Cannie Wind Farm

Application Number: **02308** Commencement Date: **18/03/2024** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Cannie 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 *

01/10/2027

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/10/2030

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Overview

The proposed Cannie Wind Farm Project (the Project) will be located in the north-west region of Victoria, approximately 33 kilometres (km) west of Kerang and 25 km south of the Murray River and Victoria-New South Wales border. Refer to **Figure 1 Project Overview (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 1).**

The referral area is 82,606 hectares (ha) in size, comprising:

- Wind Farm Area – of 17,870 ha, which is entirely located within the Gannawarra Local Government Area (LGA).
- Transmission Corridor Study Area – of 64,736 ha, which is predominantly located within the Gannawarra LGA and partially within the Loddon and Buloke LGAs and will accommodate a transmission easement to connect the Wind Farm Area to the future Victoria-NSW Interconnector (VNI) West transmission network.

The Transmission Corridor Study Area accommodates multiple transmission corridor options, which are currently under investigation. Upon identification of a preferred transmission corridor, the development area will be significantly reduced, and the potential disturbance area would be limited to a conservative maximum of 560 ha.

Refer to **Figure 2 Cannie Wind Farm and Transmission Corridor Study Area (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 2).**

The Project benefits include:

- Generation capacity of up to 1,300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, enough to power approximately 600,000 Victorian homes a year.
- Contribute to the Victorian Renewable Energy Target of 95% renewable electricity by 2035 and the long-term target of net zero emissions by 2045.
- Support Victoria's 2035 Emissions Reduction Target to reduce Victoria's emissions by 75 – 80% below 2005 levels by 2035.

Permanent Infrastructure

WIND FARM SITE

Wind turbine generator (WTG)

The wind farm component of the Project will have a maximum generation capacity of 1,300 MW and comprise up to 174 WTGs. An indicative turbine layout plan for the Wind Farm Area is provided in **Figure 3 Indicative Wind Farm Layout (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 3).**

The current design and turbine layout adopts a ‘maximum envelope’ approach, with consideration of the maximum number of turbines (i.e. 174) that can be accommodated within the Wind Farm Area. The final number and location of WTGs is subject to further investigation and will consider existing environmental values and sensitivities.

Each WTG will comprise a tower, nacelle, hub and blades, as well as turbine foundations and hardstands. The maximum WTG specifications include:

- Overall turbine height - up to 280.5 metres (m) above natural ground level.
- Hub height - up to 183 m above natural ground level.
- Rotor swept area/ rotor diameter – up to 195m.
- Cord width – up to 5m.
- Number of turbines – up to 174.

The final turbine model and specification will be confirmed during detailed design and procurement.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

The BESS will have a capacity of up to 200 MW and store up to 800 megawatt hours (MWh) of dispatchable energy.

The BESS is proposed to be located adjacent to the primary onsite substation within the Wind Farm Area.

The BESS facility, including associated hardstand and ancillary components, will cover up to 12 ha, while the battery energy storage area is anticipated to cover up to 6 ha. The BESS facility will consist of approximately 320 units of 40 foot (ft) battery storage containers (approximate size of 30 square metres per

unit) as well as approximately 40 power conversion units of a similar size.

Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Area

The O&M area will generally be up to 150 m x 150 m subject to detailed design, with associated fencing, landscaping, signage and car parking to accommodate up to 15 or more light vehicle spaces.

High Voltage (HV) Substations

The Project may require up to three HV substations, with each substation anticipated to be 200 m x 200 m, with associated fencing and landscaping.

Internal access tracks

Access tracks will be required to support ongoing maintenance activities. The access tracks will be approximately 6 m in width (paved width) and constructed along existing farm tracks where possible, with the final locations to be determined in consultation with host landowners and the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

Site entrance(s)

The location of a main site entrance will be determined with consideration of a transport route assessment and environmental constraints. Secondary site entrances may be required and will be identified as part of the detailed design development phase.

Underground cabling

Reticulated underground cabling will be required between the WTGs, BESS and substation(s). Cables will generally be direct-buried, with individual single-circuit trenches up to 2 m in depth and up to 15 m in width.

Overhead transmission lines

Overhead transmission lines may be required internally to support Medium Voltage (MV) reticulation or HV connection between primary and secondary substation(s). Overhead transmission lines will be required to connect the Wind Farm Area substation(s) to the new VNI West terminal station proposed to be located in Tragowel. The transmission corridor easements will generally be between 70 to 80 m in width, with the surrounding vegetation to be maintained for safety clearances.

Overhead Transmission Towers

The transmission towers will be double-circuit steel lattice towers varying in height between 60 m and 80 m. From the centre of the towers, tower spacing will be between 400 to 600 m. Final tower height and span length is yet to be determined and will be subject to minimising impacts to existing farming operations, vegetation, dwellings, and property boundaries and fencing and will comply with the requirements of the Electricity Safety (General) Regulations 2019.

TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR

Transmission (electrical grid) connection

Three transmission corridor options are currently being investigated to connect the Wind Farm Area to the new terminal station proposed to be located near Tragowel as part of VNI West or at an alternate location along the proposed VNI West transmission corridor. The selection of the preferred corridor will be informed through consultation with proposed landholders, and with consideration of engineering design and environmental investigations.

The final transmission corridor easement will generally be between 70 to 80 metres in width and cleared of trees and existing structures to facilitate maintenance access in operations.

The three transmission corridor options being investigated are shown in **Figure 2 Cannie Wind Farm and Transmission Corridor Study Area (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 2),** and include:

- Option A: Located directly south of the Wind Farm Area and west of Boort-Quambatook Road, and would include a route length of up to 70 km (approximately).
- Option B: Located generally south of the Wind Farm Area and east of Boort-Quambatook Road, and would include a route length of up to 40 km (approximately).
- Option C: Located generally to the south-east of the Wind Farm Area, and would include a route length of up to 45 km (approximately).

Temporary infrastructure

The main temporary components of the Project include:

- Construction compound, including site offices, storage and carparking.
- Construction laydown areas.
- Fencing and hoardings.
- Earthworks and bunding.
- Onsite quarry, in the Wind Farm Area only.
- One guyed lattice meteorological mast structure, in the Wind Farm Area only.
- One or more concrete batching plants may be constructed in the Wind Farm Area only. The need for a concrete batching plant will be determined in the design development phase and consider the outcomes of the traffic impact assessment and construction methodology.

Key Construction Activities

Construction of the Project is anticipated to commence in Q4 2027 and may be procured in discrete packages. The construction phase is expected to last for 24 - 36 months, with a targeted operational date of Q4 2030.

Construction activities expected to support the delivery of the Project include:

- External road upgrades and local main site entrance establishments to accommodate Oversize Overmass (OSOM) vehicles.
- Site establishment works including temporary site fencing and hoarding, site offices, hardstand and laydown areas, and temporary access roads and parking areas
- Construction of WTG and overhead transmission infrastructure.

Key Operational Activities

Ongoing operation, maintenance and monitoring of the Project will be allowed for to ensure that all permanent infrastructure functions as intended.

Ongoing environmental monitoring and reporting for the Project in accordance with the relevant approval conditions will also be provided

The Project is anticipated to have an operational life of 30 years based on current design life.

Decommissioning Activities

At the end of its operational life, the Project will either extend its operational life or be decommissioned. Where the operational life is extended, the process of re-powering the Project will be subject to any relevant planning approval processes and the upgrading of project infrastructure, facilities, and equipment requirements.

Decommissioning activities will adopt a similar method to those utilised in the construction phase of the Project, with an objective of ensuring that the land is rehabilitated to allow for the reinstatement of an agricultural use.

The Project will comply with any relevant requirements for decommissioning as stipulated under any planning approval or subsequent permit or licence that may be required. The decommissioning process will be undertaken in accordance with best practice methods available at the time of decommissioning.

