Wooderson Solar Farm

Application Number: **03292** Commencement Date: **09/01/2026** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Wooderson Solar Farm

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Solar Farm

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2028

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

31/01/2068

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Proposed Action overview

Wooderson Solar Development Co Pty Ltd (WSD or the Proponent), an entity wholly owned by Central Queensland Power Development Co Pty Ltd (CQP), is developing the proposed Wooderson Solar Farm (the Project or Proposed Action). CQP is a joint venture between RES Australia Pty Ltd (RES) and Energy Estate (CQP) Holdings Pty Ltd as trustee for Energy Estate (CQP) Holdings Trust (Energy Estate). The proposed location of the Proposed Action is approximately 40 kilometres (km) south-west of Gladstone and 20 km west of Calliope, within the Gladstone Regional Council (GRC) Local Government Area (LGA)

The Proposed Action consists of a 450-megawatt (MW) solar farm, a 450 MW direct current (DC)-coupled battery energy storage system (BESS) with storage capacity of up to 3,600 megawatt hours (MWh), a 275 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line (OHTL), switchyard and associated ancillary infrastructure. Project infrastructure will be situated within the bounds of the Project Area which covers an area of approximately 5,618 hectares (ha). The Project Area is comprised of up to 14 land parcels and some local road corridors (i.e. overall, comprises freehold tenure and road reserves). These local road corridors are unnamed and do not contain existing road infrastructure.

Project infrastructure will be located within a Disturbance Footprint of approximately 1,849 ha and will include the following components:

- Solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, including solar modules mounted on fixed racks or single axis trackers, collector boxes and Power Conversion Systems (PCS) (including inverters and transformers)
- BESS containers, DC-DC converters and auxiliary transformers
- Substation and electrical reticulation network, including reticulation cables, electrical switchboards and high voltage transformers
- Approximately 11km 275 kV OHTL and switchyard (2 switchyard options currently considered and addressed in this referral)
- Site access and internal access tracks
- Fencing
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) facility
- Construction compound and laydown areas
- Ancillary infrastructure, including meteorological stations and water tanks for firefighting
- Other ancillary activities and works relating to the construction and operation of the solar farm.

The Disturbance Footprint within the Project Area represents the maximum extent of disturbance needed to construct the Proposed Action. This then represents the worst-case vegetation clearing scenario for the Proposed Action.

Purpose of the Proposed Action

The Central Queensland region has been identified as a critical location for future renewable energy development. In this regard, renewable energy projects will be key to the future success of the Central Queensland region as coal-fired power plants are decommissioned in the coming years.

Once operational, the Proposed Action is expected to produce enough clean, renewable energy to power the equivalent of approximately 235,000 houses and provide electricity to industrial users within the region. The Proposed Action will contribute to Queensland's current renewable energy targets set out in the Queensland Energy Roadmap 2025 and achieving net zero by 2050.

Proposed Action activities

The construction period is estimated to take approximately 37 months. Subject to Project approvals, construction is anticipated to commence in Q1 2028, expecting commencement of operations in Q1 2031. Further site investigations will be undertaken between EPBC approval of the Proposed Action and

commencement of construction, including geotechnical investigations, cultural heritage surveys and ecology pre-clearance surveys.

The list below provides a standard approach to the progression of construction activities that occur for a solar farm. The activities follow a chronological order; however, some of the activities may be carried out concurrently to minimise the overall length of the construction programme:

- Site establishment (construction compounds, laydown areas, equipment and materials)
- Earthworks for access tracks and hardstands
- Installation of electrical and communications cabling and equipment
- Arrival at the Proposed Action site of solar modules, BESS, Project substation, transmission poles and switchyard components
- Installation of solar modules, BESS, Project substation, transmission poles and switchyard components
- Commissioning of all components
- Reliability testing
- Rehabilitation of temporary disturbance areas.

Once operational, the Proposed Action can be operated remotely; however, the site will require a permanent workforce of up to ten staff to undertake routine maintenance and administrative activities. It is also expected that there will be a range of specialist contractors engaged as needed to conduct civil works maintenance, weed control, and environmental activities associated with approval conditions. Operational staff are anticipated be on-site from Monday to Saturday, 7 am to 6 pm daily. The operational life of the Proposed Action is anticipated to be up to 35 years.

Planned maintenance activities are expected to include:

- Inspections of OHTL infrastructure, including poles, transmission line, and access tracks.
- Cleaning of solar modules and meteorological stations.
- Vegetation management, including maintaining fire breaks in accordance with Powerlink's *Vegetation Management – Specification, 2023*.
- Preventative maintenance activities.
- Corrective maintenance activities such as testing and replacing of faulty plant components such as modules, fuses and other corrective actions within O&M scope.
- Weed and pest control.
- Regular light vehicle access via the Proposed Action's site access will be required with occasional heavy vehicles access (for example, for replacing inverters or transformers, if required).
- Disposal of waste generated during operations in accordance with all statutory requirements.
- The Proposed Action will be operated in accordance with an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)

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? *

Commonwealth legislation

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) – Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) are protected under the EPBC Act. The Proposed Action has been referred under the EPBC Act given the presence of MNES and the potential for Project activities to result in a significant impact.

