# Best of All Lookout, Carpark and Walking Track Upgrade (Springbrook NP)

Application Number: **03130** Commencement Date: **18/09/2025** Status: **Locked**

# 1. About the project

## 1.1 Project details

**1.1.1 Project title ***

Best of All Lookout, Carpark and Walking Track Upgrade (Springbrook NP)

**1.1.2 Project industry type ***

Tourism and Recreation

**1.1.3 Project industry sub-type**

—

**1.1.4 Estimated start date ***

01/07/2026

**1.1.4 Estimated end date ***

31/12/2026

# 1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Best of All Lookout, Carpark and Walking Track (herein referred to as 'the site') is located on the plateau section of Springbrook National Park. The site lies within land parcel 5 AP19371. There are multiple tenures across the site including Airservices Australia (private property) and Gold Coast City Council (CoGC) Road Reserve. Additionally, a significant portion of the site is located across the QLD/NSW border within the Numinbah Nature Reserve managed by NSW Parks & Wildlife Service.

Visitor facilities at the site were last installed and/or upgraded in the 1990's. The site is experiencing increasing visitation impacts (45,000 to 55,000 visitors per year) and increasing safety issues due to vehicular and pedestrian volume and degrading infrastructure. Most of the existing facilities have reached the end of their lifecycle, making it difficult for local rangers to maintain them in a functional and presentable fashion. This upgrade project seeks to address these issues by enhancing and upgrading the facilities and nature-based visitor experiences provided at the site.

The location is a high turnover site with typical duration of stay less than 1 hour. The parking area is the entry point for all visitors and is spread over two distinct terraces. The existing pedestrian access is via the existing road and leads to pedestrian and vehicle conflicts within the site. The layout is not intuitive resulting in road blockages, congestion and wayfinding uncertainty. The current layout restricts the areas where vehicles can unload/load and park, which results in high noise levels and visitor traffic near the immediate entrance to the track. The current layout does not allow for an effective vehicle flow or manoeuvring on the site's upper terrace, especially in peak times. Inclusion of a shuttle bus set down and turnaround is to be considered in the design for use by both buses and cars.

Rationalisation of pedestrian movement throughout the site is required to reduce the vehicle/pedestrian conflicts. The existing circulation system is to be evaluated to determine best access points, pedestrian movement and flow paths, and visitor experience opportunities. Separation of the pedestrian and vehicle movement and clearly defined wayfinding elements are critical to the project's success.

A distinct minor pedestrian entry node is to be created at the end of the parking area and prior to entering the track. This area will be the main pedestrian hub for the site providing a gathering, orientation/interpretive acting as a gateway/threshold into the park. It will require a unique QPWS identity and feel. The path and circulation is to provide distinct areas for movement to and from the destinations of the parking areas and walking track. Sightlines are to be used to show what is ahead in conjunction with visual cues to provide orientation and memorable points to intuitively lead people throughout the site. The layout is to be simplified as much as possible for clarity.

Existing car parking space numbers include 2 standard bays and 2 inclusive bays on the southern terrace and 7 standard bays on the lower northern terrace.

The intention is that the upgrade of the site provides an effective and enhanced recreation space for day-visitors to Springbrook National Park with improved access, quality recreation space and key visitor infrastructure. The infrastructure should be as in-evident as possible and not dominate the site in terms of scale or artificial appearance to reduce impacts on the sites, while maintaining minimal intrusion upon the ecological and aesthetic integrity. The natural should dominate the man made.

### 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? ***

***Environmental Protection Act 1994***

- Compliance with the general environmental duty.

***Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999***

- The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* establishes a requirement for Commonwealth environmental assessment and approval for actions that are likely to have a significant impact on any matters of national environmental significance.

***Environmental Offsets Act 2014***

- The Environmental Offsets Act 2014 provides details of the prescribed activities regulated under existing State legislation and prescribed environmental matters to which an offset condition can be imposed.
- Clearing of RE 12.8.4 may be subject to offsets under the Environmental Offsets Act 2014, unless the project development type is exempt.
- Taking of a protected plant under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 may incur offsets under the Environmental Offsets Act 2014.

***Vegetation Management Act 1999***

- Regulates the clearing of native vegetation in Queensland based on vegetation classifications. Areas within the walking path, and adjacent to the northern boundary of the upper carpark are mapped as 'Category B' vegetation that is of concern regional ecosystem on the Regulated Vegetation Management Map.
- No vegetation within areas mapped as category B will be cleared.
- Partially exempt. Under s7(1)(b)(ii) of the Vegetation Management Act 1999, the Act does not apply to the clearing of vegetation in a national park that is a protected area under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. No approval under the Planning Act 2016 or Vegetation Management Act 1999 is required for clearing undertaken within Springbrook NP (Lot. 5 AP19371).
    - Section 89 of the NC Act restricts the taking of particular protected plants. A clearing permit is required for clearing any listed threatened flora species.

***Nature Conservation Act 1994***

- Clearing in areas mapped as high-risk under the NC Act would require a full flora survey in accordance with the flora survey guidelines to determine whether a clearing permit would be required.

- Section 88 of the NC Act places restrictions on "taking" protected animals listed as Threatened or Least Concern wildlife under the NC Act. The NC Act requires that a person must not, without a reasonable excuse, tamper with an animal breeding place that is being used by a protected animal to incubate or rear the animal's offspring, unless the removal or tampering is part of an approved Species Management Program (SMP) for animals of the same species; or the person holds a damage mitigation permit for the animal and the permit authorises the removal or tampering.

- In the event that relevant breeding places are located on site, an SMP must be obtained for the works.

***City of Gold Coast City Plan***

- An operational works approval for the removal of vegetation will be required.
- For development within Hinterland Core Habitat Systems, the development must comply with the relevant performance outcomes:

- protect in situ matters of environmental significance and associated buffers;

- protect in situ vegetation and habitat for native flora and fauna; and

- allow for the rehabilitation of disturbed, cleared or modified areas.

### 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. *

Working in partnership with Danggan Balun (DB), the Gold Coast Native Title Group (GCNTG) and engaging with key stakeholders will continue throughout this engagement to ensure all critical requirements are incorporated into these next design phases. QPWS&P share the First Nation Group's aspiration to design areas that facilitate a connection to culture and country. Although the integration of DB/GCNTG material/content will predominantly pertain to the signage/interpretation elements of this project (which will be the responsibility of the signage/interpretation consultant engaged separately by QPWS&P), the interpretation of DB's/GCNTG's cultural knowledge shall be supported by QPWS&P working in partnership with the Principal Consultant.

The "Springbrook National Park – Signage and Interpretation Framework" document provides insight into the First Nation Group's aspirations for upgrades across the Springbrook plateau and will be made available to the Principal Consultant. First Nations representatives will also attend all Hold & Review Meetings and provide further comments to the Principal Consultant to respond to and/or embed into the developed design.

# 1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

**Privacy Notice:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

| | |
|---|---|
| **ABN/ACN** | 15155304751 |
| **Organisation name** | Ausecology Pty Ltd |
| **Organisation address** | 1/53 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill, 4170, QLD |

Referring party details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | Tim Shields |
| **Job title** | Principal Ecologist |
| **Phone** | 0407 828 489 |
| **Email** | tshields@ausecology.com |
| **Address** | 1/53 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill |

# 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** | 46640294485 |
| **Organisation name** | DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION |
| **Organisation address** | 4000 QLD |

Person proposing to take the action details


| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | Phillip Maizey |
| **Job title** | Project Manager |
| **Phone** | 0435792516 |
| **Email** | Phillip.Maizey@detsi.qld.gov.au |
| **Address** | Level 5, 400 George street, Brisbane QLD 4000 |

### 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. *

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is responsible for the management of parks and protected areas, nature conservation, provision of recreational opportunities, and public education in conservation. The agency manages more than 1000 protected areas across Queensland. The QPWS operates under legislation like the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and Forestry Act 1959 to fulfill its conservation and management objectives for current and future generations.

QPWS work in partnership with First Nations peoples, other department divisions, government agencies, councils, scientists, partners, and volunteers to manage and protect Queensland's natural, cultural and heritage values, support their sustainable use, and provide ecotourism opportunities.

