farming activities, such as carbon farming and land conservation.

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	672485255

Organisation name	Cellars Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Organisation address	LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Andrew Clark
Job title	Director
Phone	0428 228 238
Email	andrew.clark@alternatepath.com.au
Address	9 Mona Street, Battery Point TAS 7004

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	90656657984
Organisation name	COGENCY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 6, 84 William Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Representative's name	Billy Greenham
Representative's job title	Associate Director
Phone	0452593428
Email	hello@cogencyaustralia.com.au
Address	Level 6 West, 84 William Street, Melbourne 3000 VIC

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	672485255
Organisation name	Cellars Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Organisation address	LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Representative's name	Andrew Clark
Representative's job title	Director
Phone	0428 228 238
Email	andrew.clark@alternatepath.com.au
Address	9 Mona Street, Battery Point TAS 7004

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

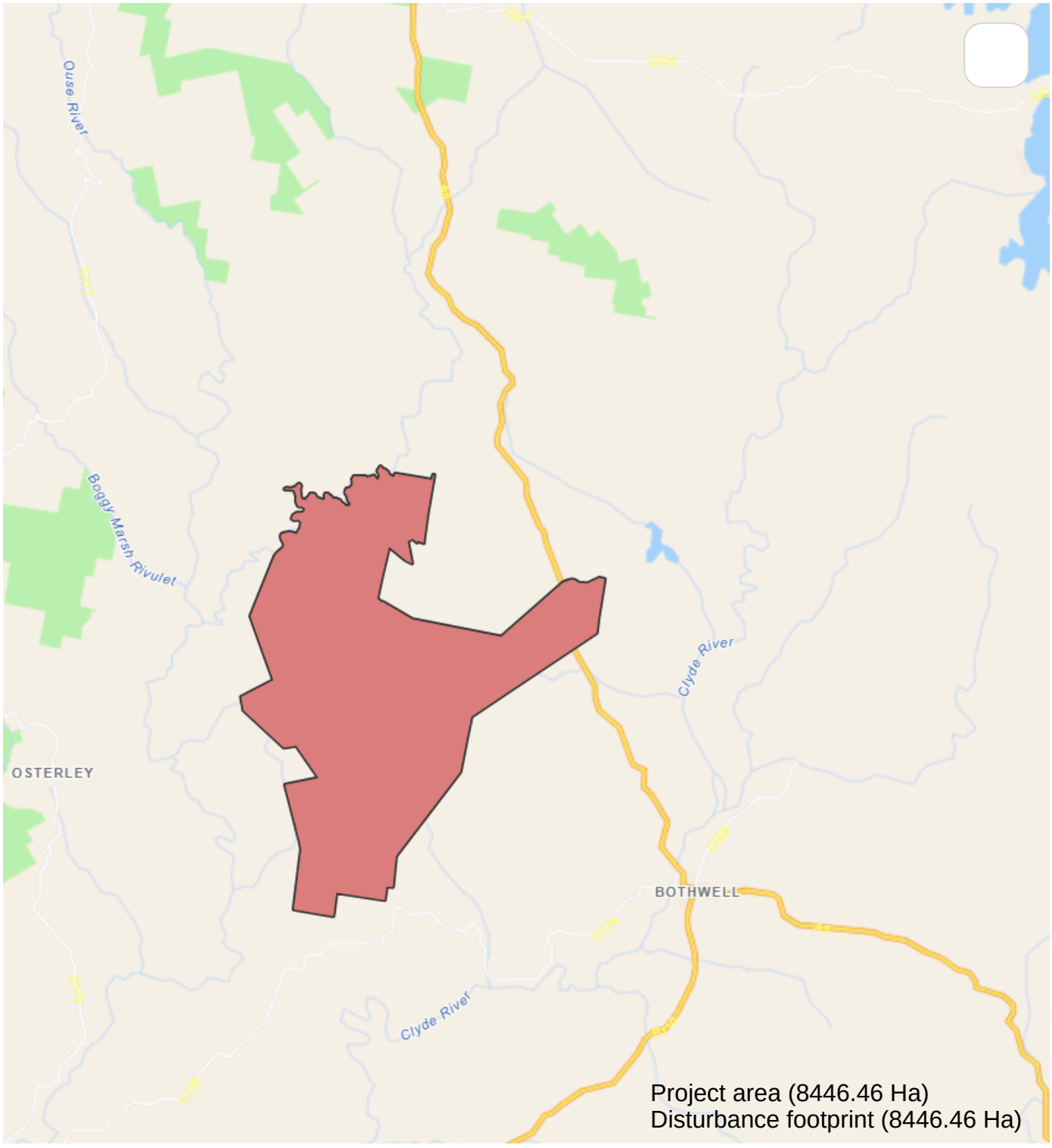
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