Queensland legislation

- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (ACH Act) – Under the ACH Act, the Proponent is required to exercise a duty of care to take all reasonable and practical measures to avoid harming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. Steps are being taken by the Proponent to negotiate and agree a cultural heritage management plan, which provides a framework for management of cultural heritage impacts, as recognised by the ACH Act.
- *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Biosecurity Act) – The Proposed Action will be required to meet the General Biosecurity Obligations under the Biosecurity Act, managed through the development and implementation by the Proponent of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* (EO Act) – The EO Act prescribes conditions and processes for offsets for impacts to prescribed environmental matters which include MNES, matters of state (MSES) and local environmental significance (MLES). Should offsets be required, these will be secured in compliance with all requirements under the EO Act.
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) & *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019* (EP Regulation) – The Proponent will comply with the general environmental duty under the EP Act and EP Regulation, including to the extent the Proposed Action involves undertaking activities with the potential to cause environmental harm.
- *Fisheries Act 1994* (Fisheries Act) – Potential fisheries habitat (e.g., waterways and marine plants) protected under the Fisheries Act are present within the Project area. The Proponent will seek to minimise impacts to waterways and obtain necessary approvals under the Fisheries Act to the extent necessary.
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) – The NC Act provides for the creation and management of protected areas, the protection of native wildlife and regulates the clearing of native plants. The Proposed Action may require Species Management Plans (SMPs) (low risk and/or high risk) to protect and manage animal breeding places. A High-risk SMP is required for disturbance activities where removal or tampering will occur to a breeding place of colonial breeders; special least concern or threatened species.
- *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act) – The Planning Act establishes a framework and overarching policy for land use planning and development assessment in Queensland. The Proponent will seek the necessary approvals for the Proposed Action from relevant authorities under the Planning Act. Relevantly, an application for a Material Change of Use for a solar farm is currently under preparation for lodgement to the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA).
- *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* (TI Act) – The TI Act provides a regime that allows for and encourages effective integrated planning and efficient management of a system of transport infrastructure. The Proposed Action will intersect Queensland State-controlled roads regulated under the TI Act and accordingly will require approvals under the IT Act to interfere with these roads and railway corridors. The Proponent will obtain the relevant approvals to intersect a Queensland State-controlled road, where required.
- *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VM Act) – The VM Act regulates and manages the process and impacts of native vegetation clearing. The Proposed Action will require the removal of regulated vegetation under the VM Act. The Proponent will obtain relevant approvals required under the VM Act for the removal of regulated vegetation. An application for a Relevant Purpose Determination is currently being prepared by the Proponent for lodgement to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (DNRMMRRD).

- *Water Act 2000* (Water Act) – The Water Act provides a framework to deliver sustainable water planning, allocation, management and supply processes to provide for the improved security of water resources in Queensland. Where required, the Proponent will obtain the relevant water licences and permits required under the Water Act to take or interfere with water.
- *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act) – The SDPWO Act provides a framework for development proposed within a State Development Area (SDA). As part of the OHTL for the Proposed Action traverses the Callide Infrastructure Corridor SDA, a development application is required to be lodged to the Office of the Co-ordinator-General for that specific portion of the OHTL which traverses the SDA. The application will demonstrate compliance with the Callide Infrastructure Corridor SDA Development Scheme.

Planning frameworks and policy documents

- *State Planning Policy* (SPP) – The SPP is a key component of Queensland's planning system that expresses the State interests in land use planning and development. The State interests are promoted through plan making and development decisions of state and local government. The State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) are the assessment benchmarks used by the State in its role as assessment manager or referral agency for development applications which affect a State interest. The assessment under the Planning Act will consider the Proposed Action against the State interests in the SPP through the Material Change of Use development application, which will include an assessment against the relevant SDAP codes.
- *Gladstone Regional Council Our Place, Our Plan Planning Scheme 2017* - The Gladstone Planning Scheme establishes a framework and assessment pathway for land use planning and development assessment in Gladstone region at a local level (which includes land forming part of the Project Area). The Proponent will seek the necessary approvals from Gladstone Regional Council for the aspects of development (OHTL and Switchyard) assessable under this planning scheme. An application for a Material Change of Use for a OHTL and Switchyard is currently under preparation for lodgement to the Gladstone Regional Council.

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. *

The Proponent has sought to undertake authentic and respectful consultation with all stakeholders and these objectives have formed an important role in the development of the Proposed Action. The Proponent has a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (**Att1_Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan**) that sets out a framework to guide interactions by the Proposed Action with stakeholders linked to milestones and Project phases. In addition, the Proponent records and tracks its consultation with all stakeholders using stakeholder management software.

Consistent with the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the Proponent has undertaken extensive consultation with a wide range of relevant stakeholders in relation to the Proposed Action. This includes neighbours, community members, Traditional Owners, State and Commonwealth government departments, Council, local community organisations, businesses and service providers.

The consultation and engagement activities undertaken by the Proponent for the Proposed Action include:

- Regular and ongoing host-landholder engagement.
- Three (3) Project newsletters: two published in November 2024 and June 2025 respectively on the Project website and also delivered via mail to residents within 10 km of the Project, as well as a further newsletter published in September 2025 on the Project website and delivered via mail to residents in the primary social study area identified in the Social Impact Assessment.
- A community letter was sent out to residents within 10km of the Project in November 2024.
- Two newspaper advertisements in Gladstone Today, print and digital, to promote the Community Information Sessions in November 2024 and June 2025.
- Community Information Sessions on 4 and 5 December 2024 to introduce the Project to community members and collect feedback about the Project from neighbours and the local community.
- An Outcomes Summary outlining the key themes raised during the Community Information Sessions was shared with project subscribers via email and published on the Project's website in January 2025.
- Published FAQs on the project website following the December 2024 Community Information Sessions (and progressively updated since then as new FAQs are added, as needed).
- Community information sessions on 25 and 26 June 2025 to update the community about the Project layout and the inclusion of BESS.
- An Outcomes Summary outlining the key themes raised during the Community Information Sessions was shared with project subscribers via email and published on the Project's website in June 2025.
- Ongoing ad hoc engagement via email and phone in response to community enquiries about the Project.
- Pre-lodgement meetings with SARA, Council, and the Department of Transport and Main Roads.
- Written consultation including advice from DNRMMRRD, dated 16 May 2024.
- Three deputations to Gladstone Regional Council on 24 September 2024, 11 February 2025 and 23 September 2025 to provide Project briefings, updates and seek feedback on the Project from elected councillors.
- Meetings with other technical specialists, regulators and relevant stakeholders to inform the Project design.
- Five meetings with local community organisations in Calliope to introduce the Project and early discussions about the development of a community benefit sharing program.
- Eleven interviews with a range of stakeholders and an online survey for the Social Impact Assessment.
- Two meetings with Gladstone Regional Council officers about the Social Impact Assessment scoping and report and Community Benefit Agreement.
- Ongoing engagement with the First Nations Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng, Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda Peoples (FNBGGGTB Peoples), including:
    - Discussions and negotiations relating to a Cultural Heritage Management Agreement and Benefits Sharing Agreement, and

- Undertaking of site investigations with FNBGGGTB Peoples representatives alongside the field surveys associated with an agricultural land assessment in November 2024.