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 Project is being referred under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (**EPBC Act**) to determine whether it is a 'controlled action' requiring approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water.

According to the *MNES Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1* (Department of the Environment, 2013), the Project has the potential to have a significant impact on Listed Threatened Species and Ecological Communities and Listed Migratory Species. This is discussed in detail in Section 4 of the referral.

In addition to this referral, the Project will seek the following approvals under Victorian legislation to facilitate the development and delivery of the Project:

- Referral under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (**EE Act**) – to seek a decision as to whether an Environmental Effects Statement (**EES**) is required.
- Planning permit pursuant to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic) (**PE Act**).
- Mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan (**CHMP**) pursuant to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Additional works permits and approvals for the development may also be required under the following legislation:

- Licence pursuant to the *Crown (Land Reserves) Act 1978* where works are required on Crown land.
- Compliance with *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and Future Act Assessment procedure in addition to the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010.*
- Permit or consent under the *Heritage Act 2017* for management of impacts to historic heritage.
- Development licence pursuant to the *Environment Protection Act 2017* for disturbance / removal of contaminated material and soil.
- Permit pursuant to the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* for taking of wildlife and removal of flora species.
- Permit pursuant to the *Water Act 1989* for any works within 20 metres of a designated waterway.
- Consent pursuant to the *Road Management Act 2004* for works within a road reserve.
- Consent pursuant to the *Electricity Safety Act 1998*.
- *Electricity Industry Act 2000* for license to generate, distribute and sell electricity.
- *Land Act 1958* for any works on unreserved Crown land and freehold land.

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. *

RES recognises the importance of early and ongoing community and stakeholder participation throughout a project's lifecycle and aims to build trusting relationships between the project team, the community and broader region.

The Project has commenced consultation with the following:

Government and regulatory agencies

- Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (**DCCEEW**), EPBC Act pre-referral meeting held on 30 November 2023.
- Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (**DTP**), EES pre-referral meeting held on 22 November 2023, with ongoing follow up meetings.
- Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (**DEECA**), Loddon Mallee, meeting held on 8 February 2024.
- Gannawarra Shire Council – regular discussions with representatives on the progress of the Project since 2023. The proponent has sought recommendations for public consultation timing, location, extent, and forms of communications to the local community.
- Swan Hill Shire Council – regular discussions with representatives on the progress of the Project since 2023.
- Australian Energy Market Operator (**AEMO**), meeting held on 5 December 2023.
- Parks Victoria initial meeting held on 21May 2024. Contacts established and ongoing collaboration.

Traditional Owners

- Barapa Land and Water (**Barapa Barapa**) – regular discussions with representatives on the progress of the Project since 2023 with Cultural Heritage Management Plan (**CHMP**) preparations.
- Wamba Wemba Land Council Aboriginal (Wamba Wemba) – regular discussions with representatives on the progress of the Project since 2023 with CHMP preparations and survey efforts.
- Wiran Aboriginal Corporation - regular discussions with representatives on the progress of the Project since 2023 with CHMP preparations.

RES have consistently consulted with the above-listed Traditional Owners and have provided the respective parties an overview of the project.

There has been general agreement from all parties of the importance to continue to consult with relation to the delivery of the project, with representatives of the Traditional Owner Groups expressing a view that RES should commit to outcomes that would have a positive benefit (both short and long term) for each of the respective Traditional Owner Groups.

The representatives of the Traditional Owner Groups have also been briefed on the plan to install a meteorological mast (Met Mast) within the activity area. Parties have been invited to participate in the process of installation of the Met Mast, with targeted surveys of the location of the Met Mast undertaken to establish the likelihood of cultural heritage material to be present within the intended works area. Representatives of the Traditional Owner Groups have agreed to take part in this process, and will continue to be consulted for all matters of relevance to Indigenous stakeholders.

RES has committed to early engagement with identified Traditional Owners to maximise opportunity for the Project to be developed in a culturally sensitive way, considering any tangible and intangible heritage values relevant to the project site, and to support a focus on the avoidance of potential impacts to cultural heritage.

General community

- Local landowners – group meetings and face-to-face meetings held with landowners affected by the referral area since 2023.
- Local community – face-to-face information sessions:

- 20 February 2024, at Quambatook Memorial Hall, 59 Guthrie Street, Quambatook
- 21 February 2024, at Lake Boga Community Centre, Lalbert Rd, Lake Boga.

Outcomes of consultation undertaken (to date)

The key themes raised by consultation participants has included:

- The construction process and how wind farms operate
- Environmental considerations and referrals, including impacts on native grasslands and the Plains Wanderer
- Accommodation for workers
- Job and supplier opportunities
- Community benefits e.g., sponsorships and grants
- Landowner payments and neighbour shared benefit schemes
- Turbine noise and visual impact
- Impacts on cropping near turbines and along powerline easements
- Weed management and biosecurity
- Rural property valuations and insurance
- Bushfire management
- Water usage and water sources for construction
- Impacts on air services

RES have indicated to interested landowners that the Project land requirements will be secured via commercial land lease/licence agreements applied to private freehold land. The agreements will provide for long-term lease and easement arrangements that will extend for the operational life of the wind farm.

Future engagement

Refer to **Attachment 6** for RES Australia's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (**CSEP**), which outlines the approach, strategy and implementation of stakeholder and community consultation during the development phase of the project.

The CSEP aims to establish proactive communication and engagement with stakeholders and the community enabling their feedback or concerns to be clearly understood and integrated into project decision making.

Effective and considered community engagement is fundamental to generating community support for renewable energy development projects. RES believes that early and ongoing transparent engagement and a clear benefit sharing approach are crucial components to fostering social license for a renewable energy project.

A summary of key stakeholder groups and organisations to be engaged and continued to be engaged throughout the development of the Project are summarised below:

- Business entities including businesses with interests in the area, proximate to the Project including local aviation operators.
- Telecommunication entities including owners of communication mast of operations of communication links in the area of the Project.
- Interested associations and stakeholders, such as the Northern Plains Conservation Alliance.
- Government agencies including the Gannawarra Shire Council, Buloke Shire Council, Loddon Shire Council, FPSR, DTP, DEECA, DCCEEW, AEMO and relevant local state and federal members of parliament.
- Local landowners.
- Community consultation with respect to the wind farm and transmission corridor
- Further activities planned in 2024 include:
    - Community engagement on the wind farm inclusive of the Transmission Corridor Study Area to obtain community feedback which will assist in narrowing down and informing selection of a

preferred transmission corridor. Community engagement will include contact and discussions with land owners, community members and community groups using a range of methods including, but not limited to, broad unaddressed mail outs, targeted addressed mail outs and emails, newspaper advertisements, website updates, community information sessions and face to face or online meetings with key stakeholders and neighbours.

- Mechanisms to gather feedback for various stakeholder groups to obtain feedback on the Project inclusive of the Transmission Corridor Study Area. This could include, but not limited to, online or in-person surveys.
- Councillor meeting briefings for Gannawarra Shire Council and Swan Hill Rural City Council to provide project update and upcoming key activities in the area.
- Community update post referral application outcome.
- Seek community sponsorship opportunities for local events and groups.
- Further discussions with First Nation organisations and opportunities to contribute to their organisation's needs.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

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

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

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

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

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

Alternatively, email us at privacy@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	12002773248
Organisation name	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	Level 14, 207 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Referring party details

Name	Jenny Luk
Job title	Partner
Phone	+61 3 8606 4131
Email	jenny.luk@erm.com
Address	Level 8, 501 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

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	55106637754
Organisation name	RES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

Organisation address	Level 6, 165 Walker Street North Sydney, NSW, 2060

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Mike Head
Job title	Environment Manager
Phone	0481 961 543
Email	mike.head@res-group.com
Address	Level 6, 165 Walker Street North Sydney, NSW, 2060

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. *

RES is the world's largest independent renewable energy company and is active in onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, transmission and distribution. As an industry innovator for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy projects across the globe and supports an operational asset portfolio exceeding 12 GW worldwide for a large client base. RES employs over 2,500 employees and is active in 14 countries.