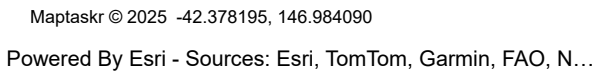
1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint





2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

3059 HIGHLAND LAKES RD BOTHWELL TAS 7030

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? *

Most land parcels are private freehold land. The project area also includes Crown land used for Forestry and managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania and works may be required in the adjacent road reserves (public).

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The project area comprises several private (and one Crown Land lot used for forestry) landholdings covering approximately 8,460 hectares (ha) located within the Central Highlands Council Local Government Area (LGA).

The undulating land and large hills dispersed across the project area support a physical environment comprising tracts of introduced grasses, native vegetation, woodland forest, and timber plantations. The timber plantations are managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania. In addition, much of the project area supports agricultural practices, with grazing predominant in the area, and some cropping.

The project area is predominantly within the Agricultural Zone and Rural Zone, with small sections of the project area within the Environmental Management Zone and Utilities Zone as per the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. The turbines and most of the Project infrastructure will be sited within the Agricultural Zone and Rural Zone and the transmission line connection to the NEM will be across both zones along with the Utilities Zone at the network connection point.

The Shannon River skirts the north western boundary of the project area, flows into the River Ouse approximately 2km from the western boundary. Within the project area there are several small waterbodies and minor creeks including Southernfield Lake/Dam and other agricultural dams. However, there are no other major watercourses within the project area.

The project area is primarily accessed from Highland Lakes Road, the main highway that provides regional accessibility from the project area through to Hobart and Launceston via the Midland Highway. Access to the project area is also available via Meadsfield Road, Southernfield Road/Waddamana Road, and various unpaved local access tracks.

A 220 kV transmission line transects the project area within its eastern extent. The transmission line connects the Waddamana Substation (approximately 16.5km north) and the Lindisfarne Substation (approximately 75km southeast).

The geology of the project area consists of mostly of basic igneous rock with some complex rock samples and soil samples of moderate likelihood deep organic soil.

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

Land within the project area currently consists of irrigated and dryland grazing, residual native cover, hardwood and softwood plantations, production native forests, carbon reforestation areas, habitat management areas and exotic pastures.

Seven farm dwellings reside within the project area, along with typical farm related infrastructure including a number of sheds, small quarries, gravel pits and dams.

The proposed action will result in use of the project area for a wind farm. It is expected that agriculture and forestry will continue beneath the turbines following construction.

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

The project area's topography varies significantly, comprising large hills (Cellars Hill and Blue Hill), amongst a wider system of hills, and small mountains with creeks, and farm dams in the valleys between the hills.

Highlands Lakes Road to the west is the primary route of access to the project area and runs north-south. The road branches west towards the project area allowing closer access via Southernfield Road from the north and Meadsfield Road from the south. In addition, the project area is traversed by minor vehicle tracks that service the forestry plantations and cleared land, connecting major features such as Cellars Hill and Blue Hill to Meadsfield Road and Southernfield Road.

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 across the project area ranges from 890m Australian Height Datum (AHD) at the peak of Blue Hill, 790m AHD at the peak of Cellars Hill, down to approximately 500m AHD at the lowest point.