QPWS work across:

- More than **1,000** national parks, State forests, marine parks and other protected areas—home to threatened native species.
- Over **15 million** hectares of public and private protected areas—an area larger than 50% of the world's countries.
- **Five** UNESCO World Heritage areas—more than any other State in Australia.
- **Five significant wetlands** protected under the international Ramsar convention.

### 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

QPWS operate under two primary policies and planning documents:

1. The Master Plan for Queensland Parks and Forests to 2025 which guides management practices including fire management and pest management programs
2. Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020–2030 which aims to sustainably grow national parks to achieve an expanded Queensland protected area system that safeguards biodiversity and cultural values, protects threatened species, and builds climate change resilience while creating economic benefits.

Both are also made in accordance with the principals of the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992.

https://parks.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0034/167965/master-plan-qld-parks-forests-to-2015.pdf

https://parks.qld.gov.au/management/plans-strategies/protected-area-strategy

## 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** | 46640294485 |
| **Organisation name** | DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION |
| **Organisation address** | 4000 QLD |

Proposed designated proponent details


| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | Phillip Maizey |
| **Job title** | Project Manager |
| **Phone** | 0435792516 |
| **Email** | Phillip.Maizey@detsi.qld.gov.au |
| **Address** | Level 5, 400 George street, Brisbane QLD 4000 |

### 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 | 15155304751 |
| Organisation name | Ausecology Pty Ltd |
| Organisation address | 1/53 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill, 4170, QLD |
| Representative's name | Tim Shields |
| Representative's job title | Principal Ecologist |
| Phone | 0407 828 489 |
| Email | tshields@ausecology.com |
| Address | 1/53 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill |

## 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 | 46640294485 |
| Organisation name | DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION |
| Organisation address | 4000 QLD |
| Representative's name | Phillip Maizey |
| Representative's job title | Project Manager |
| Phone | 0435792516 |
| Email | Phillip.Maizey@detsi.qld.gov.au |
| Address | Level 5, 400 George street, Brisbane QLD 4000 |

## Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

## 1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

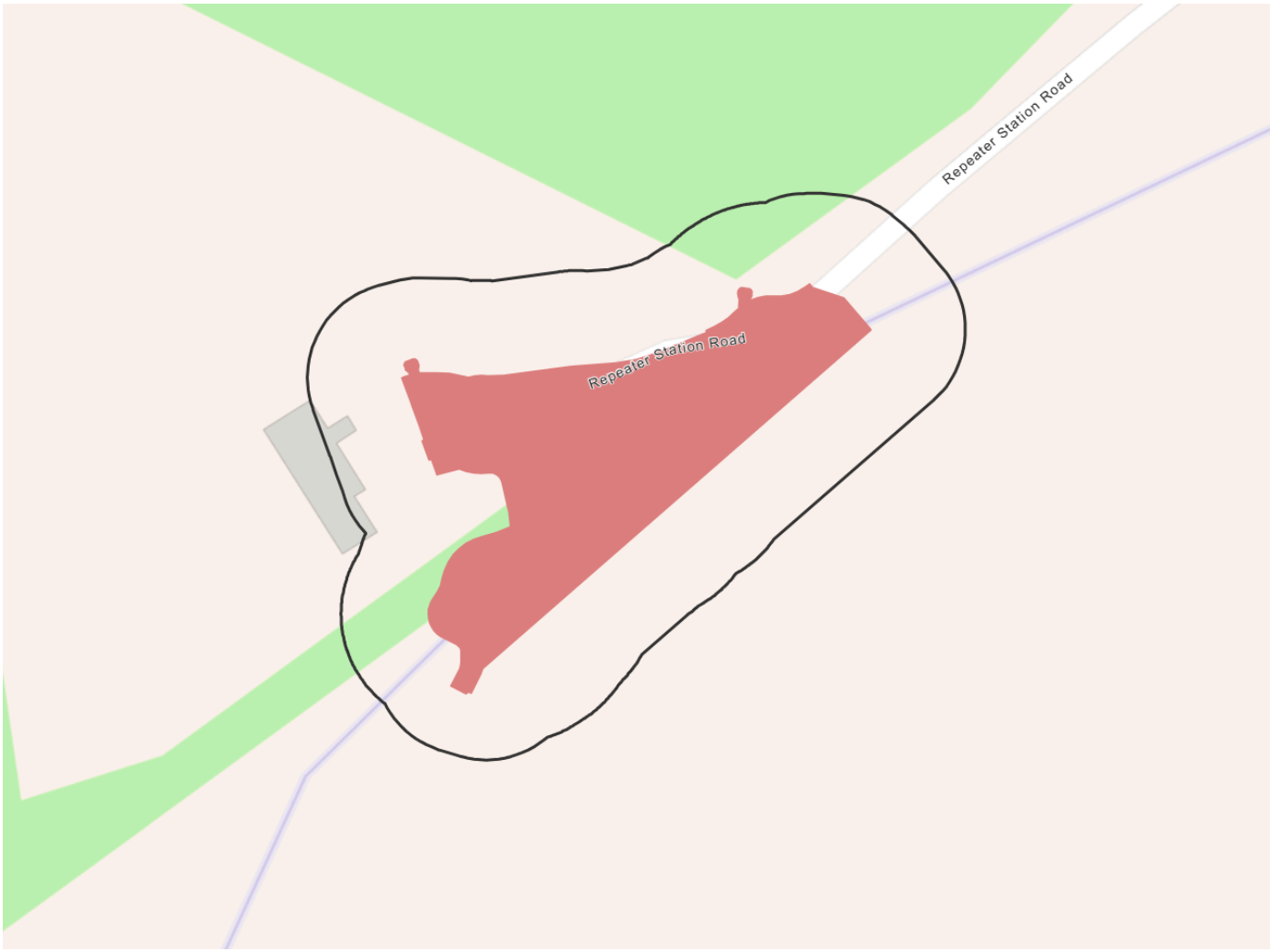
## 1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

# 2. Location

# 2.1 Project footprint




**Project Area:** 1.05 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 0.34 Ha

## 2.2 Footprint details

**2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? ***

312-402 Repeater Station Road, Springbrook, 4213, Queensland

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

Queensland

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

Yes

**2.2.4 Where is the secondary jurisdiction of the proposed action? ***

New South Wales

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

The project is located in Springbrook National Park, managed by the Qld Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships. There are multiple tenures across the site including Airservices Australia (private property) and Gold Coast City Council (CoGC) Road Reserve. Additionally, a significant portion of the site is located across the QLD/NSW border within the Numinbah Nature Reserve managed by NSW Parks & Wildlife Service.

# 3. Existing environment

# 3.1 Physical description

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

The proposed action is an upgrade to the existing visitor facilities at Best of All Lookout, within Springbrook National Park. The Study Area for the proposed action is approximately  hectares (ha), with the Impact Area anticipated to be 0.34 ha.

The Study Area is located approximately 8 km south of Springbrook, within the Scenic Rim subregion of Southeast Queensland. The Study Area and adjoining areas are zoned as 'Conservation' area under the Gold Coast City Council City Plan, indicating areas identified as supporting significant biological diversity and ecological integrity.

The site is only accessible through Repeater Station Road, which connects to Springbrook Road to the north-east. Transportation to and from the site during all stages of the proposed action and for continued visitor access to the site will be through Repeater Station Road.

Complex notophyll vine forest is the dominant vegetation community mapped within the Study Area, as determined through ground-truthing surveys. This community represents high quality potential habitat for a variety of taxa – refer to **MNES Report, Section 3, Page 7** for further details. The Study Area comprises predominantly remnant vegetation with some regrowth vegetation and non-remnant vegetation bordering Repeater Station Road and between the upper and lower levels of the carpark.

Approximately 0.14 ha of the Study Area comprises the existing infrastructure at the site, including Repeater Station Road, the carpark, footpath and stairway. This highly modified infrastructure is unlikely to provide habitat to any taxa, however fauna may move through these areas.

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

The Best of All Lookout, Carpark and Walking Track (the Site) is located on the plateau section of Springbrook National Park and the primary existing use of the site is for tourism. Facilities for visitors to the Best of All Lookout including a car park and walking track.

The site is experiencing increasing visitation impacts (*45,000 to 55,000 visitors per year*) and increasing safety issues due to vehicular and pedestrian volume and degrading infrastructure. Most of the existing facilities have reached the end of their lifecycle, making it difficult for local rangers to maintain them in a functional and presentable fashion. This upgrade project seeks to address these issues by enhancing and upgrading the facilities and nature-based visitor experiences provided at the site.