In Australia, RES has over 150 employees managing a portfolio of 2.06 GW of renewable assets. This includes some of the largest wind farms in the southern hemisphere; Murra Warra Wind Farm, Dulacca Wind Farm as well as Emerald Solar Park (one of the first solar farms commissioned in Australia).

RES Australia has undertaken several projects under the EPBC Act and has satisfactory implemented all the conditions of its previous Commonwealth and State approvals.

RES Australia is not facing any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

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

RES Australia recognises the importance of reducing human impact on the environment. RES Australia recognise that various aspects of their business, which include development, research, construction, operation and maintenance of renewable energy facilities impact on the environment in ways that are both positive and negative.

Projects that are owned and developed by RES Australia must adhere to their global Environmental, Social and Governance (**ESG**) Policy, which provides a framework that seeks to minimise the effects of activities on the environment while securing measurable business benefits. RES Australia is committed to the prevention of pollution and to the continued improvement in their environmental performance. Refer to **Attachment 7** for the **Global RES ESG Policy.**

RES Australia is committed to achieving environmental best practice throughout its business activities by:

- Establishing and maintaining an Environmental Management System modelled to ISO14001:2004.
- Integrating the Environmental Management System with the Safety and Quality systems.
- Ensuring legal compliance with applicable environmental legislation and with other requirements to which are applicable.
- Monitoring purchasing practices and internal operations including energy, and transport to ensure effective use of natural resources and wherever and whenever practicable minimising their environmental impact.
- Reducing, re-using and recycling waste produced in all parts of their business as far as is practicable.
- Where possible, monitoring and working with our suppliers and other third parties associated with their business, encouraging them to set similar high standards.
- Seeking to integrate environmental considerations into future business policy decisions.
- Ensuring employees and management understand and are accountable for the achievement of these policy goals through communication and training.
- Communicating the policy as appropriate to customers, suppliers, interest groups and the public.
- Developing and maintaining systems to implement and review this policy and seeking continual improvement.

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	55106637754

Organisation name	RES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 6, 165 Walker Street North Sydney, NSW, 2060

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Mike Head
Job title	Environment Manager
Phone	0481 961 543
Email	mike.head@res-group.com
Address	Level 6, 165 Walker Street North Sydney, NSW, 2060

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	12002773248
Organisation name	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	Level 14, 207 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Representative's name	Jenny Luk
Representative's job title	Partner
Phone	+61 3 8606 4131
Email	jenny.luk@erm.com
Address	Level 8, 501 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

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	55106637754
Organisation name	RES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 6, 165 Walker Street North Sydney, NSW, 2060
Representative's name	Mike Head
Representative's job title	Environment Manager
Phone	0481 961 543
Email	mike.head@res-group.com
Address	Level 6, 165 Walker Street North Sydney, NSW, 2060

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

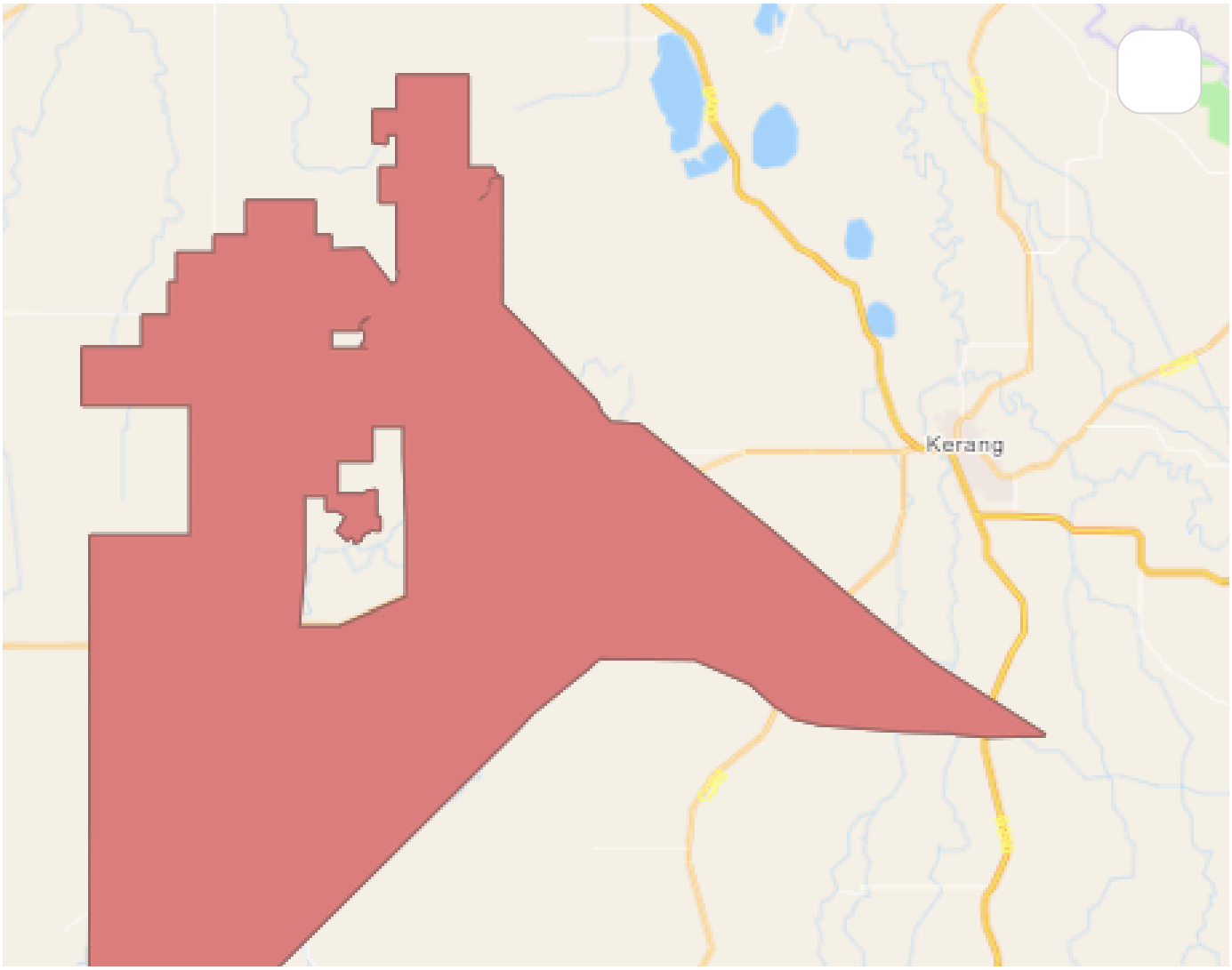
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