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 following section is consistent with the Overview Flora and Fauna Assessment (refer to Attachment 1 'Overview Flora and Fauna Assessment', Section 5.3.2 and Section 5.5.2, page 28 – 29 and 35) and MNES Assessment (refer to Attachment 2 'MNES assessment', Section 4.4, page 12 – 17) for the Cellars Hill Wind Farm.

The Overview Flora and Fauna Assessment found that the project area includes potential habitat for 33 listed flora species and 12 listed or migratory fauna species under the Threatened Species Act (TSP Act) and/or EPBC Act.

EPBC Act flora species assessed as having potential to or being likely to occur are listed below.

- Species with potential to occur along watercourses:
    - Midlands Wattle (*Acacia axillaris*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
    - Riverbed Wintercress (*Barbarea australis*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- Species with potential to occur in grassland or grassy woodland:
    - Snowy Colobanth (*Colobanthus curtisiae*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
    - Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
    - Soft Peppercress (*Lepidium hyssopifolium*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- Species with potential to occur in sclerophyll woodland or forest, grassy habitats, and scrub:
    - Clover Glycine (*Glycine latrobeana*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
    - Fleshy Greenhood (*Pterostylis wapstrarum*) (EPBC Act: Critically Endangered)

Potential habitat for most of these species occurs within a range of different vegetation types including higher quality woodland, wet forest, dry forest, riparian and grassland vegetation. While some threatened species may occur in paddocks, this has been considered unlikely given the high disturbance within paddocks in the study area.

EPBC Act fauna species assessed as having potential to or being likely to occur are listed below.

Birds

- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable, EPBC Act: Migratory)

- Masked Owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae subsp. castanops*) (Tasmanian) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) (EPBC Act: Critically Endangered)
- Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax subsp. fleayi*) (Tasmanian) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable, EPBC Act: Migratory)

Mammals

- Eastern Barred Bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii gunnii*) (Tasmania) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
- Eastern Quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- Spotted-tail Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus subsp. maculatus*) (Tasmania) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)

Reptiles

- Boulder Cool-skink, Southern Snow Skink (*Carinascincus microlepidotus*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)

Invertebrates

- Ptunarra Brown, Ptunarra Brown Butterfly, Ptunarra Xenica (*Oreixenica ptunarra*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)

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

The following section is consistent with the Overview Flora and Fauna Assessment (refer to Attachment 1 ‘Overview Flora and Fauna Assessment’, Section 5.1 and 5.6, page 10 – 11 and 42 – 44) and MNES Assessment (refer to Attachment 2 ‘MNES assessment’, Section 4.3, page 11 – 12) for the Cellars Hill Wind Farm.

Vegetation in the study area consisted of agricultural land, eucalypt plantations, and variously sized areas of treed and non-treed native vegetation. Native vegetation in the south, east and far north of the study area has predominantly been cleared and is currently used for stock grazing. Small pockets of vegetation in these areas are mostly different types of degraded forest, woodland, and grassland.

Vegetation mapping (TASVEG 4.0) was reviewed to determine the type of native vegetation likely to occur in the study area and surrounds. Most of the study area was mapped as native vegetation in the form of grassland (28%), forest (30%), woodland and scrub (12%). A large proportion of the study area consisted of modified agricultural land used for grazing (20%). These agricultural areas were largely in the southern extent of the study area and were mostly considered to contain small pockets of low to moderate native vegetation or non-native vegetation. The vast majority of native vegetation in the centre and north of the study area consists of varying types of forest and woodland. These areas support predominantly high-quality native vegetation. Within the forested and agricultural areas, active and historic timber plantations occur (8%). These areas varied greatly across the study area, ranging from low to moderate quality due to differences in age and subsequently differences in native understorey cover and diversity.

Numerous conservation areas exist within close proximity to the project area. These predominantly reside to the west and south-west, including Kenmere Creek Conservation Area (240 ha, 3 kilometres southwest), Lanes Tier Conservation Area (217 ha, 6 kilometres southwest) and Ouse River Conservation Area (364 ha, bordering the western project area boundary). These are all well-connected to the study area via continuous treed habitat and scattered trees.

The Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park beginning approximately 30 kilometres southwest of the study area and Den Hill Conservation Area is approximately 10 kilometres east of the project area. The study area lies within the Tasmanian Southeast bioregion (Interim Biogeographic Regions of Australia (IBRA) and straddles the Ouse and Clyde catchment areas.

One EPBC Act listed ecological community may occur within the study area due to presence of suitable habitat and a targeted survey would be required to confirm whether this community is present.

- Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania – listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act. The listing advice for the community (TSSC 2009b) identified that the TASVEG units that correspond to the listed community include Lowland Poa labillardierei Grassland (GPL), Lowland grassy sedgeland (GSL), Highland Poa grassland (GPH), and Lowland grassland complex (GCL). All of these TASVEG units are mapped to occur within the proposed boundary of the wind farm project area. This community is therefore considered likely to occur.

Four Nature Conservation Act (NC Act) threatened ecological communities are considered to have the potential to occur:

- Riparian Scrub (NC Act: Listed)

- Eucalyptus tenuiramis forest and woodland on sediments (NC Act: Listed)
- Highland Poa grassland (NC Act: Listed)
- Eucalyptus amygdalina forest and woodland on sandstone (NC Act: Listed)

3.3 Heritage

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

The project area for the proposed action does not include Commonwealth heritage places.

The project area includes the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR) place 'Dungrove' (THR identifier 72) at 3287 – 3289 Highland Lakes Road, Bothwell (refer to Attachment 3 'Tasmanian Heritage Register Datasheet', page 1 – 2). Dungrove is listed on the THR for its ability to demonstrate the principal characteristics of an early sandstone house and the growth and development of a nineteenth century rural building. The THR citation for Dungrove identifies the Georgian sandstone cottage, Federation Queen Anne homestead and Shearing shed as important places. These three buildings are located well outside of the project area to the northeast.

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

Following a Sensitive Matters Request, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania has confirmed that registered Aboriginal cultural heritage is present within the project area and broader contextual study area.

An Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Report will be prepared to support the assessment of the proposed action which will consider the Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic heritage values of the project area, including those associated with the 'Dungrove' site. This assessment will be used to ensure that impacts are minimised. The assessment will include early consultation with cultural representatives with knowledge of the project area.

Where possible, Project infrastructure can be readily relocated to avoid direct impact to identified physical heritage values. To account for unanticipated discovery of heritage value items during the construction phase of the Project, a comprehensive chance find plan will be developed.

A heritage works approval (certificate of exemption or permit) will be sought as required as part of the assessment of the proposed action.

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 major hydrological features within the project area include Southernfield Lake, a dam and several minor creeks. The minor creeks include Bark Hut Creek, Grubbed Marsh Creek, Weasel Plains Creek, Mosquitos Creek, Trap Hut Creek, Madmans Creek and Meadsfield Creek.

No major rivers are within the project area, though the River Clyde runs close to the western boundary. The creeks divide east and west, with the western creeks feeding into the Shannon and Ouse rivers, and the eastern creeks feeding into the River Clyde. All rivers flow southward towards the Derwent Estuary and meet the ocean at Hobart. Southernfield Lake is the predominant hydrological feature in the project area and is fed by Shannon River, running along the north-west boundary of the project area. The Shannon and Ouse Rivers are located within deep valley and canyons, whilst the other creeks are located in generally shallow valley or depressions.