From an early stage, the Proponent has engaged with the Traditional Owners for the lands including the Project Area, the FNBGGGTB Peoples. To date the Proponent has provided an overview of the Project, commenced discussions about Aboriginal cultural heritage issues, and explored a range of partnership opportunities with the FNBGGGTB Peoples. The Proponent and the FNBGGGTB Peoples have undertaken a joint site visit of the Project to identify cultural values during soil testing for an agricultural land assessment. The stakeholder engagement strategy will include a continued relationship and consultations with the FNBGGGTB Peoples. The Proponent considers that the formation of a strong and sustainable relationship with the FNBGGGTB Peoples is central to the Proposed Action's success.

In addition, under the Queensland Planning Framework, the development application for the Proposed Action is subject to impact assessment, which includes a 20-business day public notification period. Community information sessions have been held and are ongoing. In order to submit the development application, a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) must be prepared (now complete) and a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) must be executed with GRC (currently under negotiation). This process is ongoing. Undertaking the SIA and CBA processes has involved significant consultation with the local community, including with GRC.

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.

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

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	18059519041
Organisation name	UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	75 York Street, Teralba, NSW, 2284

Referring party details

Name	Madi Jones
Job title	Environmental Planner
Phone	0474555532
Email	madison.jones@umwelt.com.au
Address	Level 20, 145 Ann street, Brisbane 4000

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	34675111823
Organisation name	WOODERSON SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CO PTY LTD
Organisation address	Suite 6.01, Level 6, 165 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Lachlan Mitchell
Job title	Development Project Manager - Central Queensland Power
Phone	0422 139 699
Email	Lachlan.mitchell@cqpower.com.au
Address	Suite 6.01, Level 6, 165 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060

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

Yes

Joint Venture Name	Business Address	ABN/ACN	Responsible Person	Email
Central Queensland Power	Suite 6.01, Level 6, 165 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060	62664660146	Lachlan Mitchell	Lachlan.mitchell@cqpower.com.au

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

No

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

The Proponent is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) entity that was incorporated in February 2024, specifically for the purpose of developing and owning this Project. As such, for the short duration of its existence, the Proponent has not been subject to any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Within this period, the Proponent has an excellent record of responsible environmental management.

As previously noted, CQP is a joint venture between RES and Energy Estate. Under the CQP joint venture arrangements, there is a Development Services Agreement between CQP and RES, under which RES is responsible for environmental planning matters, including for the Proposed Action. Accordingly, the Proposed Action is being developed, from the environmental / planning perspective, pursuant to the RES Environmental Policy and Planning Frameworks.

RES has an excellent record of responsible environmental management with respect to its projects. RES has previously undertaken a number of renewable energy projects regulated under the EPBC Act and has satisfactorily implemented all the conditions of its previous Commonwealth and State approvals, to the extent it has been the responsibility of RES to do so. RES is and remains committed to transparent and meaningful engagement with planning and environmental authorities, Traditional Owners, and local communities with respect to all RES projects, including the Proposed Action.

There have been no reportable environmental incidents on projects owned and under development by RES, including under any special purpose vehicles of which RES is an owner or part owner. Aligned to the RES Group commitment to be a ‘Power for Good’, RES in Australia has demonstrated a strong focus on achieving best practice environmental and social outcomes which we achieve through thoughtful, innovative, and tailored approaches to development. This strong focus on best practice is amply supported by both in-house and external Subject Matter Experts, including a dedicated and specialist RES Australia Environmental Team.

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

Under the CQP joint venture arrangements, there is a Development Services Agreement between CQP and RES Australia, under which RES is responsible for environmental planning matters, including for the Proposed Action. Accordingly, the Proposed Action is being developed, from the environmental / planning perspective, pursuant to the RES Environmental Policy and Planning Frameworks, so it is these frameworks that apply to the Proposed Action, as described below.

RES recognises the unique nature of the Australian environment and its value to all Australians. Building on the foundations of their values of passion, accountability, collaboration and excellence, RES' sustainability agenda is to power positive change by ensuring that our operations, products, and services make a net positive contribution to society and the environment. RES is also committed to embedding a strong culture of meaningful, transparent, and respectful collaboration with First Nations rightsholders and communities.

To achieve these commitments, RES works to deliver against the following:

- Adopting a proactive approach of aligning to and, where practicable, exceeding industry best practice standards with respect to the environment;
- Undertaking our activities in an environmentally responsible manner and in accordance with applicable laws;
- Identifying opportunities to share environmental knowledge gained through our activities with relevant stakeholders, including First Nations rightsholders;
- Proactively participating in government consultation processes relating to the development or update to industry guidance, policy, and legislation;
- Identifying opportunities to work with First Nations rightsholders, local environmental organisations, and the community to identify and implement opportunities to support Caring for Country activities; and
- Best practice Environment, Social, Governance (ESG) performance, led through thoughtful, innovative, and tailored approaches to achieving social licence for environmental and sustainability matters.

Please refer to RES' Environmental Policy (**Att2_RES Environmental Policy**) and Working with First Nations Rightsholders Policy (**Att3_RES Working with First Nations Policy**) for further details.

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	34675111823
Organisation name	WOODERSON SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CO PTY LTD
Organisation address	Suite 6.01, Level 6, 165 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Lachlan Mitchell
Job title	Development Project Manager - Central Queensland Power
Phone	0422 139 699
Email	Lachlan.mitchell@cqpower.com.au
Address	Suite 6.01, Level 6, 165 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

ABN/ACN	18059519041
Organisation name	UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	75 York Street, Teralba, NSW, 2284
Representative's name	Madi Jones
Representative's job title	Environmental Planner
Phone	0474555532
Email	madison.jones@umwelt.com.au
Address	Level 20, 145 Ann street, Brisbane 4000

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	34675111823
Organisation name	WOODERSON SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CO PTY LTD
Organisation address	Suite 6.01, Level 6, 165 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060
Representative's name	Lachlan Mitchell
Representative's job title	Development Project Manager - Central Queensland Power
Phone	0422 139 699
Email	Lachlan.mitchell@cqpower.com.au
Address	Suite 6.01, Level 6, 165 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