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

The Study Area is located within Springbrook National Park. Springbrook National Park is part of the World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia and a World Heritage Area. The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area contains the most extensive areas of subtropical rainforest in the world, large areas of warm temperate rainforest, and cool temperature rainforest. The diverse environment of Springbrook National Park provides habitat for numerous plants and animals, many of which are listed as species of conservation significance. Best of All Lookout contains a small pocket of Antarctic beech trees, a relic of ancient forests of Gondwana and of important conservation value in Queensland and globally. The ecosystems of the Gondwana Rainforests contain significant and important natural habitats for species of conservation significance, particularly those associated with the rainforests which once covered much of the continent of Australia and are now restricted to archipelagos of small areas of rainforest isolated by sclerophyll vegetation and cleared land.

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

Elevation within the Study Area ranges between approximately 1005 m to 1016 m above sea level.

## 3.2 Flora and fauna

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

The Protected Matter Search Tool (PMST) indicates that eight fauna species listed under the EPBC Act are known to occur in the Study Area and surrounds, including:

- *Hirundapus caudacutus* (White-throated Needletail)
- *Assa darlingtoni* (Pouched Frog)
- *Phyllodes imperialis smithersi* (Pink Underwing Moth)
- *Antechinus arktos* (Black-tailed Antechinus)
- *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* (SE mainland population) (Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population))
- *Phascolarctos cinereus* (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT) (Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory))
- *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Grey-headed Flying-fox)
- *Harrisoniascincus zia* (Rainforest Cool-skink)

A further 11 flora species listed under the EPBC Act are known to occur in the Study Area and surrounds, including:

- *Rhodamnia maideniana* (Smooth Scrub Turpentine)
- *Diploglottis campbellii* (Small-leaved Tamarind)
- *Ochrosia moorei* (Southern Ochrosia)
- *Macadamia tetraphylla* (Rough-shelled Bush Nut, Macadamia Nut, Rough-shelled Macadamia, Rough-leaved Queensland Nut)
- *Fontainea australis* (Southern Fontainea)
- *Endiandra hayesii* (Rusty Rose Walnut, Velvet Laurel)
- *Bosistoa transversa* (Three-leaved Bosistoa, Yellow Satinheart)
- *Floydia praealta* (Ball Nut, Possum Nut, Big Nut, Beefwood)
- *Symplocos baeuerlenii* (Small-leaved Hazelwood, Shrubby Hazelwood)
- *Syzygium hodgkinsoniae* (Smooth-bark Rose Apple, Red Lilly Pilly)
- *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* (Ravine Orchid)

Detailed PMST results are provided in **MNES Report – Appendix C, Page 105**.

Field surveys were undertaken in the Survey Area in April 2025, including ground-truthing of vegetation communities and a rapid assessment of ecological features present or potentially present within the site including fauna habitat values and threatened species.

Field surveys confirmed the vegetative community present – complex notophyll vine forest. Several habitat features were identified including:

- A large number of boulder/rock formations which can provide shelter and resources for various rainforest animals, including amphibians and reptiles (e.g. *Harrisoniascincus zia* - Rainforest Cool-skink).
- A single mature tree with a significant sized tree hollow and several trunk fissures which would be considered to present high habitat value for a variety of fauna taxa including, diurnal/nocturnal birds, arboreal mammals (such as, microbats and marsupials), amphibians, and reptiles.
- A single small arboreal bird nest made from moss, likely bult by a passerine bird species, was found approx. 7m off Repeater Station Road in the lower terrace car park area, indicating that other bird species may be nesting in surrounding vegetation.

Detailed results from field surveys are presented in **MNES Report – Section 5, Pages 18-22.**

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

The Study Area is located on a plateau, at approximately 1005-1016 m above sea level. The Study Area is characterised by a sloping terrain, with the southern end (top carpark) sloping down to the north (lower carpark). Native vegetation surrounding the existing infrastructure comprises complex notophyll vine forest, which is predominantly in remnant condition, with little disturbance evident. Vegetation between to the upper and lower sections of the carpark, comprising an isolated patch, appears to have been historically cleared and have a simpler structural and species complexity consistent with regrowth condition. The Study Area occurs on basalt soils.

## 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 heritage places within the Study Area.

The Study Area is located within Springbrook National Park which is part of the World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia and a World Heritage Area. The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area contains the most extensive areas of subtropical rainforest in the world, large areas of warm temperate rainforest, and cool temperature rainforest. The diverse environment of Springbrook National Park provides habitat for numerous plants and animals, many of which are listed as species of conservation significance. Best of All Lookout contains a small pocket of Antarctic beech trees, a relic of ancient forests of Gondwana and of important conservation value in Queensland and globally.

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

The site is within the Danggan Balun (Five Rivers) People (QUD331/2017) registered Native Title claim, first lodged on 27 June 2017 and the Gold Coast Native Title Group’s previous Native Title claim, which was rejected. Danggan Balun and the Gold Coast Native Title Group are also the registered Cultural Heritage parties for the site under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.

## 3.4 Hydrology

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

The Impact Area is within the Southern Gold Coast catchment. No watercourses intersect the Impact Area, the nearest watercourses are small, unnamed drainage lines approximately 200 m away. The Impact Area corresponds with an area mapped as a potential GDE aquifer, described as ‘high rainfall permeable rocks (basalts) with permanent flow’. There are no terrestrial or subterranean groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE) associated with the Impact Area.

# 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 | Yes | Yes |
| S15B | National Heritage | Yes | Yes |
| S16 | Ramsar Wetland | No | Yes |
| S18 | Threatened Species and Ecological Communities | Yes | Yes |
| S20 | Migratory Species | Yes | Yes |
| S21 | Nuclear | No | Yes |
| S23 | Commonwealth Marine Area | No | Yes |
| S24B | Great Barrier Reef | No | Yes |
| S24D | Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas | No | Yes |
| S26 | Commonwealth Land | Yes | 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.

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | World heritage |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | Yes | Gondwana Rainforests of Australia |

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

Yes

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

The proposed action is situated within Springbrook National Park which is part of the World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia and a World Heritage Area. The southern portion of the Impact Area, approximately 0.1 ha or 30% of the Impact Area, is mapped within the World Heritage Area. The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia is listed for three of the ten World Heritage criteria:

(viii) Outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history

(ix) Outstanding examples representing significant on-going geological and biological processes

(x) Containing the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity.

The proposed action is likely to impact on criterion (x) only.

Potential impacts to the World Heritage Area are described within **Attachment 1, Section 8.7, Pages 56-58**, and includes impact of up to 0.1 ha of World Heritage Area within the Study Area.

Vegetation clearing as part of the proposed action will have a direct impact on flora species and potentially habitat for fauna species that are endemic to the World Heritage area. However, the disturbance footprint represents a small portion of the overall amount of remnant vegetation within the Study Area.

Indirect and temporary impacts from the proposed action are likely during the construction phase. Construction activities and machinery may create short-term barriers to movement and result in behavioural changes of species. Construction traffic movements and plant operations will result in noise that has the potential to negatively impact adjacent vegetation communities and habitats. Construction vehicle movements may result in accidental killing and injury of fauna.

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

No

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

Vegetation clearing as part of the proposed action is likely to cause a long-term reduction in rare, endemic or unique plant populations or species in the World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia and World Heritage Area.

Several threatened species listed under the EPBC Act and endemic to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia have been identified as likely to be impacted by the proposed action including:

- Rufous scrub-bird (*Atrichornis rufescens*)
- Fleay's barred frog (*Mixophyes fleayi*)
- Black-tailed antechinus (*Antechinus arkt*os)
- Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*)
- Pouched frog (*Assa darlingtoni*)
- Northern long-nosed potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus tridactylus*)
- Rainforest cool-skink (*Harrisoniascincus zia*)
- Three-toed snake-tooth skink (*Coeranoscincus reticulatus*)
- *Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range
- *Rhodamnia maideniana* (smooth scrub turpentine)
- *Symplocos baeuerlenii*

Further details of these impacts are provided in **Section 4.1.4** of this referral.