A Flooding and Hydrology Assessment will be prepared as part of the assessment of the proposed action.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no World Heritage listed sites within or near the location of the proposed action.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no National Heritage listed sites within or near the location of the proposed action.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

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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. *

There are no Ramsar Wetlands within or near the location of the proposed action.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	Yes	Acacia axillaris	Midlands Mimosa, Midlands Wattle
Yes	Yes	Aquila audax fleayi	Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, Wedge-tailed Eagle (Tasmanian)
Yes	Yes	Barbarea australis	Native Wintercress, Riverbed Wintercress
No	No	Caladenia anthracina	Black-tipped Spider-orchid

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	Carinascincus microlepidotus	Boulder Cool-skink, Southern Snow Skink
No	No	Ceyx azureus diemenensis	Tasmanian Azure Kingfisher
Yes	Yes	Colobanthus curtisiae	Curtis' Colobanth
Yes	Yes	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (Tasmanian population)	Spotted-tail Quoll, Spot-tailed Quoll, Tiger Quoll (Tasmanian population)
Yes	Yes	Dasyurus viverrinus	Eastern Quoll, Luaner
Yes	Yes	Dianella amoena	Matted Flax-lily
Yes	Yes	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	Glycine latrobeana	Clover Glycine, Purple Clover
Yes	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
Yes	Yes	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
Yes	Yes	Lepidium hyssopifolium	Basalt Pepper-cress, Peppercress, Rubble Pepper-cress, Pepperweed
No	No	Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor	Hoary Sunray, Grassland Paper-daisy
No	No	Litoria raniformis	Southern Bell Frog,, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
Yes	Yes	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
Yes	Yes	Oreixenica ptunarra	Ptunarra Brown, Ptunarra Brown Butterfly, Ptunarra Xenica
Yes	Yes	Perameles gunnii gunnii	Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Tasmania)
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	No	Pterostylis commutata	Midland Greenhood
Yes	Yes	Pterostylis wapstrarum	Fleshy Greenhood
No	No	Pterostylis ziegeleri	Grassland Greenhood, Cape Portland Greenhood
Yes	Yes	Sarcophilus harrisii	Tasmanian Devil
Yes	Yes	Tyto novaehollandiae castanops (Tasmanian population)	Masked Owl (Tasmanian)

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

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens
Yes	Yes	Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania
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. *

In general, any potential impacts are likely to occur either as:

- Habitat loss (both direct impact to ecological communities and flora, and generally indirect impact to fauna and flora as a result of ground disturbance activities and spoil placement) during construction works; or
- Mortality (direct impact) or aversion (indirect impact), generally to avifauna, as a result of turbine strike.

The MNES assessment (refer to Attachment 2 'MNES Assessment', Section 4, page 10 – 17) accompanying this referral applies the precautionary principle when considering potential impacts to MNES. Noting that a wind farm has a very small area of actual disturbance within the project area, detailed design and micro siting will allow the most significant areas to be avoided, minimised or mitigated.

Ecological Communities with the potential to occur:

- Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania (EPBC Act: Critically Endangered)

Targeted surveys are required to confirm the presence and extent of the above ecological communities within the project area. However, there is potential for direct impact by loss of small areas if present and unavoidable for construction and/or access.

Flora with the potential to occur:

- Midlands Wattle (*Acacia axillaris*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
- Riverbed Wintercress (*Barbarea australis*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- Snowy Colobanth (*Colobanthus curtisiae*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
- Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- Soft Peppercress (*Lepidium hyssopifolium*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- Clover Glycine (*Glycine latrobeana*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
- Fleshy Greenhood (*Pterostylis wapstrarum*) (EPBC Act: Critically Endangered)

Targeted surveys are required to confirm the presence and extent of the above flora within the project area. However, there is potential for direct impact by loss of individuals, most likely during construction. Indirect impacts to habitat may occur as a result of direct impact to adjacent habitat, if unavoidable, for example during construction.

Fauna with the potential to occur:

Birds

- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) (EPBC Act: Migratory)
- Masked Owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae castanops*) (Tasmanian) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) (EPBC Act: Critically Endangered)
- Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*) (Tasmanian) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable, EPBC Act: Migratory)

Mammals

- Eastern Barred Bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii gunnii*) (Tasmania) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)
- Eastern Quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)
- Spotted-tail Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*) (Tasmania) (EPBC Act: Vulnerable)

Reptiles

- Boulder Cool-skink, Southern Snow Skink (*Carinascincus microlepidotus*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)

Invertebrates

- Ptunarra Brown Butterfly (*Oreixenica ptunarra*) (EPBC Act: Endangered)

Targeted surveys are required to confirm the presence and extent of the above fauna within the project area. However, there is potential for direct impact by loss of individuals. Indirect impacts to habitat may occur as a result of direct impact to adjacent habitat, if unavoidable, for example during construction.