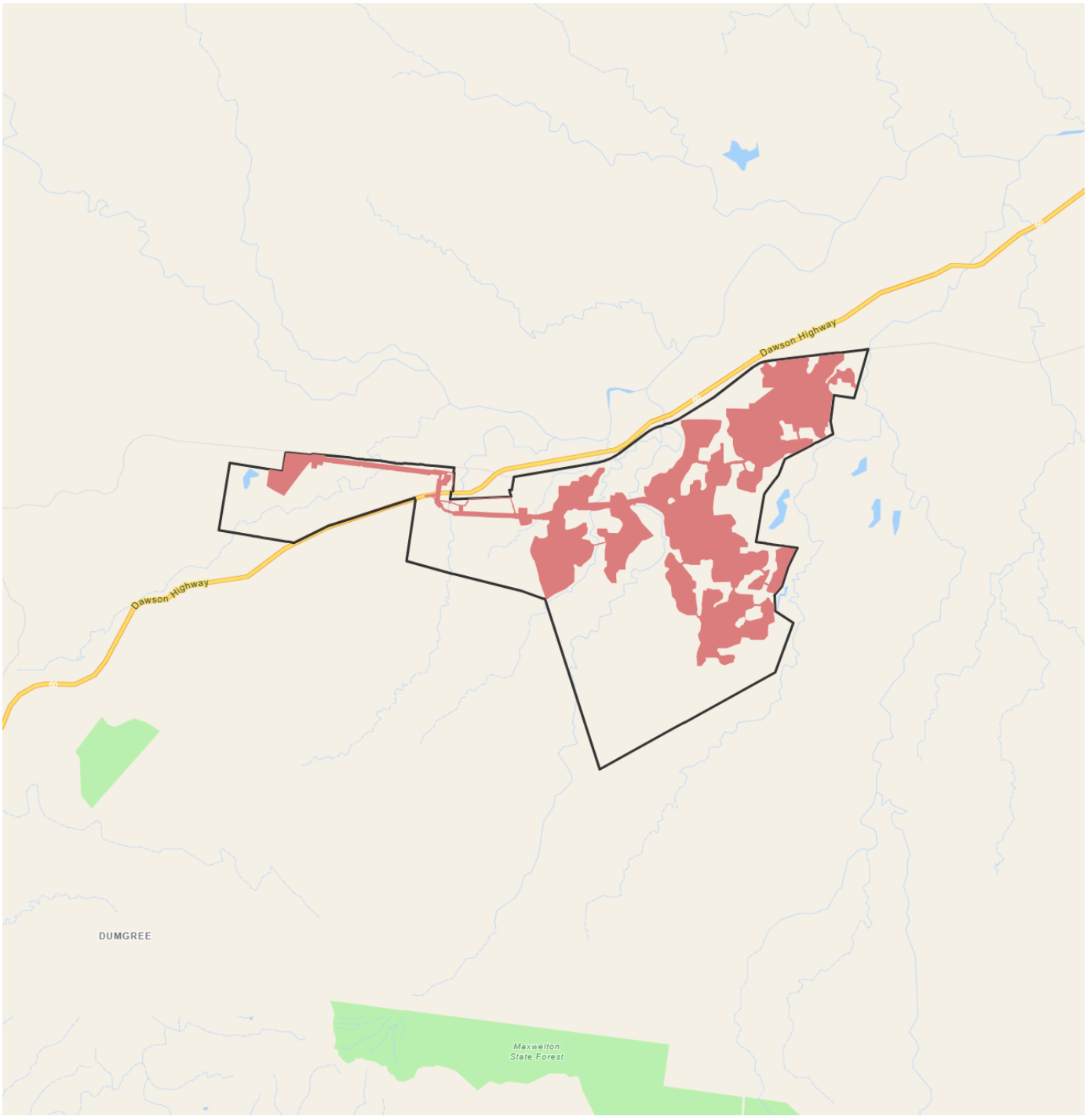
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 5628.29 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 1852.43 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

6315 Dawson Highway, Mount Alma

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? *

No

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

Land within the Project Area encompasses 13 freehold land parcels, 1 reserve land parcel and road reserves.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The Proposed Action is located approximately 40 km south-west of Gladstone in Central Queensland, within the GRC LGA. The Project Area is mapped within the rural zone under the GRC Planning Scheme and is predominantly utilised for agricultural purposes.

The Project Area is located in a region which has experienced substantial disturbance and vegetation clearing within the last 200 years; primarily for agriculture, cattle grazing and resource extraction. These land uses have significantly altered the natural environment, resulting in habitat fragmentation and the widespread establishment of pasture grasses, which have facilitated the spread of invasive weeds.

A review of historical aerial imagery indicates that large scale land clearing for stock grazing has occurred across the Project Area since 1959. However, portions of the south-western Project Area have remained relatively undisturbed since the late 1990s and currently support mature regrowth communities of sparse to open woodlands, dominated by native *Eucalyptus* and *Melaleuca* species.

While remnant vegetation persists within the landscape, it is highly fragmented and disturbed. These remnant areas are primarily confined to riparian corridors, where they provide localised habitat values for native fauna.

The Project Area contains a network of drainage lines and watercourses, which generally flow in a north-easterly direction. These features typically originate from elevated areas within the Project Area, gradually coalescing into more defined watercourses as they descend into lower-lying regions. According to the Queensland Department of Resources (DoR) watercourse identification map, the watercourses within the Project Area range from stream orders one through four. Stream order one watercourses, which are generally narrow and poorly defined, are the most common. Water availability within these lower-order systems is typically absent for most of the year, with flow conditions heavily influenced by prevailing climatic factors. Named watercourses present within the Project Area include Duck Holes Creek, Doubtful Creek, Lost Spring Creek, Maxwelton Creek and Running Creek.

Several key transport and energy infrastructure assets intersect, or are located adjacent to, the Project Area including:

- Dawson Highway: A Queensland State Government-owned highway intersecting the Project Area
- Moura Rail System: An Aurizon-owned and operated rail corridor adjacent to the Project Area
- 12 kV Ergon Distribution Network, bordering the northern boundary of the Project Area
- Jemena High-Pressure Gas Pipeline (Pipeline Petroleum Lease (PPL) 30): An underground gas pipeline running along the Dawson Highway, intersecting the Project Area.
- Callide Infrastructure Corridor State Development Area (SDA): Intersecting the Project Area and containing multiple gas transmission pipelines, including:
    - Santos GLNG Pty Ltd: Gas Transmission Pipeline Mainline (PPL 166)
    - APA WGP Pty Ltd: Miles to Gladstone Transmission Pipeline (PPL 154)
    - Australia Pacific LNG: Gladstone Transmission Pipeline (PPL 163).