The Study Area also contains threatened species listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) (Queensland) and endemic to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia. This includes a large population of *Ardisia bakeri* (listed as Near Threatened in Queensland), with a significant number of these likely to be impacted by the project. The species is only known from the Springbrook section of the McPherson Range and the Tweed Valley (there are very few records south of the Tweed River). Most records of the species are from within Springbrook National Park (Qld), Numinbah Nature Reserve (NSW) and Couchy Creek Nature Reserve (NSW) (all of which are connected) This species is likely considered a unique and endemic part of this section of the Gondwana Rainforest World Heritage Area.

Similarly, newly described *Syzygium nebulosum* (Caldera Satinash) is also known from within the Study Area and likely to have multiple impacted individuals. Based on current knowledge, the species is endemic to the eastern section of the McPherson Range restricted to subtropical montane cloud forest within the Springbrook Plateau, Lamington Plateau and Tweed Range (Weber & Forster, 2025). While not currently listed under the EPBC Act, it is generally believed to qualify for future listing (Weber & Forster, 2025).

Native vegetation clearing associated with the project will be limited to an Impact Area of 0.2 ha. Existing vegetation within this area will be retained where possible and revegetation works will be included as part of the works.

Threatened flora and habitat for threatened fauna within the Impact Area have been mapped and the project has been designed to avoid any impacts to these where possible. These will be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physical demarcation as no-go areas. The project is therefore unlikely to cause a long-term reduction in rare, endemic or unique plant or animal populations or species in the World Heritage area. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.7, Pages 56-58** for the full significant impact assessment for the World Heritage Area.

### 4.1.1.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

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

Due to the small Impact Area (up to 0.1 ha) associated with the proposed action, any impacts to the World Heritage Area are unlikely to be significant.

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

The following management measures are proposed to avoid and mitigate the identified potential impacts to MNES resulting from the project. These measures will be included in the project-specific Environmental Assessment and Management Plan (EAMP) (refer to **Attachment 2**) to be adhered to by contractors and other project staff.

Introduction of invasive weeds or spread of existing weeds via machinery or imported materials for landscaping / revegetation.

- Vehicles and machinery to be washed/treated before entering the construction area to avoid introduction of invasive weeds and pathogens.
- Imported soil to be avoided, where possible.
- Imported materials must be certified pest free.
- Implement relevant quarantine and/or hygiene protocols including North Coast Weed Biosecurity Inspection and Compliance Procedure.

Clearing of remnant and regrowth vegetation and the resultant loss of habitat for native fauna and flora

- Design to avoid or minimise clearing of trees and shrubs and minimise extent of required ground cover clearing.
- Arborist to assess potential impacts where works are undertaken around tree roots, and to identify where tree protection zones should be included in the design.
- Protected vegetation, habitat trees and sensitive environments must be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physically demarcating these areas as no go areas.
- Design should aim to avoid impacts to Aristolochia laheyana (Native Dutchman's Pipe)
- Felled timber should be retained within the landscape as logs and coarse woody debris to provide supplementary/replacement habitat for native fauna.

Indirect impacts to species behaviour through creating barriers to movement and dispersal

- Design to avoid or minimise clearing of trees and shrubs and minimise extent of required ground cover clearing.
- Reduce unnecessary noise and disturbance from machinery.
- Coordinate clearing works to occur outside of the breeding season for black-tailed antechinus and pouched frog, i.e. outside of spring and summer months.

Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas as a result of noise, dust, runoff and erosion, including impacts to downstream environments

- Design to include appropriate erosion and sediment controls (ESC) during construction e.g. sediment fencing, check dams.
- Design to require regular inspection, cleaning and repair of sediment controls during construction.
- Disturbed areas to be stabilised and revegetated as soon as practical after works are completed.
- Sediment fencing to be placed downslope of stockpiles
- Design to minimise ground disturbance and avoid/minimise removal of vegetation.
- Erosion and sediment controls to be designed in accordance with Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (BPESC), where relevant.
- Construction Contractor shall develop and undertake an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP).
- Reduce unnecessary noise and disturbance (e.g. turning off equipment when not in use, use of equipment with lower sound power levels where feasible).
- Night works must be kept to a minimum wherever possible.

Direct mortality or injury to native fauna resulting from vegetation clearing, revegetation and other construction works

- Design to include fauna fencing during construction, and fauna friendly features.
- A preclear survey by a fauna spotter catcher is to be carried out two weeks prior to works commencing and immediately prior to vegetation clearing.
- Due to time elapsed since original survey, pre-works survey should be timed early enough to allow for development of a high-risk SMP (in the event that relevant breeding places are located).
- Weed control activities as part of the revegetation works to consider non-chemical methods (i.e. mechanical and organic methods) to reduce risks to sensitive species including Fleay's barred frog, pouched frog and other native amphibians.

Facilitating pest animal movement into new areas

- Ensure construction personnel do not create environments favourable to pest fauna, including ensuring waste is managed appropriately with all food scraps and other waste materials stored in covered bins and removed off site regularly.

Introduction and spread of disease and pathogens

- Vehicles and machinery to be washed/treated before entering the construction area to avoid introduction of invasive weeds and pathogens.
- Imported soil to be avoided, where possible.
- Imported materials must be certified pest free.
- Implement relevant quarantine and/or hygiene protocols including North Coast Weed Biosecurity Inspection and Compliance Procedure.

Unintentional clearing of threatened flora from vegetation clearing and other construction works

- Where possible, design to avoid any impacts to identified critically endangered flora species.

Protected vegetation, habitat trees and sensitive environments must be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physically demarcating these areas as no go areas.

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

No land-based offsets are proposed.

### 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.

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | National heritage |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | Gondwana Rainforests of Australia |

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

Yes

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

The proposed action is situated within Springbrook National Park which is part of the World/National Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia and a World Heritage Area. The southern portion of the Impact Area, approximately 0.1 ha or 30% of the Impact Area, is mapped within the World Heritage Area. The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia is listed for three of the ten World Heritage criteria:

(viii) Outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history

(ix) Outstanding examples representing significant on-going geological and biological processes

(x) Containing the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity.

The proposed action is likely to impact on criterion (x) only.

Potential impacts to the World Heritage Area are described within **Attachment 1, Section 8.7, Pages 56-58**, and includes impact of up to 0.1 ha of World Heritage Area within the Study Area.

Vegetation clearing as part of the proposed action will have a direct impact on flora species and potentially habitat for fauna species that are endemic to the World/National Heritage area. However, the disturbance footprint represents a small portion of the overall amount of remnant vegetation within the Study Area.

Indirect and temporary impacts from the proposed action are likely during the construction phase. Construction activities and machinery may create short-term barriers to movement and result in behavioural changes of species. Construction traffic movements and plant operations will result in noise that has the potential to negatively impact adjacent vegetation communities and habitats. Construction vehicle movements may result in accidental killing and injury of fauna.

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

No

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

Vegetation clearing as part of the proposed action is likely to cause a long-term reduction in rare, endemic or unique plant populations or species in the World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia and World Heritage Area.

Several threatened species listed under the EPBC Act and endemic to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia have been identified as likely to be impacted by the proposed action including:

- Rufous scrub-bird (*Atrichornis rufescens*)
- Fleay's barred frog (*Mixophyes fleayi*)
- Black-tailed antechinus (*Antechinus arkt*os)
- Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*)
- Pouched frog (*Assa darlingtoni*)
- Northern long-nosed potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus tridactylus*)
- Rainforest cool-skink (*Harrisoniascincus zia*)
- Three-toed snake-tooth skink (*Coeranoscincus reticulatus*)
- *Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range
- *Rhodamnia maideniana* (smooth scrub turpentine)
- *Symplocos baeuerlenii*

Further details of these impacts are provided in **Section 4.1.4** of this referral.

The Study Area also contains threatened species listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) (Queensland) and endemic to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia. This includes a large population of *Ardisia bakeri* (listed as Near Threatened in Queensland), with a significant number of these likely to be impacted by the project. The species is only known from the Springbrook section of the McPherson Range and the Tweed Valley (there are very few records south of the Tweed River). Most records of the species are from within Springbrook National Park (Qld), Numinbah Nature Reserve (NSW) and Couchy Creek Nature Reserve (NSW) (all of which are connected) This species is likely considered a unique and endemic part of this section of the Gondwana Rainforest World Heritage Area.

Similarly, newly described *Syzygium nebulosum* (Caldera Satinash) is also known from within the Study Area and likely to have multiple impacted individuals. Based on current knowledge, the species is endemic to the eastern section of the McPherson Range restricted to subtropical montane cloud forest within the Springbrook Plateau, Lamington Plateau and Tweed Range (Weber & Forster, 2025). While not currently listed under the EPBC Act, it is generally believed to qualify for future listing (Weber & Forster, 2025).