In relation to the Wedge-tailed Eagle, Nature Advisory has undertaken eight seasonal surveys for raptors since May 2022. The purpose of these surveys is to understand how raptors (in particular Wedge-tailed eagles) are using the project area. These surveys, along with the nest surveys also undertaken, will be a key factor in refined the project layout and informing the MPIS. The proposed action is proposing to implement a turbine buffer around known Wedge-tailed Eagle nests and also implementing an automated bird detection and turbine curtailment system to minimise impacts to the species, similar to that successfully used for Cattle Hill Wind Farm.

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

Yes

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

Potential significant impacts to threatened species and ecological communities include:

- Potential clearing of native vegetation, particularly higher quality woodland, wet forest, dry forest, riparian and grassland vegetation
- Potential direct impacts to threatened flora populations and habitat
- Potential direct impacts to threatened fauna populations and habitat, particularly potential habitat for threatened birds and mammals, including breeding habitat
- Potential turbine collision risk or barrier effects for a range of threatened bird species

Significant Impact Assessments will be undertaken as part of the assessment of the proposed action. This will also include targeted surveys as required and detailed species and turbine risk assessments, including bid collision risk modelling.

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

Yes

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

The wind farm layout will need to be developed in order to avoid and minimise impacts on MNES. Further targeted surveys will be required to inform this process, and a rigorous assessment process is appropriate.

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. *

Mitigation measures to reduce the impact will be investigated specifically for communities and species listed as protected matters.

These measures may include:

- Avoiding significant communities and species through careful wind farm siting and design, including micro siting, and in particular the placement of turbines and associated roads away from significant areas.
- Implementing turbine free buffer areas surrounding confirmed Wedge-Tailed Eagle Nests.
- Implementing automated bird detection and turbine curtailment system, such as IdentiFlight.
- Minimising impacts on significant communities and species through special construction methods and techniques
- A series of individual management plans to identify, protect and offset significant communities and species.
- Environmental management plans, including a Bird and Bat Adaptation Management Plan (BBAMP) to guide construction and operation of the wind farm that aim to protect areas of MNES, and include measures to mitigate indirect impacts such disturbance from lighting, noise, vibration.

It is noted that wind farms (and associated building and works) have the benefit of having a small disturbance footprint relative to the project area, usually consuming less than 5% of the project area.

General and species-specific mitigation measures will be developed during the further assessment.

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

Offsets will be sourced as required following further ecological assessment and further detailed design to avoid impacts as far as practicable. Given the size of the project area relative to the disturbance area, and the other landholdings of the involved landowners, there is potential for on site offsets to be secured.

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
Yes	Yes	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Myiagra cyanoleuca	Satin Flycatcher

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

Yes

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

In general, any potential impacts are likely to occur as:

- Mortality (direct impact), or aversion (indirect impact) generally to avifauna, as a result of turbine strike or collision.

The MNES assessment (refer to Attachment 2 ‘MNES assessment’, Section 4.4, page 12 – 17) accompanying this referral applies the precautionary principle when considering potential impacts to MNES. Noting that a wind farm has a small area of actual disturbance within the project area, detailed design and micro siting will allow the most significant areas to be avoided, minimised or mitigated.

- Latham’s Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*), EPBC Act: Migratory
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudaccutus*), EPBC Act: Vulnerable, Migratory

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

Yes

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

Potential significant impacts to migratory species include:

- Potential direct impacts to threatened fauna populations and habitat, particularly various woodland bird and waterbird species
- Potential turbine collision risk or aversion effects for a range of migratory avifauna species

Significant Impact Assessments will be undertaken as part of the assessment of the proposed action. This will also include detailed species and turbine risk assessments, including bird collision risk modelling.