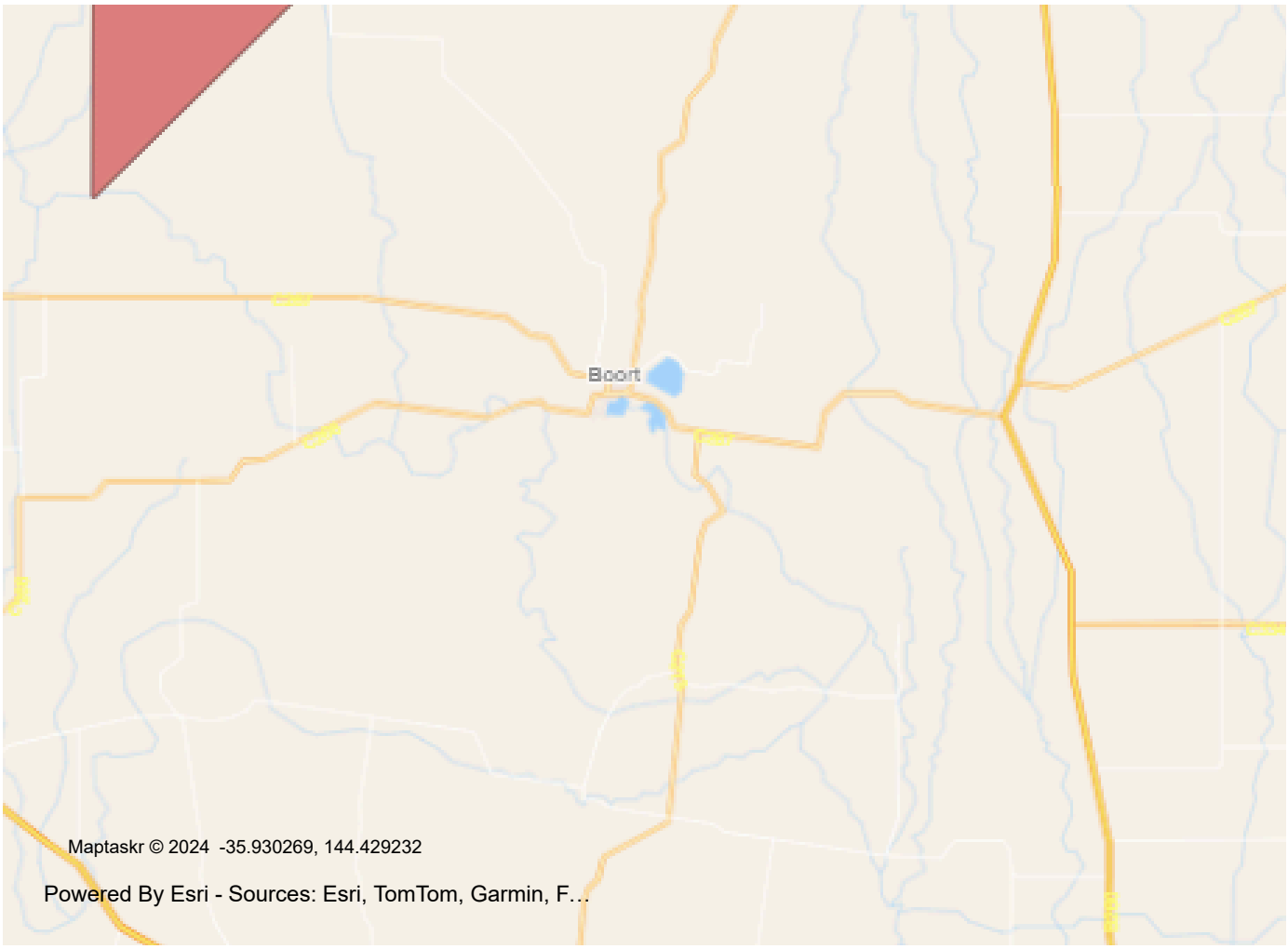
1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint





2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Lalbert-Kerang Road, Lalbert VIC 3450

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

Victoria

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

No

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

The majority of the referral area is located on freehold land, with some small areas of Crown land, road and rail corridors, and other publicly owned land for utilities, reserves and recreation areas.

Project land requirements will be secured via commercial land lease/licence agreements applied to private freehold land. The agreements will provide for long-term lease and easement arrangements that will extend for the operational life of the wind farm.

Approvals to construct cabling and access tracks over/across existing road reserves will be obtained from the relevant authority as required when the Project layout is finalised. WTGs (including blade overhang) will be kept clear of Crown land and roads.

All affected landowners and land managers will be engaged to facilitate discussions regarding land access in construction. Engagement will commence following confirmation of the relevant land parcels.

Please refer to **Figure 4 Land Use and Tenure** and **Figure 5 Parks, Reserves, Waterways and Wetlands (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 4 and 5).**

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Project is to be located in the Loddon Mallee region of north-west Victoria, approximately 33 km west of Kerang and 25 km south of the Murray River and the Victoria-New South Wales border (refer to **Figure 1 Project Overview in Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 1).**

A summary of the Project site's characteristics is listed below:

- Waterways - the Avoca River traverses the referral area and demarcates the south-eastern boundary of the Wind Farm Area. Additionally, there is one Wetland of National Significance, Kerang Wetland Ramsar Site, located 0.67 km east of the north-eastern edge of the referral area (Transmission Study Corridor Option C), which comprises various wetland types consisting of 23 named lakes, marshes and swamps varying in depth and salinity.
- Road/railway infrastructure - the referral area includes several state government declared roads, including Kerang-Quambatook Road, Boort-Kerang Road, Quambatook-Swan Hill Road and Dumosa-Quambatook Road. The Robinvale Railway Line (freight) traverses the south-west section of the Transmission Corridor Study Area.
- Vegetation - the landscape within the referral area is predominantly flat and characterised by large open paddocks and cropping fields, road reserves and roadside vegetation. Much of the remnant vegetation is altered and highly degraded. Small pockets of higher quality native vegetation remain primarily comprising mallee woodland, grassland and riparian woodland, mostly confined to linear corridors along road reserves and watercourses.
- Existing infrastructure - built structures are scarcely distributed through the Project site and its surrounds. These comprise primarily of agricultural infrastructure such as silos, sheds and rural dwellings.
- Soils - most of the referral area contains regions where acid sulphate soils have an extremely low or low probability of occurrence with some areas close to existing water bodies having a high probability of acid sulphate soils occurrence.
- Topography – elevation within the referral area ranges between 80 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) to 120 m AHD throughout.
- Quantification of the vegetation and habitats in terms of extent of native patches, proportion of area under agricultural use, quality and extent of fauna habitat and connectivity will be undertaken in

future surveys (expected to commence in August 2024).

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

Within the referral area, the predominant land use is agricultural. The referral area also includes rural-residential land, state and local government managed roads, Crown land, and land for recreation and reserves. The area within and immediately surrounding the Project site is sparsely populated with townships within proximity (approximately 10 km) of the site including Mystic Park, Quambatook and Lalbert, with each town having a population of less than 250 people.

The proposed use for the referral area is for a wind energy facility and associated infrastructure as discussed in Section 1.2 of this form.

Sensitive land uses

The Project will adopt a minimum setback of 1.5 km from all dwellings (unless written consent from landowner is obtained for a reduction in this buffer).

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

There are no outstanding natural features within the referral area.

Back Creek forms a significant ephemeral drainage channel through the south-east of the referral area, with significant associated riparian vegetation and habitat forming a narrow band through otherwise cleared cropping paddocks.

The referral area surrounds the Korrak Korrak Nature Conservation Reserve, which contains approximately 180 ha of mostly grassland of high biodiversity value within the region.

There are two properties within the referral area, that cover approximately 550 ha which are yet to be surveyed, but likely support native vegetation. The development footprint has sought to avoid this area.

The areas under consideration for the transmission corridor traverse similar agricultural land, but contain numerous areas of high-quality natural features in the region, including conservation areas. These include:

- Bael Bael Grassland N.C.R Nature Conservation Reserve.
- Lake Lookout Bushland Reserve.
- Korrak Korrak Bushland Reserve.
- Cannie Nature Conservation Reserve.
- State Forest in Malee Dryland Region.
- Mosquito Creek Streamside Reserve.
- Avoca River Reserve.
- Griffith Lagoon Nature Conservation Reserve.
- Quambatook Bushland Reserve.
- Quambatook I204 Bushland Reserve.
- Lake Gilmour Wildlife Reserve (hunting).
- Lake Murphy Wildlife Reserve (hunting).
- Sandhill Lake Bushland Reserve.
- Koorangie Wildlife Reserve (hunting).
- Yassom Swamp Nature Conservation Reserve.
- Wandella Nature Conservation Resesrve

Additionally, there is one Wetland of National Significance, Kerang Wetland Ramsar Site, located 0.67 km east of the north-eastern edge of the referral area (Transmission Study Corridor Option C). It covers an area of 9,419 ha and is located on the lower reaches of the Avoca and Loddon Rivers and the Pyramid Creek near the town of Kerang.