Native vegetation clearing associated with the project will be limited to an Impact Area of 0.2 ha. Existing vegetation within this area will be retained where possible and revegetation works will be included as part of the works.

Threatened flora and habitat for threatened fauna within the Impact Area have been mapped and the project has been designed to avoid any impacts to these where possible. These will be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physical demarcation as no-go areas. The project is therefore unlikely to cause a long-term reduction in rare, endemic or unique plant or animal populations or species in the World Heritage area. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.7, Pages 56-58** for the full significant impact assessment for the World Heritage Area.

### 4.1.2.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

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

Native vegetation clearing associated with the project will be limited to an Impact Area of 0.2 ha. Existing vegetation within this area will be retained where possible and revegetation works will be included as part of the works.

Threatened flora and habitat for threatened fauna within the Impact Area have been mapped and the project has been designed to avoid any impacts to these where possible. These will be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physical demarcation as no-go areas. The project is therefore unlikely to cause a long-term reduction in rare, endemic or unique plant or animal populations or species in the World Heritage area. Extensive avoidance and mitigation measures are also provided below.

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

The following management measures are proposed to avoid and mitigate the identified potential impacts to MNES resulting from the project. These measures will be included in the project-specific Environmental Assessment and Management Plan (EAMP) (refer to **Attachment 2**) to be adhered to by contractors and other project staff.

Introduction of invasive weeds or spread of existing weeds via machinery or imported materials for landscaping / revegetation.

- Vehicles and machinery to be washed/treated before entering the construction area to avoid introduction of invasive weeds and pathogens.
- Imported soil to be avoided, where possible.
- Imported materials must be certified pest free.
- Implement relevant quarantine and/or hygiene protocols including North Coast Weed Biosecurity Inspection and Compliance Procedure.

Clearing of remnant and regrowth vegetation and the resultant loss of habitat for native fauna and flora

- Design to avoid or minimise clearing of trees and shrubs and minimise extent of required ground cover clearing.
- Arborist to assess potential impacts where works are undertaken around tree roots, and to identify where tree protection zones should be included in the design.
- Protected vegetation, habitat trees and sensitive environments must be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physically demarcating these areas as no go areas.
- Design should aim to avoid impacts to Aristolochia laheyana (Native Dutchman's Pipe)
- Felled timber should be retained within the landscape as logs and coarse woody debris to provide supplementary/replacement habitat for native fauna.

Indirect impacts to species behaviour through creating barriers to movement and dispersal

- Design to avoid or minimise clearing of trees and shrubs and minimise extent of required ground cover clearing.
- Reduce unnecessary noise and disturbance from machinery.
- Coordinate clearing works to occur outside of the breeding season for black-tailed antechinus and pouched frog, i.e. outside of spring and summer months.

Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas as a result of noise, dust, runoff and erosion, including impacts to downstream environments

- Design to include appropriate erosion and sediment controls (ESC) during construction e.g. sediment fencing, check dams.
- Design to require regular inspection, cleaning and repair of sediment controls during construction.
- Disturbed areas to be stabilised and revegetated as soon as practical after works are completed.
- Sediment fencing to be placed downslope of stockpiles
- Design to minimise ground disturbance and avoid/minimise removal of vegetation.
- Erosion and sediment controls to be designed in accordance with Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (BPESC), where relevant.
- Construction Contractor shall develop and undertake an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP).
- Reduce unnecessary noise and disturbance (e.g. turning off equipment when not in use, use of equipment with lower sound power levels where feasible).
- Night works must be kept to a minimum wherever possible.

Direct mortality or injury to native fauna resulting from vegetation clearing, revegetation and other construction works

- Design to include fauna fencing during construction, and fauna friendly features.
- A preclear survey by a fauna spotter catcher is to be carried out two weeks prior to works commencing and immediately prior to vegetation clearing.
- Due to time elapsed since original survey, pre-works survey should be timed early enough to allow for development of a high-risk SMP (in the event that relevant breeding places are located).
- Weed control activities as part of the revegetation works to consider non-chemical methods (i.e. mechanical and organic methods) to reduce risks to sensitive species including Fleay's barred frog, pouched frog and other native amphibians.

Facilitating pest animal movement into new areas

- Ensure construction personnel do not create environments favourable to pest fauna, including ensuring waste is managed appropriately with all food scraps and other waste materials stored in covered bins and removed off site regularly.

Introduction and spread of disease and pathogens

- Vehicles and machinery to be washed/treated before entering the construction area to avoid introduction of invasive weeds and pathogens.
- Imported soil to be avoided, where possible.
- Imported materials must be certified pest free.
- Implement relevant quarantine and/or hygiene protocols including North Coast Weed Biosecurity Inspection and Compliance Procedure.

Unintentional clearing of threatened flora from vegetation clearing and other construction works

- Where possible, design to avoid any impacts to identified critically endangered flora species.

Protected vegetation, habitat trees and sensitive environments must be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physically demarcating these areas as no go areas.

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

No land-based offsets are proposed at this stage.

### 4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

The proposed action site is not located in proximity to any Ramsar Wetland sites. The closest Ramsar wetland, Moreton Bay, is located approximately 70km away and does not form part of the same catchment

## 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 | Antechinus arktos | |
| Yes | No | Antechinus arktos | Black-tailed Antechinus |
| No | No | Anthochaera phrygia | Regent Honeyeater |
| No | No | Argynnis hyperbius inconstans | Australian Fritillary |
| No | No | Arthraxon hispidus | Hairy-joint Grass |
| Yes | No | Assa darlingtoni | Pouched Frog |
| Yes | No | Atrichornis rufescens | Rufous Scrub-bird |
| No | No | Baloghia marmorata | Marbled Balogia, Jointed Baloghia |
| No | No | Bosistoa transversa | Three-leaved Bosistoa, Yellow Satinheart |
| No | No | Botaurus poiciloptilus | Australasian Bittern |
| No | No | Bulbophyllum globuliforme | Miniature Moss-orchid, Hoop Pine Orchid |
| No | No | Calidris acuminata | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper |
| No | No | Calidris ferruginea | Curlew Sandpiper |
| No | No | Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami | South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo |
| No | No | Chalinolobus dwyeri | Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat |
| No | No | Clematis fawcettii | Stream Clematis |
| No | No | Climacteris picumnus victoriae | Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern) |
| Yes | No | Coeranoscincus reticulatus | Three-toed Snake-tooth Skink |
| No | No | Coleus nitidus | Nightcap Plectranthus, Silver Plectranthus |
| No | No | Cryptocarya foetida | Stinking Cryptocarya, Stinking Laurel |
| No | No | Cryptostylis hunteriana | Leafless Tongue-orchid |
| No | No | Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni | Coxen's Fig-Parrot |

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|---|---|---|---|
| No | No | Cynanchum elegans | White-flowered Wax Plant |
| No | No | Dasyornis brachypterus | Eastern Bristlebird |
| Yes | No | Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population) | Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population) |
| No | No | Davidsonia jerseyana | Davidson's Plum |
| No | No | Delma torquata | Adorned Delma, Collared Delma |
| No | No | Diospyros mabacea | Red-fruited Ebony, Silky Persimmon, Ebony |
| No | No | Diploglottis campbellii | Small-leaved Tamarind |
| No | No | Elaeocarpus williamsianus | Hairy Quandong |
| No | No | Endiandra floydii | Floyd's Walnut, Crystal Creek Walnut |
| No | No | Endiandra hayesii | Rusty Rose Walnut, Velvet Laurel |
| No | No | Erythrotriorchis radiatus | Red Goshawk |
| No | No | Euastacus maidae | Hinterland Spiny Crayfish, Hinterland Crayfish |
| No | No | Falco hypoleucos | Grey Falcon |
| No | No | Floydia praealta | Ball Nut, Possum Nut, Big Nut, Beefwood |
| No | No | Fontainea australis | Southern Fontainea |
| No | No | Furina dunmalli | Dunmall's Snake |
| No | No | Gallinago hardwickii | Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe |
| No | No | Gaultheria viridicarpa | Green Waxberry |
| Yes | No | Harrisoniascincus zia | Rainforest Cool-skink |
| No | No | Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia | Monkey Nut, Bopple Nut, Red Bopple, Red Bopple Nut, Red Nut, Beef Nut, Red Apple Nut, Red Boppel Nut, Ivory Silky Oak |
| Yes | No | Hirundapus caudacutus | White-throated Needletail |
| No | No | Lathamus discolor | Swift Parrot |
| No | No | Leichhardtia longiloba | Clear Milkvine |
| Yes | No | Lenwebbia sp. Main Range (P.R.Sharpe+ 4877) | |