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

The Project Area is located in a region which has been used primarily for agriculture, cattle grazing and resource extraction. The dominant land use in the Project Area is cattle grazing, with largely cleared areas to accommodate this land use type.

At the time of writing there are no current exploration or mining title claims within the Project Area.

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

The Project Area is located within the Calliope River sub-basin of the Fitzroy Regional Catchment, which is considered a Great Barrier Reef (GBR) catchment. The Calliope River does not intersect the Project Area or Disturbance Footprint. At its nearest point, the Calliope River is 500 m north of the Project Area and in most locations the Project Area is separated from the Calliope River by at least 1 km. Subsequently, at its nearest point, the Project Area is located 19.4 km west (upstream) from the GBR World Heritage Area (WHA) and National Heritage Place (NHP) and 50 km east upstream from the GBR Marine Park (MP); noting the boundary is located approximately 2 km offshore from the mouth of the Calliope River (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.2, pp 178**, Figure 8.1).

Ecologically significant locations are present within the broader landscape surrounding the Project Area. Several National Parks and State Forests lie within a 20 km radius, with the closest location (Maxwelton State Forest) being located approximately 6 km south-west. Other locations are further detailed within **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 5.2.9, pp 177**.

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

The Project Area is located on a gently undulating flat landscape that rises to low hills, ranging from 50 metres (m) Australian Height Datum (AHD) in the north-east of the Project Area, which is associated with low-lying areas and adjacent watercourses, to 120 m AHD in elevated hills and rises. The topography of the Project Area appears to be part of a valley formed by fluvial and alluvial processes, with the Project Area being moderately depressed relative to the surrounding landscape. For context, the foothills of the Calliope Range (approximately 6 km south-west of the Project Area) has an elevation of 650 m AHD.

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.

Desktop and field assessments

An assessment of the desktop search extent (a 20 km buffer of the Project Area) was undertaken to broadly characterise and identify the MNES that may occur within the Project Area. The desktop assessment included a review of literature, and searches of publicly available datasets and online mapping. A list of the information sources reviewed at Project inception and revised throughout the Proposed Action's development is listed within **Att4_MNES Report_Part 1, Section 4.1.1, pp 28**.

A total of five mobilisations, across 19 survey days, were completed by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd (Umwelt) between 2021 and 2024. Table 4.3 of **Att4_MNES Report_Part 1, Section 4.2.3, pp 32**, details these surveys including the survey length, timing, and weather conditions at the time of the surveys.

Surveys were deliberatively scheduled to maximise the detectability of species and were undertaken across multiple years (2021 to 2024). As the Project Area is situated in the Brigalow Belt Bioregion, surveys were conducted in optimal seasons, as recommended by the Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Survey Guidelines for Queensland (T. J. Eyre, Ferguson, et al., 2022a) with the majority of surveys occurring within Spring to early Summer (September – mid December) to coincide with peaks in vertebrate activity and the commencement of breeding activity in many species. Additionally, these surveys were timed to adhere to relevant species-specific survey guidelines (where available), timing recommendation and to coincide with visitation period of Summer migratory birds (e.g. white-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*), Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) and fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)). Surveys were also scheduled following Summer rainfall to maximum detection of cryptic reptiles, including yakka skink (*Egernia rugosa*) and during peak microbat species (during warm weather) detectability seasons.

Survey site selection varied depending on the method undertaken, however, primarily aimed to assess presence and absence of threatened species occurrence throughout the Project Area.

Flora

A likelihood of occurrence assessment was conducted for each species which considered habitat preferences and occurrence data from the desktop assessment. Based on the initial desktop assessment, two threatened flora species, namely *Cycas megacarpa* and *Acacia eremophiloides*, were considered to have a 'High' likelihood of occurrence and were considered target threatened flora species during ecological field surveys.

A total of 243 flora species from 56 families was systematically and opportunistically identified during field surveys. The plant families representing most taxa were *Poaceae* (61 taxa) and *Myrtaceae* (13 taxa). A total of 49 introduced flora species were identified during field surveys. A detailed list of species recorded during field surveys is provided in **Att4_MNES_Report_Part 5, Appendix C.**

An extensive search for target threatened flora species was also undertaken, and no individuals / populations were identified. Given the failure to detect these species during surveys and the lack of suitable habitat identified, all threatened flora species identified in the desktop assessment are considered to have a 'Low' likelihood or considered not to occur within the Project Area.

A summary of the extent and condition of terrestrial flora surveyed within the Project Area is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 2, Section 5.3.1, pp 66.**

Fauna

A total of 92 fauna species were identified during the field survey program, comprising of 58 birds, 26 mammals, four reptiles and four amphibian species, including introduced species. Of these species, one species, squatter pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*), listed under the EPBC Act as Vulnerable, was identified. The field survey also identified five introduced species, which are discussed further in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 2, Section 5.4.5, pp 101**. A full list of the fauna species recorded within the Project Area is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 5, Appendix C.**

Following the field assessments conducted to date and based on species' habitat preferences, no threatened fauna species listed under the EPBC Act have a 'High' likelihood of occurrence within the Project Area. As a result, the likelihood of occurrence for six threatened fauna species has been reduced to 'Moderate'. The following is a summary of the likelihood of occurrences relevant to the Project Area:

- 'Known' to occur
    - squatter pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*)
- 'Moderate' likelihood of occurrence
    - greater glider (southern) (*Petauroides volans volans*)
    - koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
    - yakka skink (*Egernia rugosa*)
    - white-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)
    - Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)
    - grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)

Ecological Communities

Field assessments confirmed the presence of one Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), the Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains TEC (Poplar Box TEC), within the Project Area. The Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) report listed a further seven TECs as potentially occurring within the Project Area; however, the field assessment confirmed that these TECs are not present within the Project Area due to the absence of supporting Regional Ecosystems (REs) or the Project Area being outside of the distribution of those TECs. Further details are provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 2, Section 5.3.2, pp 66**.