These areas may be valued by the local community for their landscape features and undeveloped character. The Project is committed to a minimum setback of 65 m from waterways and wetlands, and the WTG and associated project infrastructure will be positioned to ensure that any fauna and flora that depend on the significant waterway would not be significantly impacted.

Refer to **Figure 5 Parks, Reserves, Waterways and Wetlands (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 5).**

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

The landscape within the referral area is relatively flat and is characterised by large open paddocks. Elevation within the referral area ranges between 80 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) to 120 m AHD throughout.

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.

Native Vegetation

A preliminary ecological site assessment of the Wind Farm Area was undertaken in March 2022 by Ecolink Consulting Pty Ltd (Ecolink) – please see **Attachment 2 – Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report, Appendix A, pg. 52–56**.

The assessment mapped native vegetation presence in the form of patches and scattered trees, and did not include a native vegetation quality assessment or assessment of large trees in patches. Since this assessment in 2022, the key modifications to the referral area include the extension of the Wind Farm Area to the north-east and the west to support an increased number of WTGs.

Following these modifications, desktop assessments have since been conducted by ERM to review the Ecolink findings, particularly for the identification of native vegetation within the Wind Farm Area, and to scope the biodiversity constraints to inform the viability of the proposed Transmission Corridor Study Area.

Once the optimal development footprint is confirmed, detailed native vegetation assessment will be completed to determine the presence, condition and extent of patches of native vegetation, scattered trees, and extent of native vegetation likely to be removed for the Project.

Flora

The referral area is largely dominated by broad acre cropping of wheat and canola with remnant vegetation mostly restricted to roadside verges and ephemeral riparian zones. Quantification of the extent of native vegetation is yet to be undertaken.

Ecolink recorded 93 flora species, 67 (72 %) of which were native and three of which are listed as threatened under the FFG Act:

- Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*)
- Buloke Mistletoe (*Amyema linophylla* subsp. *orientalis*)
- Umbrella Wattle (*Acacia oswaldii*)

No EPBC-listed flora was recorded.

For the full flora list see **Attachment 2 – Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report, Appendix A, Table A2, pg. 59–61).**

Records exist for 91 flora species listed under the EPBC Act and/or FFG Act exist within 10 km of the referral area.

Species lists and descriptions of flora within patches of native vegetation, scattered tree, weeds, planted vegetation and other non-native vegetated areas will be recorded during detailed assessments, anticipated to commence in August 2024, which will be used to inform the progression of the development layout.

Refer to the following attachments for further details on threatened flora:

- Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report (**Att 2, Section 3.3.2, pg, 18-21**).
- Desktop Ecological Assessment Report (**Att 3, Appendix D, pg. 92-98**).

Fauna

Ecolink recorded 48 bird species – all common species except for the threatened Brown Treecreeper.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo and European Rabbit were the only mammals recorded, while two reptiles, the Eastern Brown Snake and Eastern Bearded Dragon were also found.

See **Attachment 2 – Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report, Appendix A, Table A2, pg. 62–63)** for the full list of fauna species.

There are 72 threatened fauna species listed under the EPBC Act and/or the FFG Act and 38 listed migratory species that have records within 10 km of the referral area.

Species lists and descriptions of fauna habitat will be recorded during detailed assessments that are anticipated to commence in August 2024.

Refer to the following attachments for further details on threatened fauna:

- Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report (**Att 2, Section 3.5, pg, 25-29**).
- Desktop Ecological Assessment Report (**Att 3, Appendix E, pg. 99-105**).

A total of 91 avifauna species have been observed following preliminary ecological assessments (including from data collected during Bird Utilisation Surveys currently underway).

Species diversity is notably higher within remnant riparian woodlands with suitable breeding habitat present for hollow-dependant fauna. Croplands and pastoral lands provide suitable foraging habitat for generalist and grassland species however is largely influenced by cropping regimes. Large flocks of introduced

Common Black Bird (*Turdus merula*), and Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) are common in cleared agricultural areas and extensive evidence of rabbit and fox usage is present throughout the referral area.

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

The Project site is bisected by two bioregions: the north-western limit of the Victorian Riverina, and a disjunct portion of the Murray Mallee in the south-east.

The Murray Mallee bioregion is dominated by 'mallee' eucalypts, demonstrated by the presence of vegetation assemblages dominated by White Mallee *(Eucalyptus dumosa*) frequenting roadside reserves. As for the Riverina bioregion, River Red-gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) dominates vegetation assemblages of open-forest or woodland, particularly in areas that receive regular flooding. Within the referral area, these pure-stand communities are more likely to occur in narrow bands along riverbanks and watercourses. Both bioregions have been extensively modified and cleared for cultivation of cereal crops, livestock grazing and other agricultural uses. Additionally, both have been adversely affected by irrigation of the Murray River and other large-scale irrigation schemes, aggravating soil erosion and pasture depletion, salinity, and pest infestation. This decline in extent and diversity of vegetation, degradation and loss of habitat, and reduction of soil quality due to salinity, is reflected across most of the land within the referral area.

Scattered paddock trees are recorded throughout the Wind Farm Area, within cropped and grazed paddocks. These trees were largely comprised of three species, Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens)*, White Cypress Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla)* and Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*).

Grassland and chenopod shrubland communities are also likely to be present, though mainly restricted to floodplains and roadsides.

Riparian vegetation associated with the Avoca River and Back Creek is dominated by River Red-gum and open Black Box woodland and wetland, with an understory dominated by Lignum (*Muehlenbeckia florulenta)*, a variety of saltbush species (e.g. *Atriplex* spp.), and Nitre Goosefoot (*Chenopodium nitrariaceum*).

Refer to Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report **(Att 2, Section 3.1, pg 10-12**)

Once the development footprint is further progressed, a detailed native vegetation assessment will be completed to determine the presence, condition and extent of patches of native vegetation and scattered trees, as well as the extent of native vegetation likely to be removed for the Project.

With regards to soils, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (**CSIRO**) databases indicate that most of the referral area contains regions where acid sulphate soils (ASS) have an extremely low or low probability of occurrence, with some areas close to existing water bodies having a high probability of ASS occurrence. Detailed assessment of ASS would be undertaken to inform project design and development. The micro-siting of turbines and associated infrastructure will avoid these areas identified as having higher potential for acid sulphate soils.

No Erosion Management Overlays (EMO) exist within the referral area; however, further assessment will be undertaken to confirm the potential for highly erodible soils to occur and that could be affected by the Project at the detailed design stage.

3.3 Heritage

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

There are no Commonwealth, State or Local heritage places within the referral area.

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

Preliminary assessments completed have identified 95 Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) sites recorded within the referral area. These comprise of scarred trees with small numbers of stone artefact scatters and earth mounds, located within proximity to the Avoca River.

Preparation and approval of a CHMP in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (VIC) will assist in mitigating the risk of damage and provide for the appropriate management of artefacts as required.

Refer to the following attachments for further details on the VAHR results:

- Figure 6 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage **(Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 6)**
- Aboriginal Cultural and Historical Heritage Risk Assessment **(Att 4, Section 3.3, pg. 17-29)** for the Wind Farm Area.
- Preliminary Desktop Heritage **(Att 5, Section 5.1, pg. 52-60)** for the Transmission Corridor Study Area.