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|---|---|---|---|
| No | No | Lepidium peregrinum | Wandering Pepper-cress |
| No | No | Macadamia integrifolia | Macadamia Nut, Queensland Nut Tree, Smooth-shelled Macadamia, Bush Nut, Nut Oak |
| No | No | Macadamia tetraphylla | Rough-shelled Bush Nut, Macadamia Nut, Rough-shelled Macadamia, Rough-leaved Queensland Nut |
| No | No | Melanodryas cucullata cucullata | South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern) |
| No | No | Mixophyes balbus | Stuttering Frog, Southern Barred Frog (in Victoria) |
| Yes | No | Mixophyes fleayi | Fleay's Frog |
| No | No | Mixophyes iteratus | Giant Barred Frog, Southern Barred Frog |
| No | No | Notamacropus parma | Parma Wallaby |
| No | No | Numenius madagascariensis | Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew |
| No | No | Ochrosia moorei | Southern Ochrosia |
| No | No | Owenia cepiodora | Onionwood, Bog Onion, Onion Cedar |
| No | No | Ozothamnus vagans | Wollumbin Dogwood |
| No | No | Petauroides volans | Greater Glider (southern and central) |
| No | No | Petaurus australis australis | Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern) |
| No | No | Petrogale penicillata | Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby |
| No | No | Phaius australis | Lesser Swamp-orchid |
| No | No | Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT) | Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) |
| No | No | Phyllodes imperialis smithersi | Pink Underwing Moth |
| Yes | No | Potorous tridactylus tridactylus | Long-nosed Potoroo (northern) |
| No | No | Pseudomys novaehollandiae | New Holland Mouse, Pookila |
| No | No | Pseudomys oralis | Hastings River Mouse, Koontoo |
| No | No | Pteropus poliocephalus | Grey-headed Flying-fox |

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|---|---|---|---|
| No | No | Pterostylis bicornis | |
| Yes | No | Rhodamnia maideniana | Smooth Scrub Turpentine |
| No | No | Rhodamnia rubescens | Scrub Turpentine, Brown Malletwood |
| No | No | Rhodomyrtus psidioides | Native Guava |
| No | No | Rostratula australis | Australian Painted Snipe |
| No | No | Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii | Ravine Orchid |
| No | No | Sarcochilus hartmannii | Waxy Sarcochilus, Blue Knob Orchid |
| No | No | Selaginella andrewsii | Tallebudgera spikemoss |
| No | No | Sophora fraseri | |
| No | No | Stagonopleura guttata | Diamond Firetail |
| Yes | No | Symplocos baeuerlenii | Small-leaved Hazelwood, Shrubby Hazelwood |
| No | No | Syzygium hodgkinsoniae | Smooth-bark Rose Apple, Red Lilly Pilly |
| No | No | Thesium australe | Austral Toadflax, Toadflax |
| No | No | Turnix melanogaster | Black-breasted Button-quail |
| No | No | Vincetoxicum woollsii | |
| No | No | Westringia rupicola | |

### Ecological communities

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Ecological community |
|---|---|---|
| No | No | Dunn's white gum (Eucalyptus dunnii) moist forest in north-east New South Wales and south-east Queensland |
| No | No | Grey box-grey gum wet forest of subtropical eastern Australia |
| No | No | Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia |
| 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. ***

**Rufous scrub-bird (*Atrichornis rufescens*)**

The rufous scrub-bird is listed as Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of potential habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include habitat loss and unintentional fauna mortality from clearing and construction works. Potential indirect impacts include facilitating pest movement into new areas, temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.2.1, Pages 27-28** for further details.

**Fleay's barred frog (*Mixophyes fleayi*)**

Fleay's barred frog is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of potential foraging and dispersal habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include habitat loss and unintentional fauna mortality from clearing and construction works. Potential indirect impacts include facilitating pest movement into new areas, temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality, and downstream impacts to water quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.2.2, Pages 29-31** for further details.

**Black-tailed antechinus (*Antechinus arktos*)**

The black-tailed antechinus is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on 0.2 ha of habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include habitat loss and unintentional fauna mortality from clearing and construction works. Potential indirect impacts include facilitating pest movement into new areas, temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.2.3, Page 31-34** for further details.

**Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*)**

The spotted-tailed quoll is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include habitat loss and unintentional fauna mortality from clearing and construction works. Potential indirect impacts include facilitating pest movement into new areas, temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.2.4, Pages 34-37** for further details.

**Pouched frog (*Assa darlingtoni*)**

The pouched frog is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of habitat for the species. Potential indirect impacts include facilitating pest movement into new areas, temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality, and downstream impacts to water quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.3.1, Pages 37-39** for further details.

**Northern long-nosed potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus tridactylus*)**

The northern long-nosed potoroo is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include habitat loss and unintentional fauna mortality from clearing and construction works. Potential indirect impacts include facilitating pest movement into new areas, temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 9.3.2, Pages 39-42** for further details.

**Rainforest cool-skink (*Harrisoniascincus zia*)**

The rainforest cool skink is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include habitat loss and unintentional fauna mortality from clearing and construction works. Potential indirect impacts include facilitating pest movement into new areas, temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.3.3, Pages 42-44** for further details.

**Three-toed snake-tooth skink (*Coeranoscincus reticulatus*)**

The three-toed snake-tooth skink is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include habitat loss and unintentional fauna mortality from clearing and construction works. Potential indirect impacts include facilitating pest movement into new areas, temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.3.4, Pages 44-46** for further details.

***Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range**

*Lenwebbia* sp. is listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include clearing and habitat loss. Potential indirect impacts include edge effects and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.5.1, Pages 50-52** for further details.

***Rhodamnia maideniana* (smooth scrub turpentine)**

*Rhodamnia maideniana* is listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on 0.2 ha of habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include clearing and habitat loss. Potential indirect impacts include edge effects and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.5.2, Pages 52-54** for further details.

***Symplocos baeuerlenii***

*Symplocos baeuerlenii* is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include clearing and habitat loss. Potential indirect impacts include edge effects and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.6.1, Pages 55-56** for further details.

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

No

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

Significant impact assessments were conducted for all threatened species considered likely to be impacted as a result of the proposed action in accordance with the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance* (DEWHA, 2013). Significant impact assessments determined that impacts to the rufous scrub-bird, Fleay's barred frog, black-tailed antechinus, spotted-tailed quoll, pouched frog, northern long-nosed potoroo, rainforest cool-skink, three-toed snake-tooth skink *Lenwebbia* sp., *Rhodamnia maideniana*, and *Symplocos baeuerlenii* are not likely to be significant. Refer to **Attachment 1, Sections 8.2, 8.3, 8.5 and 8.6** for the full significant impact assessments for these species.

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

No

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

The proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on any threatened species or ecological communities within the Impact Area.

### 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 following management measures are proposed to avoid and mitigate the identified potential impacts to MNES resulting from the project. These measures will be included in the project-specific Environmental Assessment and Management Plan (EAMP) (refer to **Attachment 2**) to be adhered to by contractors and other project staff.

Introduction of invasive weeds or spread of existing weeds via machinery or imported materials for landscaping / revegetation.

- Vehicles and machinery to be washed/treated before entering the construction area to avoid introduction of invasive weeds and pathogens.
- Imported soil to be avoided, where possible.
- Imported materials must be certified pest free.
- Implement relevant quarantine and/or hygiene protocols including North Coast Weed Biosecurity Inspection and Compliance Procedure.

Clearing of remnant and regrowth vegetation and the resultant loss of habitat for native fauna and flora

- Design to avoid or minimise clearing of trees and shrubs and minimise extent of required ground cover clearing.
- Arborist to assess potential impacts where works are undertaken around tree roots, and to identify where tree protection zones should be included in the design.
- Protected vegetation, habitat trees and sensitive environments must be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physically demarcating these areas as no go areas.
- Design should aim to avoid impacts to Aristolochia laheyana (Native Dutchman's Pipe)
- Felled timber should be retained within the landscape as logs and coarse woody debris to provide supplementary/replacement habitat for native fauna.