The location and extent of Poplar Box TEC is depicted in Figure 8.2 of the **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.3.1, pp 187**, and further summary is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 2, Section 5.3.2.1, pp 81.**

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

Vegetation communities

The most commonly occurring RE within the Project Area is 11.12.3 (*Eucalyptus crebra*, *E. tereticornis* and *Angophora leiocarpa* woodland on igneous rocks especially granite) which occurs as both remnant and regrowth patches or large contiguous tracts. Alluvial communities (i.e. RE 11.3.2, 11.3.4, 11.3.4a, 11.3.25b and 11.3.25d) generally occurred as narrow patches in the low-lying parts of the Project Area. Large areas of non-remnant vegetation not analogous to an RE were also confirmed across the lower parts of the Project Area, comprising historically cleared grazing pasture.

Field verified mapping displays large areas of ground-truthed remnant and regrowth 'endangered', 'of concern' and 'least concern' REs, particularly in the south-western extent of the Project Area. In total, 758.1 ha of remnant and 438.3 ha of regrowth REs, comprising of one 'endangered', four 'of concern' and four 'least concern' REs under the VM Act, are present within the Project Area.

The majority of the Project Area (78.7%) comprises non-remnant vegetation (4,421.4 ha) interspersed with remnant vegetation.

Soils

The Geological Survey of Queensland (2024), detailed Surface Geology Mapping and GeoScience Australia 1:250,000 geology mapping (Monto Sheet SG 5601) identified three geological units mapped within the Project Area. Based on these mapped geological units, three potential land zones, as described by Wilson & Taylor (2012), may be present, including:

- Land zone 3: recent Quaternary alluvial systems (alluvial river and creek flats).
- Land zone 4: Tertiary-early Quaternary clay plains (clay plains).
- Land zone 12: Mesozoic to Proterozoic igneous rocks (hills and lowlands on granitic rocks).

Further information on geology and soils is described in the preliminary Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) **Att5_ESCP, Section 4.2, pp 23** and **Att4_MNES Report_Part 2, Section 5.2.5, pp 59**.

3.3 Heritage

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

The Project Area is not included within the boundaries of any Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values. The Calliope River originates near Cedric Mountain within the Don River State Forest and flows approximately 100 kilometres km before discharging into the Pacific Ocean near Gladstone. The river lies within the catchment of the GBR and passes at its closest point, 500 m north of the Project Area and in most locations the Project Area is separated from the Calliope River by at least 1 km. The Calliope River flows into the GBR WHA and ultimately to the GBR MPA; which is noted to have high cultural, historical, and biological significance.

There are no historic values recognised on other statutory heritage registers or lists within the Project Area.

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

The Project Area is within the Country of the Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng and Taribelang Bunda People who hold Native Title over applicable lands within the area since a Federal Court determination on 3 May 2018 (QCD2017/010). Engagement with the Traditional Owners has already occurred, including an accompanied site visit dated 20/11/2024 – 21/11/2024.

The Cultural Heritage Survey Findings (**Att6_CH Survey Memo, Section 4.0, pp 2** - will not be made publicly available due to cultural sensitivity reasons) determined despite much of the area surveyed having been heavily impacted by significant ground disturbance, the extent of the impacts does not remove the potential for the Survey Area to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage material both on the surface and sub-surface, including some isolated finds found in significant disturbed areas.

The survey findings is confidential in nature for cultural sensitivity reasons. Therefore, findings will not be released publicly but will be made available for the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to assess and consider in its assessment of this referral.

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 Project Area is located within the Fitzroy Region and the Calliope Catchment (**Att5_ESCP, Section 5.1.1 & 5.1.4, pp 28**), and within the Calliope River drainage basin, which covers approximately 224,863 ha and includes the townships of Beecher, Burua, Calliope, Clarke, Gladstone, Mount Alma, and Yarwun (**Att4_MNES Report_ Part 2, Section 5.5.1, pp 102**). The Calliope River lies within the catchment of the GBR. At its nearest point, passes approximately 500 m north of the Project Area and in most locations the Project Area is separated from the Calliope River by at least 1 km.

The Project Area contains a network of drainage lines and watercourses, which generally flow in a north-easterly direction before connecting with the Calliope River. These features typically originate from elevated areas within the Project Area, gradually coalescing into more defined watercourses as they descend into lower-lying regions (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 2, Section 5.5.1, pp 102**). The named watercourses present within the Project Area include:

- Duck Holes Creek
- Doubtful Creek
- Lost Spring Creek
- Maxwelton Creek
- Running Creek.

The majority of watercourses intersecting the Disturbance Footprint are highly ephemeral, consisting primarily of narrow drainage features (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 6.1.2.3, pp 116**).

A site plan illustrating the surface geology of the Project Area is shown in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 2, Section 5.2.5, pp 61**, Figure 5.2, and watercourses and wetlands are shown in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 2, Section 5.5.1, pp 105**, Figure 5.10.

There is one waterbody feature (Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) Wetland dataset, Version 6.0) in the north-west of the Project Area and one Queensland State-mapped lacustrine high ecological significant (HES) area located approximately 1 km east of the Project Area. The Project Area is also intersected by a Wetland Protection Area (WPA) under the Queensland Wetland Environmental Values Map. The WPA is a buffer area that protects HES wetlands in the GBR catchments (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 2, Section 5.5.1, pp 103**). The Disturbance Footprint is located outside of the WPA. Further ‘wetland areas’ are present, but the majority of these features are associated with Queensland State-mapped alluvial REs. A further seven smaller farm dams are mapped across the Project Area as per the DoR’s Reservoirs dataset. Farm dams are a permanent source of water, installed to facilitate cattle grazing activities.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not located within the boundary of the GBR WHA, which is located approximately 19 km to the east of the Project Area. Given the distance of the Proposed Action from the GBR WHA, the Proposed Action is highly unlikely to have a direct impact on the GBR WHA. The Proposed Action is located within the Upper Calliope River's southern tributaries and ultimately flows into the GBR catchments; therefore, the Proposed Action has substantially considered erosion and sediment control measures to ensure all potential impacts are identified and mitigated appropriately to ensure the protection of MNES including the GBR WHA.