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. *

There are many water environments within and surrounding the referral area. There is one Wetland of National Significance, Kerang Wetlands Ramsar Site, located 0.67 km east of the north-eastern edge of the referral area (Transmission Study Corridor Option C). The Ramsar site is a mosaic of various wetland types, comprising 23 named lakes, marshes and swamps varying in depth and salinity. It covers an area of 9,419 ha and is located on the lower reaches of the Avoca and Loddon Rivers and the Pyramid Creek near the town of Kerang. The referral area incorporates some of the broader catchment that feeds into the lakes and swamps of the Ramsar site.

The Avoca River runs along the south-eastern boundary of the Wind Farm Area and is a major waterway draining into Lake Bael Bael within the part of the Ramsar site known as the Marshes. This river is an ephemeral watercourse with a highly fluctuating flow.

Back Creek runs through the Wind Farm Area. It is also ephemeral, and drains into the north of the Marshes in an area known as Yassom Swamp.

Major wetlands listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia are located within 10 km of the referral area including:

- Avoca Floodway (Tutchewop Plains)
- Third Marsh (Top Marsh)
- Second Marsh (Middle Marsh)
- First Marsh (The Marsh)
- Lake Bael Bael
- Lake Cullen
- Little Lake Charm, Kangaroo Lake & Racecourse Lake.

The final Project design will seek to avoid water environments through setbacks and buffers (noting RES' commitment to a minimum project infrastructure setback of 65 m from waterways and wetland), though some cabling crossings of waterways may be required. No direct impacts to the Kerang Ramsar site or other important wetlands are expected from the construction or operation of the Project.
Hydrological studies will be undertaken to inform avoidance and mitigation measures as part of the Project design and incorporated into a CEMP.

Refer to **Figure 5 Parks, Reserves, Waterways and Wetlands (Att 1 – Project Figures, pg. 5).**

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

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S16	Ramsar Wetland	Yes	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 properties located within or nearby the referral area.

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 places located within or nearby the referral area.

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.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
No	No	Banrock Station Wetland Complex

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
No	No	Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes
No	No	Kerang Wetlands
No	No	Riverland
No	No	The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland

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

Yes

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

The Project has the potential to directly impact water quality through sedimentation, accidental release of pollutants through construction activities for WTG, transmission corridor installation and road and other infrastructure development.

Back Creek and the Avoca and Loddon Rivers are located within proximity of the Kerang Wetlands Site and feed into its lakes and swamps. The most likely to be affected by the Project, the Avoca River and Back Creek, are ephemeral and experience highly variable flow.

Indirect risks from the Project arise from potential to impact avifauna associated with the Ramsar site, primarily via collision with WTGs or transmission lines. Such impacts are currently subject to assessment (e.g. ongoing BUS).

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

No

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

The referral area has been selected to avoid the Ramsar site, and to avoid direct and indirect impacts on any threatened or migratory species that depend on the Kerang Wetland.

The Project is committed to a minimum setback of 65 m from waterways and wetlands, and the WTG and associated project infrastructure will be positioned to ensure that any fauna and flora that depend on the significant waterway would not be significantly impacted.

Where effects on water environments cannot be avoided, best practice environmental management measures in both the construction and operations phase would be detailed in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (**CEMP**) and an Operational Environmental Management Plan (**OEMP**). Such mitigation

measures will include appropriate sediment fencing and timing of disturbance activities to avoid periods of inundation and ephemeral waterflows.

Impacts to avifauna associated with the wetlands will be mitigated with a Bat and Avifauna Management Plan and adaptive management processes that are anticipated to be implemented. While there will remain the potential for incidental impacts to avifauna associated with the Ramsar Site's qualification criteria, these are considered to be infrequent and not enough to affect species populations.

The Project is highly unlikely to result in:

- any destruction or substantial modification of the wetlands
- any measurable change in the hydrological regime of the wetland
- impacts to the habitat or lifecycle of any native species dependent upon the wetland
- any change in the water quality of the wetland
- Introduction of any invasive species that is harmful to the ecological character of the wetland.

No significant residual impacts to the Ramsar Wetlands are expected to result from the Project, and no corresponding effect on its condition, on its qualification criteria (Criteria 1–6) under the Ramsar Convention or listing status. This will be achieved through measures already undertaken and ongoing (including development considerations and data collection) and those yet to be developed (including aforementioned setbacks, buffers, and relevant management plans).

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

No

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

The proposed action is not a controlled action because it is highly unlikely that any significant residual impacts to any the Ramsar Wetlands will result, either during the construction or operations phase of the wind farm.

None of the significant impact criteria for Ramsar Wetlands are likely to be met, and no corresponding effect on the wetlands' condition or qualification criteria (Criteria 1–6) under the Ramsar Convention or listing status.

Any impacts are expected to be minor and can be mitigated.

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

Where effects on water environments cannot be avoided, best practice environmental management measures in both construction and operations would be detailed in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (**CEMP**) and an Operational Environmental Management Plan (**OEMP**). Such mitigation measure will include appropriate sediment fencing and timing of disturbance activities to avoid periods of inundation and ephemeral waterflows.

Impacts to avifauna associated with the wetlands will be mitigated with a Bat and Avifauna Management Plan and adaptive management processes that will be implemented as part of the CEMP and OEMP.

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

Should offsets be required, these will be secured in consultation with DCCEEW and other relevant stakeholders and subject to an approved Offset Management Plan.

However, given that no significant impacts to the Ramsar Wetlands are likely to arise from the Project, the provision of offsets are not expected to be required for this Project.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Amphibromus fluitans	River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass
Yes	No	Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface
No	No	Aprasia parapulchella	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	Austrostipa wakoolica	
No	No	Bidyanus bidyanus	Silver Perch, Bidyan
No	No	Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Caladenia tensa	Greencomb Spider-orchid, Rigid Spider-orchid
No	No	Caladenia versicolor	Candy Spider-orchid
Yes	Yes	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes	No	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	Craterocephalus fluviatilis	Murray Hardyhead
No	No	Crinia sloanei	Sloane's Froglet
No	No	Delma impar	Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard
No	No	Eleocharis obicis	a spike rush
Yes	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Galaxias rostratus	Flathead Galaxias, Beaked Minnow, Flat-headed Galaxias, Flat-headed Jollytail, Flat-headed Minnow
Yes	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	Hemiaspis damelii	Grey Snake
Yes	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Leipoa ocellata	Malleefowl
No	No	Lepidium aschersonii	Spiny Peppercress
Yes	No	Lepidium monoplocoides	Winged Pepper-cress
No	No	Lepidium pseudopapillosum	Erect Pepper-cress
Yes	No	Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit
No	No	Litoria raniformis	Southern Bell Frog,, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
Yes	No	Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (eastern), Eastern Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Maccullochella macquariensis	Trout Cod
No	No	Maccullochella peelii	Murray Cod
Yes	No	Maireana cheelii	Chariot Wheels
Yes	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Myriophyllum porcatum	Ridged Water-milfoil
Yes	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Nyctophilus corbeni	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
Yes	No	Pedionomus torquatus	Plains-wanderer
No	No	Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides	Regent Parrot (eastern)
No	No	Polytelis swainsonii	Superb Parrot
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Sclerolaena napiformis	Turnip Copperburr
No	No	Senecio behrianus	Stiff Groundsel, Behr's Groundsel
Yes	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
Yes	No	Swainsona murrayana	Slender Darling-pea, Slender Swainson, Murray Swainson-pea
No	No	Swainsona plagiotropis	Red Darling-pea, Red Swainson-pea
No	No	Swainsona pyrophila	Yellow Swainson-pea
No	No	Synemon plana	Golden Sun Moth
Yes	No	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
Yes	No	Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia
Yes	No	Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion
Yes	No	Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains
Yes	No	Plains mallee box woodlands of the Murray Darling Depression, Riverina and Naracoorte Coastal Plain Bioregions
No	No	Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains
No	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

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

Yes

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

Threatened Species
The *Cannie Wind Farm Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report* (ERM, 2024a) (**Attachment 2**) and *Cannie Wind Farm Transmission Corridor Options Desktop Ecological Assessment* (ERM, 2024b) (**Attachment 3**) identify potential significant impacts to MNES due to the proposed action based on the *MNES Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1* (Department of the Environment, 2013).