Indirect impacts to species behaviour through creating barriers to movement and dispersal

- Design to avoid or minimise clearing of trees and shrubs and minimise extent of required ground cover clearing.
- Reduce unnecessary noise and disturbance from machinery.
- Coordinate clearing works to occur outside of the breeding season for black-tailed antechinus and pouched frog, i.e. outside of spring and summer months.

Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas as a result of noise, dust, runoff and erosion, including impacts to downstream environments

- Design to include appropriate erosion and sediment controls (ESC) during construction e.g. sediment fencing, check dams.
- Design to require regular inspection, cleaning and repair of sediment controls during construction.
- Disturbed areas to be stabilised and revegetated as soon as practical after works are completed.
- Sediment fencing to be placed downslope of stockpiles
- Design to minimise ground disturbance and avoid/minimise removal of vegetation.
- Erosion and sediment controls to be designed in accordance with Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (BPESC), where relevant.
- Construction Contractor shall develop and undertake an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP).
- Reduce unnecessary noise and disturbance (e.g. turning off equipment when not in use, use of equipment with lower sound power levels where feasible).
- Night works must be kept to a minimum wherever possible.

Direct mortality or injury to native fauna resulting from vegetation clearing, revegetation and other construction works

- Design to include fauna fencing during construction, and fauna friendly features.
- A preclear survey by a fauna spotter catcher is to be carried out two weeks prior to works commencing and immediately prior to vegetation clearing.
- Due to time elapsed since original survey, pre-works survey should be timed early enough to allow for development of a high-risk SMP (in the event that relevant breeding places are located).
- Weed control activities as part of the revegetation works to consider non-chemical methods (i.e. mechanical and organic methods) to reduce risks to sensitive species including Fleay's barred frog, pouched frog and other native amphibians.

Facilitating pest animal movement into new areas

- Ensure construction personnel do not create environments favourable to pest fauna, including ensuring waste is managed appropriately with all food scraps and other waste materials stored in covered bins and removed off site regularly.

Introduction and spread of disease and pathogens

- Vehicles and machinery to be washed/treated before entering the construction area to avoid introduction of invasive weeds and pathogens.
- Imported soil to be avoided, where possible.
- Imported materials must be certified pest free.
- Implement relevant quarantine and/or hygiene protocols including North Coast Weed Biosecurity Inspection and Compliance Procedure.

Unintentional clearing of threatened flora from vegetation clearing and other construction works

- Where possible, design to avoid any impacts to identified critically endangered flora species.

Protected vegetation, habitat trees and sensitive environments must be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physically demarcating these areas as no go areas.

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

No offsets are proposed.

## 4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|---|---|---|---|
| No | No | Actitis hypoleucos | Common Sandpiper |
| No | Yes | Apus pacificus | Fork-tailed Swift |
| No | No | Calidris acuminata | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper |
| No | No | Calidris ferruginea | Curlew Sandpiper |
| No | No | Calidris melanotos | Pectoral Sandpiper |
| Yes | No | Cuculus optatus | Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo |
| No | No | Gallinago hardwickii | Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe |
| No | Yes | Hirundapus caudacutus | White-throated Needletail |
| No | No | Motacilla flava | Yellow Wagtail |
| No | No | Numenius madagascariensis | Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew |
| No | No | Pandion haliaetus | Osprey |

### 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. *

**Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)**

The fork-tailed swift is listed as Migratory under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of potential habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include habitat loss. Potential indirect impacts include temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.4.1, Pages 46-47** for further details.

**Oriental cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*)**

The oriental cuckoo is listed as Migratory under the EPBC Act. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.2 ha of potential habitat for the species. Potential direct impacts include habitat loss. Potential indirect impacts include facilitating pest movement into new areas, temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.4.2, Pages 48-49** for further details.

**White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)**

The white-throated needletail is listed as Vulnerable and Migratory under the EPBC Act. Potential direct impacts include habitat loss. Potential indirect impacts include temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.4.3, Pages 49-50** for further details.

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

No

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

Significant impact assessments were conducted for all migratory species considered likely to be impacted as a result of the proposed action in accordance with the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance* (DEWHA, 2013). Significant impact assessments determined that impacts to the fork-tailed swift, white-throated needletail, and oriental cuckoo are not likely to be significant. Refer to **Attachment 1, Sections 8.4** for the full significant impact assessments for these migratory species.

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

No

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

The proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on any migratory species within the Impact Area.

**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 following management measures are proposed to avoid and mitigate the identified potential impacts to MNES resulting from the project. These measures will be included in the project-specific Environmental Assessment and Management Plan (EAMP) (refer to **Attachment 2**) to be adhered to by contractors and other project staff.

Introduction of invasive weeds or spread of existing weeds via machinery or imported materials for landscaping / revegetation.

- Vehicles and machinery to be washed/treated before entering the construction area to avoid introduction of invasive weeds and pathogens.
- Imported soil to be avoided, where possible.
- Imported materials must be certified pest free.
- Implement relevant quarantine and/or hygiene protocols including North Coast Weed Biosecurity Inspection and Compliance Procedure.

Clearing of remnant and regrowth vegetation and the resultant loss of habitat for native fauna and flora

- Design to avoid or minimise clearing of trees and shrubs and minimise extent of required ground cover clearing.
- Arborist to assess potential impacts where works are undertaken around tree roots, and to identify where tree protection zones should be included in the design.
- Protected vegetation, habitat trees and sensitive environments must be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physically demarcating these areas as no go areas.
- Design should aim to avoid impacts to Aristolochia laheyana (Native Dutchman's Pipe)
- Felled timber should be retained within the landscape as logs and coarse woody debris to provide supplementary/replacement habitat for native fauna.

Indirect impacts to species behaviour through creating barriers to movement and dispersal

- Design to avoid or minimise clearing of trees and shrubs and minimise extent of required ground cover clearing.
- Reduce unnecessary noise and disturbance from machinery.
- Coordinate clearing works to occur outside of the breeding season for black-tailed antechinus and pouched frog, i.e. outside of spring and summer months.

Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas as a result of noise, dust, runoff and erosion, including impacts to downstream environments

- Design to include appropriate erosion and sediment controls (ESC) during construction e.g. sediment fencing, check dams.
- Design to require regular inspection, cleaning and repair of sediment controls during construction.
- Disturbed areas to be stabilised and revegetated as soon as practical after works are completed.
- Sediment fencing to be placed downslope of stockpiles
- Design to minimise ground disturbance and avoid/minimise removal of vegetation.
- Erosion and sediment controls to be designed in accordance with Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (BPESC), where relevant.
- Construction Contractor shall develop and undertake an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP).
- Reduce unnecessary noise and disturbance (e.g. turning off equipment when not in use, use of equipment with lower sound power levels where feasible).
- Night works must be kept to a minimum wherever possible.

Direct mortality or injury to native fauna resulting from vegetation clearing, revegetation and other construction works

- Design to include fauna fencing during construction, and fauna friendly features.
- A preclear survey by a fauna spotter catcher is to be carried out two weeks prior to works commencing and immediately prior to vegetation clearing.
- Due to time elapsed since original survey, pre-works survey should be timed early enough to allow for development of a high-risk SMP (in the event that relevant breeding places are located).
- Weed control activities as part of the revegetation works to consider non-chemical methods (i.e. mechanical and organic methods) to reduce risks to sensitive species including Fleay's barred frog, pouched frog and other native amphibians.

Facilitating pest animal movement into new areas

- Ensure construction personnel do not create environments favourable to pest fauna, including ensuring waste is managed appropriately with all food scraps and other waste materials stored in covered bins and removed off site regularly.

Introduction and spread of disease and pathogens

- Vehicles and machinery to be washed/treated before entering the construction area to avoid introduction of invasive weeds and pathogens.
- Imported soil to be avoided, where possible.
- Imported materials must be certified pest free.
- Implement relevant quarantine and/or hygiene protocols including North Coast Weed Biosecurity Inspection and Compliance Procedure.

Unintentional clearing of threatened flora from vegetation clearing and other construction works

- Where possible, design to avoid any impacts to identified critically endangered flora species.