During construction, there is potential for runoff from the Disturbance Footprint to enter waterways that could flow into the GBR WHA through the Upper Calliope River's southern tributaries, carrying increased levels of sediment, contaminants, and nutrients. Through the implementation of measures outlined in the preliminary ESCP **(Att5_ESCP, Section 9.0, pp 42)** the Proposed Action has demonstrated that the water quality objectives outlined in the Calliope River Basin and Reef 2050 can be met and will be exceeded. The preliminary ESCP confirms the Proposed Action will protect downstream aquatic environments through BPESCP and can mitigate potential impacts to MNES and GBRMP to a negligible level.

A Significant Impact Assessment was undertaken for this MNES value (GBR WHA) (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.2.1.7, pp 174 - 177**), in accordance with the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – MNES* (Department of the Environment, 2013b) (Significant Impact Guidelines).

The Significant Impact Assessment determined that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the GBR WHA, due to the following:

- There is a considerable distance between the Proposed Action and the GBR WHA.
- The introduction of noise, odours, or pollutants is considered unlikely to have substantial long-term impact, as the Proposed Action is approximately 19 km west of the GBR WHA and management plans will be in place to mitigate indirect effects.
- The introduced Project infrastructure is unlikely to significantly affect these values due to the Proposed Action's location outside the GBR WHA.
- The regulatory controls and setback distances from sensitive areas applied to the siting of the Project Area, including implementing the preliminary ESCP and maintaining riparian vegetation buffers (minimum 30 m for stream order 2-4 watercourses, except where a watercourse crossing is essential) throughout construction and operation, ensure negligible impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the GBR WHA.
- As outlined in WRM's preliminary ESCP (**Att5_ESCP, Section 13, pp 66 - 67**) water quality impacts associated with the Proposed Action can be appropriately managed and application of BPESC measures the Proposed Action has committed to, including the use of sediment traps with rock filter dams installed at the end of all mitre drains and on the approaches to watercourse/drainage lines, the use of check dams at regular intervals and stabilising exposed areas quickly following construction works. As such, the Proposed Action is unlikely to result in any direct or indirect impacts on the GBR WHA.
- BPESC measures will be designed to divert clean water around construction activities, reduce water velocity and capture sediment on site, prevent sediment moving off-site and sediment-laden water entering any watercourse, drainage line, or drain inlet, and minimise the amount of material transported from the site.

The full Significant Impact Assessment for GBR WHA is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.2.1.7, pp 174 - 177,** Table 8.3.

Additionally, the preliminary ESCP in **Att5_ESCP, Section 14.2, pp 68**, demonstrates that the Proposed Action can be constructed and operated in a manner that meets all relevant environmental obligations and water quality objectives for the Calliope River catchment and the GBR. By adopting BPESC measures and robust monitoring, the Proposed Action will protect downstream aquatic environments and comply with the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) and other statutory requirements.

The Significant Impact Assessment for the GBR WHA (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.2.1.7, pp 174 - 177**) concluded that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on this MNES value. As such, the Proposed Action is considered not to be a controlled action for World Heritage.

The avoidance of MNES values has been demonstrated through both site selection of the Project Area and the development of the Disturbance Footprint. Revisions to both have occurred throughout the progressive and iterative design and development of the Proposed Action informed by community and landholder consultation, grid connectivity options and an evolving understanding of on-ground environmental constraints including the presence and distribution of MNES and associated habitat values. The avoidance, minimisation, and mitigation measures that are specific to the GBR WHA, are outlined below.

Avoidance and Minimisation

As part of the early design process, the Proposed Action has prioritised the avoidance of impacts to larger waterways (classified as stream order 2 and above) within the Disturbance Footprint, recognising their role in supporting critical habitat for terrestrial species and downstream MNES, including the GBR (approximately 19 km downstream). Avoidance of these features has been a key mitigation strategy, with the Proposed Action maintaining extensive riparian vegetation buffers (minimum 30 m for stream order 2-4 watercourses, except where a watercourse crossing is essential) and through minimising the need for watercourse crossings wherever practicable.

To further minimise impacts, the Proposed Action has preferentially utilised existing disturbance corridors within riparian zones, thereby reducing the requirement for new clearing. Where new watercourse crossings are unavoidable, impacts will be minimised through careful design, including the strategic siting of crossings to intersect watercourses perpendicularly rather than running parallel, and restricting disturbance widths to access tracks and the OHTL. As a result, the overall extent of clearing within riparian vegetation and watercourses has been significantly reduced, with an estimated 2.5 ha (REs 11.3.4 and 11.3.25b) of impact across the 5,618 ha Project Area.

This approach to avoidance and minimisation has substantially reduced potential risks, including:

- removal of high-quality and versatile MNES habitat
- barriers to fish passage, and
- downstream sedimentation and nutrient runoff into the GBR.

Mitigation

As described in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.3.3, pp 161,** Table 7.2, a preliminary ESCP has been prepared based on BPESC measures and other statutory requirements. The preliminary ESCP has identified potential impacts associated with sedimentation, stormwater runoff, and erosion within the Project Area and outlines avoidance and mitigation measures applicable during both the construction and operational phases. These measures will protect downstream aquatic environments and comply, and in some cases exceed, the Reef 2050 Plan and other statutory requirements. The preliminary ESCP confirms that the Proposed Action can mitigate potential impacts to MNES and GBRMP to a negligible level. The preliminary ESCP will also align with the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017–2022 (Reef 2050 WQIP) and overarching Reef 2050 Plan.

With the application of BPESC measures in accordance with the preliminary ESCP (refer to **Att5_ESCP, Section 12.5, pp 65**)**,** the Proposed Action will therefore be constructed and operated in a manner that meets all relevant environmental obligations and water quality objectives for the GBR.

4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not located within the boundary of the GBR NHP, which is located approximately 19 km to the east of the Project Area. Given the distance of the Proposed Action from the GBR NHP, the Proposed Action is highly unlikely to have a direct impact on the GBR NHP. The Project is located within the Upper Calliope River's southern tributaries and ultimately flows into the GBR catchments; therefore, the Proposed Action has substantially considered erosion and sediment control measures to ensure all potential impacts are identified and mitigated appropriately to ensure the protection of MNES including the GBR.