Where there is uncertainty about impacts or the effectiveness of standard mitigation, and potential impacts may be serious or irreversible. As such, impacts have conservatively been assessed as having the potential to qualify as significant. These include:

- Leading to a long-term decrease in the size of a population.
- A reduction in the area of occupancy of a species.
- Fragmentation of an existing population.

The current referral area accommodates multiple transmission corridor options, which are currently under investigation. Further design development will occur to identify a preferred corridor, and to enable field surveys and detailed impact assessments and identification of avoidance opportunities to be completed. Following this refinement, the potential number of species affected, areas of disturbance and associated impacts are expected to be reduced, however there is still potential for significant impacts to MNES. Where impacts cannot be avoided, management measures would be applied and/or Project specific mitigation measures would be developed and applied (where feasible) to reduce these to acceptable levels.

Where effects on threatened species and communities cannot be avoided, best-practice environmental management measures would be detailed in the Project's CEMP and OEMP. Specific mitigation measures may be developed to address any residual effects.

A full assessment of threatened species and ecological communities will be detailed in a significant impact assessment as part of an MNES report, once the development footprint is determined.

Threatened species

The threatened species listed below have the potential to be impacted.

Critically Endangered species:

- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea).*
- Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus).*

Endangered species:

- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa).*
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia).*
- Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata).*
- Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri leadbeateri).*
- Winged Pepper-cress (*Lepidium monoplocoides).*

Vulnerable species:

- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma).*
- Brown Treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae).*
- Chariot Wheels (*Maireana cheelii).*
- Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata).*
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos).*
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii).*
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata).*
- Slender Darling-pea (*Swainsona murrayana).*
- Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis).*
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus).*

For threatened fauna, direct impacts are primarily considered likely to result from:

- Collision risk with and/or barrier effects of WTGs.
- Reduction of habitat through removal of native vegetation for access roads and along the transmission corridor.
- Reduction of habitat through clearing and levelling of sites, excavations and general construction activities.

For threatened flora, impacts are likely to result from:

- Removal for creation of or widening of access roads (direct).
- Reduction in habitat from creation of or widening of access roads (indirect).

Threatened Ecological Communities

Much of the native vegetation within the referral area is confined to remnant bands in road reserves forming a network within the matrix of predominantly agricultural properties. It is likely that much this vegetation may correspond to a listed TEC. The contiguity of these patches means that impacts may be unavoidable where access to properties for turbines and associated infrastructure is required, including delivery of WTG components (mainly rotors). Road widening or creation of clearance for vehicle swept areas may also impact this vegetation. These direct impacts will necessarily be in the form of removal of native vegetation.

Additionally, regardless of the preferred transmission corridor, they all have the potential for riparian or roadside vegetation beneath electrical cable to be required to be managed as part of bushfire hazard reduction, and this may result in indirect impacts (such as seasonal management of vegetation height).

Critically endangered and Endangered TECs likely to be impacted are:

- *Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions*
- *Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion*
- *Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains*
- *Plains mallee box woodlands of the Murray Darling Depression, Riverine and Naracoorte Coastal Plain Bioregions*

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. *

All of the TECs with potential to occur in the referral area are listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered. Impacts to any TECs may result in the following criteria and thus constituting significant impacts:

- Reduction in the extent of an ecological community.
- Fragmentation or increase fragmentation of an ecological community, for example by clearing vegetation for roads or transmission lines cause a reduction in their extent.

All of the TECs with potential to occur in the referral area are listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered. Impacts to any TECs may result in the following criteria and thus constituting significant impacts:

- Reduction in the extent of an ecological community.
- Fragmentation or increase fragmentation of an ecological community, for example by clearing vegetation for roads or transmission lines cause a reduction in their extent.

Although considered unlikely to occur, the following listed threatened fauna species have the potential to be impacted by the project:

- Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*).
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma).*

Although the Plains Wanderer is largely considered to be a ground dwelling species that is unlikely to occur flying at heights considered at risk of collision, the species is critically endangered with approximately 250 individuals remaining and so a single mortality constitutes greater than an ecologically significant proportion of the population (defined as 0.01% in the *Referral guidelines for 14 birds listed as migratory species under the EPBC Act* (DCCEEW, 2015)).

Plains Wanderer will be potentially impacted through loss of grassland habitat or avoidance of WTGs. Both of these impacts will be mitigated by appropriate construction buffers and avoidance of habitat.

Impacts to Blue-winged Parrot is expected to be limited to mortality or injury resulting from collision with WTGs. The Blue-winged Parrot is a semi-migratory species that is known to utilise eucalypt woodlands within northern Victoria. Although migratory flight heights are likely to exceed those of the RSA, as a largely ground foraging species it is expected that flight heights within the RSA while interacting with the referral area will be rare and the species is not likely to be significantly impacted by the Project.

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. *

Threatened Ecological Communities

Due to the size of the Project and the potential prevalence of TECs in roadside vegetation, it is likely that, while individual impacts may be small, cumulatively this may result in a significant impact on a TEC due to a reduction area and/or fragmentation of linear corridors.

Threatened Species

Impacts to threatened species require further assessment through the impact assessment process and best practice mitigation and management measures identified and applied to ensure impacts are reduced to acceptable levels. While the potential number of species affected are expected to be reduced once the development footprint is determined, the potential for significant impacts from WTGs remains. Therefore, the proposed action is considered a controlled action.

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. *

The Project is committed to best-practice environmental management. The proposed referral area allows the Project the flexibility to adopt the principles of avoid, mitigate and offset to minimise the potential of adverse environmental impacts.

Avoidance

Further design development to identify a preferred transmission corridor and siting of other Project infrastructure will consider the existing environment and identified areas of sensitivities, including cultural heritage, social, environmental and ecological, existing land holdings and existing infrastructure. Buffer zones and no-go zones would be implemented where proposed Project infrastructure may have the potential to impact on sensitive areas.

Micro-siting of WTGs and associated infrastructure including transmission cable supports and access roads will be undertaken in response to the findings of the various ecological site assessments due to commence in August 2024 to maximise avoidance opportunities.

Mitigation

Where areas of sensitivities cannot be avoided, best practice measures will be implemented, where possible, to reduce the potential impact to acceptable levels. Such measures may include:

- Minimising unavoidable impacts by directing development to areas of lower biodiversity value.
- Micro siting of infrastructure to reduce impacts to sensitive areas where they cannot be avoided.
- Adopting of trenchless technologies to avoid impacts to vegetation where relevant.
- Siting and design of above-ground infrastructure to reduce landscape and visual amenity impacts.
- Implementation of a CEMP and an OEMP.

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

Unavoidable impacts to native vegetation would be offset in accordance with the Victorian *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017). Any applicable Commonwealth offsets will be accounted for in an approved offset strategy.

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
Yes	No	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
No	No	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
Yes	Yes	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ruficollis	Red-necked Stint
No	No	Charadrius bicinctus	Double-banded Plover
Yes	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
Yes	No	Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
No	No	Myiagra cyanoleuca	Satin Flycatcher
No	No	Numenius minutus	Little Curlew, Little Whimbrel
No	No	Philomachus pugnax	Ruff (Reeve)

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	No	Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank, Greenshank
Yes	No	Tringa stagnatilis	Marsh Sandpiper, Little Greenshank

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

Yes

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

Potential sources of direct impacts to migratory species associated with activities in the referral area include:

- Physical presence of turbines and turbine interactions may result in collision (injury/mortality) and barrier effects to migratory avifauna.
- Reduction of habitat through the removal of native vegetation and/or the clearing and levelling of sites, excavations and general construction activities.