Protected vegetation, habitat trees and sensitive environments must be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physically demarcating these areas as no go areas.

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

No offsets are proposed.

## 4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

The proposed action is not a nuclear action and will not involve establishment of nuclear installations, storing of radioactive waste, mining uranium or handling radioactive material.

### 4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

The proposed development is not within, nor will it have any direct or indirect impacts on, a Commonwealth Marine Area. Activities and project location do not have any interaction with waters, seabed under waters or airspace of waters.

### 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, and will not result in any direct or indirect impacts to, the Great Barrier Reef. The southern end of the Great Barrier Reef is approximately 400km to the north.

### 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. *

Not applicable - the proposed action is not a coal mining or coal seam gas development and is being undertaken by the QPWS for the purpose of managing recreational infrastructure.

### 4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Commonwealth land area |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | Yes | Defence - VHF REPEATER STATION |

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

Yes

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

One area of Commonwealth Land intersects the proposed action footprint:

- Defence – VHF REPEATER STATION [31845], Qld

Approximately 0.1 ha (30%) of the proposed action Impact Area lies within Lot Plan 2RP100199 which is Commonwealth Land under the tenure of Airservices Australia. This includes most of the lower carpark. The proposed action will impact on up to 0.1 ha of Commonwealth land. Potential direct impacts include clearing of native vegetation, including clearing of listed threatened species, habitat loss and unintentional fauna mortality from clearing and construction works, and damage to or destruction of archaeological artefacts that may be present within the Impact Area. Potential indirect impacts include facilitating pest movement into new areas, temporary noise and light disturbance, edge effects and disturbance to adjacent habitats, and introduction of new weed species or spread of existing weeds leading to reduced habitat quality. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.8, Pages 59-62** for further details.

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

No

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

A significant impact assessment was conducted for the Commonwealth Land considered likely to be impacted as a result of the proposed action in accordance with the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2 – Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies* (DSEWPC, 2013). This assessment determined that impacts to the Commonwealth Land are not likely to be significant. Refer to **Attachment 1, Section 8.8, Pages 59-62** for the full significant impact assessment.

### 4.1.10.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

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

The proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on Commonwealth Land within the Impact Area.

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

The following management measures are proposed to avoid and mitigate the identified potential impacts to MNES resulting from the project. These measures will be included in the project-specific Environmental Assessment and Management Plan (EAMP) (refer to **Attachment 2**) to be adhered to by contractors and other project staff.

Introduction of invasive weeds or spread of existing weeds via machinery or imported materials for landscaping / revegetation.

- Vehicles and machinery to be washed/treated before entering the construction area to avoid introduction of invasive weeds and pathogens.
- Imported soil to be avoided, where possible.
- Imported materials must be certified pest free.
- Implement relevant quarantine and/or hygiene protocols including North Coast Weed Biosecurity Inspection and Compliance Procedure.

Clearing of remnant and regrowth vegetation and the resultant loss of habitat for native fauna and flora

- Design to avoid or minimise clearing of trees and shrubs and minimise extent of required ground cover clearing.
- Arborist to assess potential impacts where works are undertaken around tree roots, and to identify where tree protection zones should be included in the design.
- Protected vegetation, habitat trees and sensitive environments must be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physically demarcating these areas as no go areas.
- Design should aim to avoid impacts to Aristolochia laheyana (Native Dutchman's Pipe)
- Felled timber should be retained within the landscape as logs and coarse woody debris to provide supplementary/replacement habitat for native fauna.

Indirect impacts to species behaviour through creating barriers to movement and dispersal

- Design to avoid or minimise clearing of trees and shrubs and minimise extent of required ground cover clearing.
- Reduce unnecessary noise and disturbance from machinery.
- Coordinate clearing works to occur outside of the breeding season for black-tailed antechinus and pouched frog, i.e. outside of spring and summer months.

Indirect impacts to adjacent habitat areas as a result of noise, dust, runoff and erosion, including impacts to downstream environments

- Design to include appropriate erosion and sediment controls (ESC) during construction e.g. sediment fencing, check dams.
- Design to require regular inspection, cleaning and repair of sediment controls during construction.
- Disturbed areas to be stabilised and revegetated as soon as practical after works are completed.
- Sediment fencing to be placed downslope of stockpiles
- Design to minimise ground disturbance and avoid/minimise removal of vegetation.
- Erosion and sediment controls to be designed in accordance with Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (BPESC), where relevant.
- Construction Contractor shall develop and undertake an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP).
- Reduce unnecessary noise and disturbance (e.g. turning off equipment when not in use, use of equipment with lower sound power levels where feasible).
- Night works must be kept to a minimum wherever possible.

Direct mortality or injury to native fauna resulting from vegetation clearing, revegetation and other construction works

- Design to include fauna fencing during construction, and fauna friendly features.
- A preclear survey by a fauna spotter catcher is to be carried out two weeks prior to works commencing and immediately prior to vegetation clearing.
- Due to time elapsed since original survey, pre-works survey should be timed early enough to allow for development of a high-risk SMP (in the event that relevant breeding places are located).
- Weed control activities as part of the revegetation works to consider non-chemical methods (i.e. mechanical and organic methods) to reduce risks to sensitive species including Fleay's barred frog, pouched frog and other native amphibians.

Facilitating pest animal movement into new areas

- Ensure construction personnel do not create environments favourable to pest fauna, including ensuring waste is managed appropriately with all food scraps and other waste materials stored in covered bins and removed off site regularly.

Introduction and spread of disease and pathogens

- Vehicles and machinery to be washed/treated before entering the construction area to avoid introduction of invasive weeds and pathogens.
- Imported soil to be avoided, where possible.
- Imported materials must be certified pest free.
- Implement relevant quarantine and/or hygiene protocols including North Coast Weed Biosecurity Inspection and Compliance Procedure.

Unintentional clearing of threatened flora from vegetation clearing and other construction works

- Where possible, design to avoid any impacts to identified critically endangered flora species.
- Protected vegetation, habitat trees and sensitive environments must be protected from construction impact through shielding, fencing or physically demarcating these areas as no go areas.

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

No offsets are proposed

## 4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

The proposed action is not located in proximity to any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas. The closest listed heritage place overseas is in Papua New Guinea more than 2000km to the north.

## 4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

# 4.2 Impact summary

## Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

*None*

## Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

## 4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

The proposed action is an upgrade to the existing infrastructure at Best of All Lookout and therefore is directly related to the location.

# 5. Lodgement

## 5.1 Attachments

4.1.1.2 (World Heritage) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

| | Type | Name | Date | Sensitivity | Confidence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| #1. | Document | Att 1 - MNES Report_2025.pdf<br>MNES report summarizing likelihood of occurrence assessment, significant impact assessments and mitigation measures | 08/09/2025 | No | High |
| #2. | Document | Att 2 - Landscape Design.pdf<br>Landscape drawings of proposed upgrades (90% design) | 04/08/2025 | No | High |
| #3. | Document | Att 3 - Civil Design Package.pdf<br>Civil design drawings (90% design) | 30/07/2025 | No | High |
| #4. | Document | Att 4 - Tree Protection Plan.pdf<br>tree protection plan (90% design) | 31/07/2025 | No | High |
| #5. | Document | Att 5 - Arborist Impact Assessment.pdf<br>arborist impact assessment (90% design) | 31/07/2025 | No | High |

## 5.2 Declarations

## Completed Referring party's declaration

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

| | |
|---|---|
| ABN/ACN | 15155304751 |
| Organisation name | Ausecology Pty Ltd |
| Organisation address | 1/53 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill, 4170, QLD |
| Representative's name | Tim Shields |
| Representative's job title | Principal Ecologist |
| Phone | 0407 828 489 |
| Email | tshields@ausecology.com |
| Address | 1/53 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill |

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

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

☑ By checking this box, I, **Tim Shields of Ausecology Pty Ltd**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

## Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

| | |
|---|---|
| ABN/ACN | 46640294485 |
| Organisation name | DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION |
| Organisation address | 4000 QLD |
| Representative's name | Phillip Maizey |

| | |
|---|---|
| Representative's job title | Project Manager |
| Phone | 0435792516 |
| Email | Phillip.Maizey@detsi.qld.gov.au |
| Address | Level 5, 400 George street, Brisbane QLD 4000 |

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

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

☑ I, **Phillip Maizey of DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

## ✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☑ I, **Phillip Maizey of DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.