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

Yes

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

The wind farm layout will need to be developed in order to avoid and minimise impacts on MNES. Further targeted surveys will be required to inform this process, and a rigorous assessment process is appropriate.

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

Mitigation measures to reduce the impact will be investigated specifically for migratory species.

These measures may include:

- Avoiding impacts through careful wind farm siting and design, including micro siting, and in particular the placement of turbines away from significant movement corridors.
- A series of individual management plans to identify, protect and offset significant migratory species.
- Monitoring of weather events and particularly storm fronts in combination with suitable and appropriate measures to avoid or reduce collisions.
- Implementing automated bird detection and turbine curtailment system, such as Identiflight.
- Environmental management plans including a Bird and Bat Adaptation Management Plan (BBAMP) to guide construction and operation of the wind farm that aim to protect migratory species.

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

Offsets will be sourced as required following further ecological assessment and further detailed design to avoid impacts as far as practicable.

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 a nuclear action.

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 not within a Commonwealth Marine Area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The proposed action is not located within or near 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 a coal mine 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 near or proximate 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 not near or proximate 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:

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)

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)
- 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. *

A comprehensive site selection process was undertaken to refine the project area during 2023 and 2024. This included inputs from community engagement, early flora and fauna studies, and wind resource studies. This resulted in a much reduced project area, and a significant reduction in the project capacity from 80-90 turbines to up to 56. In particular, the turbine area has been deliberated focussed on either commercial forestry or cleared agricultural areas.

The project area has been chosen based on the area's excellent wind resource, and on a site with a history of intensive agricultural pursuits such as grazing and cropping, along with forestry.

There is an urgent need to develop more sources of renewable energy to meet Federal policy goals and to assist in efforts to reduce emissions and the dangerous impacts of climate change.

This form of renewable energy is regarded as highly suited to this location.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Overview Flora and Fauna Assessment.pdf Provides an overview of flora and fauna values across the site to assist in siting and design decisions for the turbines and associated infrastructure.	22/05/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_MNES Assessment.pdf Provides a review of the Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) to determine whether significant impacts on MNES are expected from the Project.	05/02/2025	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 2_MNES Assessment.pdf Provides a review of the Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) to determine whether significant impacts on MNES are expected from the Project.	05/02/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document				

		Att 1_Overview Flora and Fauna Assessment.pdf Provides an overview of flora and fauna values across the site to assist in siting and design decisions for the turbines and associated infrastructure.	22/05/2023	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_MNES Assessment.pdf Provides a review of the Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) to determine whether significant impacts on MNES are expected from the Project.	05/02/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1_Overview Flora and Fauna Assessment.pdf Provides an overview of flora and fauna values across the site to assist in siting and design decisions for the turbines and associated infrastructure.	22/05/2023	No	High
#2.	Document	Att 2_MNES Assessment.pdf Provides a review of the Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) to determine whether significant impacts on MNES are expected from the Project.	05/02/2025	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 3_Tasmanian Heritage Register Listing_Dungrove.pdf Tasmanian Heritage Register Datasheet listing for Dungrove.	06/01/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2_MNES Assessment.pdf Provides a review of the Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) to determine whether significant impacts on MNES are expected from the Project.	05/02/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2_MNES Assessment.pdf Provides a review of the Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) to determine whether significant impacts on MNES are expected from the Project.	05/02/2025	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	90656657984
Organisation name	COGENCY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 6, 84 William Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Representative's name	Billy Greenham
Representative's job title	Associate Director
Phone	0452593428
Email	hello@cogencyaustralia.com.au
Address	Level 6 West, 84 William Street, Melbourne 3000 VIC

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

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

☑ By checking this box, I, **Billy Greenham of COGENCY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

✔ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	672485255
Organisation name	Cellars Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Organisation address	LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
Representative's name	Andrew Clark
Representative's job title	Director
Phone	0428 228 238
Email	andrew.clark@alternatepath.com.au
Address	9 Mona Street, Battery Point TAS 7004

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

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

☑ I, **Andrew Clark of Cellars Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

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

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☑ I, **Andrew Clark of Cellars Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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