Potential sources of indirect impacts to listed migratory species include:

- Accidental spills, erosion and sedimentation, and dust pollution due to construction activities causing a decline in water quality, resulting in the long-term decline or loss over time of habitat and consequently, species numbers.
- Vehicular movements during construction and operations introduces and/or spreads weeds, pest species or pathogens, resulting in long-term decline or loss over time of habitat and consequently, species numbers.

The migratory species potentially impacted by the Project are:

- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa).*
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia).*
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos).*
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea).*
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii).*
- Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis).*
- Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos).*
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata).*
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus).*

All identified potential sources of direct and indirect impacts apply to all migratory species listed above.

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. *

Where there is scientific uncertainty about the likelihood and extent of impacts or the effectiveness of standard mitigation, and such impacts may be serious or irreversible, these have conservatively been assessed as having the potential to be significant.

The key potential significant impacts are:

- substantially modifying (including by fragmenting, altering fire regimes, altering nutrient cycles or altering hydrological cycles), destroying or isolating an area of important habitat for a migratory species.
- Seriously disrupting the lifecycle (breeding, feeding, migration or resting behaviour) of an ecologically significant proportion of the population of a migratory species.

Potential sources of direct impacts to migratory species associated with activities in the referral area include:

- Physical presence of turbines and turbine interactions may result in collision (injury/mortality) and barrier effects to migratory avifauna.
- Reduction of habitat through the removal of native vegetation and/or the clearing and levelling of sites, excavations and general construction activities.

Potential sources of indirect impacts to listed migratory species include:

- Accidental spills, erosion and sedimentation, and dust pollution due to construction activities causing a decline in water quality, resulting in the long-term decline or loss over time of habitat and consequently, species numbers.
- Vehicular movements during construction and operations introduces and/or spreads weeds, pest species or pathogens, resulting in long-term decline or loss over time of habitat and consequently, species numbers.

Impacts to the species described above have the potential to be significant, however, at the time of submission the magnitude and extent of these are unknown.

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. *

Assessment of impacts to migratory species requires further investigation through the Bird Utilisation Survey (BUS) and habitat assessment and mapping. The outcomes of these assessments in the second half of 2024 will inform the final development footprint including the location of the transmission corridor. Collision risk modelling will form part of this impact assessment and the findings incorporated into best-practice mitigation and management measures identified and applied to ensure impacts are reduced to acceptable levels. While the potential number of species affected are expected to be reduced once the transmission corridor and wind farm layout is determined, there is potential for significant impacts to migratory species. Therefore, the proposed action is considered a controlled action.

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

The Project has engaged suitably qualified ecologists to survey and map areas of potential and known habitat to inform design development, and avoidance and mitigation measures. Specific mitigation measures will be identified as part of the detailed impact assessment process.

Avoidance measures that may be implemented include establishing no-go zones and associated buffer zones to avoid known significant ecological values to the greatest extent possible and utilising existing utilities easements to connect to existing transmission network and co-locate Project components with other infrastructure where possible.

Mitigation measures and controls applicable may include:

- Where possible micro-site WTGs to maximise separation from the edges of remnant vegetation and significant fauna habitat.
- Develop a Bird and Bat Management Plan to allow for adaptive management practices to be applied.
- An adaptive management and monitoring program to assess the effectiveness and implementation of controls as required.
- Implementation of a CEMP and an OEMP.

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

Unavoidable impacts to native vegetation would be implemented to accord with the requirements of applicable Victorian and Commonwealth guidelines. Offsets will be developed to compensate for any significant residual impacts that remain after implementing all practicable measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts.

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. *

There are no Nuclear Actions proposed as part of this proposed 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 located in proximity to any Commonwealth Marine Areas.

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 in proximity 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 does not involve 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 will avoid direct and/or indirect impact to any 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. *

There are no recognised overseas Commonwealth Heritage places within the referral area or that will be affected by the proposed action.

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. *

No alternatives have been considered for the proposal. The Project site was selected following extensive site selection process across the entire state of Victoria. The Project site within the broader Cannie region was found to be the most suitable location relative to comparable sites primarily due to the available wind resource, proximity to a point of connection to the electricity network, good road access, low density of dwellings, predominant land use of grazing and cropping and being within the State Government's Murray River Renewable Energy Zone.

With regards to the Transmission Corridor Study Area, the proponent is currently exploring the preferred transmission corridor. The selection of the preferred corridor will be informed through consultation with proposed landholders and consideration of engineering design and environmental investigations. A previous iteration of the Transmission Corridor Study Area included a fourth option to connect the Wind Farm Area north east towards to the proposed VNI West corridor. This was removed following an environmental constraints assessment to avoid potential impacts to areas of high cultural heritage sensitivity and high ecological values associated with the Murray River.

The proponent will continue to seek to avoid areas of environmental sensitivity as the Project progresses through to the detailed design phase.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_Project_Figures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	06/02/2024	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att6_CSEP_V02.pdf RES Australia's Community and Stakeholder Engagement	17/06/2024	No	High

Plan

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att7_RES_ESG_Policy.pdf Global RES Environmental, Social and Governance Policy	28/02/2024	No	High

2.2.5 Tenure of the action area relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_Project_Figures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	06/02/2024	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_Project_Figures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	06/02/2024	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_Project_Figures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	06/02/2024	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att2_Preliminary_Ecological_Assessment_Report.pdf Preliminary Ecological report for the Wind Farm Area	26/03/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att3_Desktop_Ecological_Assessment_Report.pdf Preliminary Ecological report for the Transmission Study Area	26/03/2024	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att2_Preliminary_Ecological_Assessment_Report.pdf Preliminary Ecological report for the Wind Farm Area	26/03/2024	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document				

		Att1_Project_Figures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	06/02/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att4_Aboriginal_Cultural_Historical_Heritage_Risk_Assessment.pdf Aboriginal cultural and historical heritage assessment for the Wind Farm Area	26/03/2024	Yes	High
#3.	Document	Att4_redacted_Aboriginal_Cultural_Historical_Heritage_Risk_Assessment.pdf Aboriginal cultural and historical heritage assessment for the Wind Farm Area with sensitive information redacted	26/03/2024	No	High
#4.	Document	Att5_Preliminary_Desktop_Heritage.pdf Aboriginal cultural and historical heritage assessment for the Transmission Study Area	26/03/2024	Yes	High
#5.	Document	Att5_redacted_Preliminary_Desktop_Heritage.pdf Aboriginal cultural and historical heritage assessment for the Transmission Study Area with sensitive information redacted	26/03/2024	No	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_Project_Figures.pdf Project figures to support EPBC referral	06/02/2024	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	Att2_Preliminary_Ecological_Assessment_Report.pdf Preliminary Ecological report for the Wind Farm Area	26/03/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att3_Desktop_Ecological_Assessment_Report.pdf Preliminary Ecological report for the Transmission Study Area	26/03/2024	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	12002773248
Organisation name	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED

Organisation address	Level 14, 207 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Representative's name	Jenny Luk
Representative's job title	Partner
Phone	+61 3 8606 4131
Email	jenny.luk@erm.com
Address	Level 8, 501 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

☑ 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, **Jenny Luk of ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED**, 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	55106637754
Organisation name	RES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	Level 6, 165 Walker Street North Sydney, NSW, 2060
Representative's name	Mike Head
Representative's job title	Environment Manager
Phone	0481 961 543
Email	mike.head@res-group.com
Address	Level 6, 165 Walker Street North Sydney, NSW, 2060

☑ 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, **Mike Head of RES AUSTRALIA 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, **Mike Head of RES AUSTRALIA 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. *