During construction, there is potential for runoff from the Disturbance Footprint to enter waterways that could flow into the GBR NHP, carrying increased levels of sediment, contaminants, and nutrients. Through the implementation of measures outlined in the preliminary ESCP (**Att5_ESCP, Section 12.5, pp 65**), the Proposed Action has demonstrated that the water quality objectives outlined in the Calliope River Basin and Reef 2050 can be met and will be exceeded. The preliminary ESCP confirms the Proposed Action will protect downstream aquatic environments through BPESCP and can mitigate potential impacts to MNES and GBRMP to a negligible level.

A Significant Impact Assessment was undertaken for this MNES value (GBR NHP) (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.2.1.7, pp 174 - 177**), in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines.

The Significant Impact Assessment determined that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the GBR NHP, due to the following:

- There is a considerable distance between the Proposed Action and the GBR NHP.
- The introduction of noise, odours, or pollutants is also considered unlikely to have substantial long-term impacts, as the Proposed Action is approximately 19 km west of the GBR NHP and management plans will be in place to mitigate indirect effects.
- The introduced Project infrastructure is unlikely to significantly affect these values due to the Proposed Action's location outside the GBR NHP.
- The regulatory controls and setback distances from sensitive areas applied to the siting of the Project Area, including implementing the preliminary ESCP and maintaining riparian vegetation buffers (minimum 30 m for stream order 2-4 watercourses, except where a watercourse crossing is essential) throughout construction and operation, ensure negligible impacts to the OUV of the GBR NHP.
- As outlined in WRM's preliminary ESCP (**Att5_ESCP, Section 13, pp 66 – 67 & Section 14.2, pp 68**) water quality impacts associated with the Proposed Action can be appropriately managed and the application of BPESC measures the Proposed Action has committed to, including the use of sediment traps with rock filter dams installed at the end of all mitre drains and on the approaches to watercourse/drainage lines, the use of check dams at regular intervals and stabilising exposed areas quickly following construction works. As such, the Proposed Action is unlikelyto result in any direct or indirect impacts on the GBR NHP.
- BPESC measures will be designed to divert clean water around construction activities, reduce water velocity and capture sediment on site, prevent sediment moving off-site and sediment-laden water entering any watercourse, drainage line, or drain inlet, and minimise the amount of material transported from the site.

The full Significant Impact Assessment for GBR NHP is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.2.1.7, pp 174 - 177**, Table 8.3.

Additionally, the preliminary ESCP in **Att5_ESCP, Section 14.2, pp 68**, demonstrates that the Proposed Action can be constructed and operated in a manner that meets all relevant environmental obligations and water quality objectives for the Calliope River catchment and the GBR. By adopting BPESC measures and robust monitoring, the Proposed Action will protect downstream aquatic environments and comply with the Reef 2050 Plan and other statutory requirements.

The Significant Impact Assessment for the GBR NHP (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.2.1.7, pp 174 – 177**, Table 8.3) concluded that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on this MNES value. As such, the Proposed Action is considered not to be a controlled action for National Heritage.

As outlined in Section 4.1.1.3 of this referral form, a hierarchy of management principles were applied throughout planning and development of the Proposed Action with regards to impacts to the GBR WHA/NHP. The principles of avoid, minimise, mitigate, remediate and rehabilitate, and the order in which they were applied, are further outlined in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.0, pp 131**, as they relate to the GBR NHP.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not located directly within or proximate to a Ramsar Wetland. The closest Ramsar Wetland, Shoalwater and Corio Bays Area (Shoalwater Bay Training Area; in part – Corio Bay) is located approximately 150 km north-northwest of the Proposed Action.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Cossinia australiana	Cossinia
No	No	Cupaniopsis shirleyana	Wedge-leaf Tuckeroo
No	No	Cycas megacarpa	
No	No	Dasyurus hallucatus	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]
No	No	Delma torquata	Adorned Delma, Collared Delma
No	No	Denisonia maculata	Ornamental Snake
No	No	Dichanthium setosum	bluegrass
No	Yes	Egernia rugosa	Yakka Skink
No	No	Erythrotriorchis radiatus	Red Goshawk
No	No	Eucalyptus raveretiana	Black Ironbox
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Furina dunmalli	Dunmall's Snake
Yes	Yes	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	Geophaps scripta scripta	Squatter Pigeon (southern)
No	No	Hemiaspis damelii	Grey Snake
Yes	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Macroderma gigas	Ghost Bat
No	No	Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda	Star Finch (eastern), Star Finch (southern)
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	Yes	Petauroides volans	Greater Glider (southern and central)
No	No	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
Yes	Yes	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	Poephila cincta cincta	Southern Black-throated Finch
Yes	Yes	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Samadera bidwillii	Quassia
No	No	Turnix melanogaster	Black-breasted Button-quail

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Coastal Swamp Oak (Casuarina glauca) Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland ecological community
No	No	Coolibah - Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions
No	Yes	Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains
No	No	Weeping Myall Woodlands

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. *

Activities associated with the Proposed Action are categorised into three phases: construction, O&M, and decommissioning and rehabilitation. The Proposed Action has the potential to cause direct and/or indirect impacts on Threatened Species and Ecological Communities species during these phases, including:

- Potential direct impacts
    - During the construction phase: vegetation clearance and habitat loss, fauna injury and mortality, loss of fauna movement opportunities (further details about these impacts are described in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 6.1.1, pp 109**).
    - During the O&M phase: fauna injury from vehicle strike, electrocution, collision and/or entanglement risk with associated infrastructure (further details about these impacts are described in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 6.2.1, pp 124**).
    - During the decommissioning and rehabilitation phase:fauna injury from vehicle strike (further details about decommissioning and rehabilitation phase, are described in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 6.3, pp 130)**.
- Potential indirect impacts
    - During the construction phase: exacerbation of pest fauna and weeds, edge effects, changes to hydrological regimes, soil erosion and sedimentation, contamination from spills and leaks, dust impacts, increased risk of fire incursion, increased human presence, and increased noise, vibration and artificial light (further details about these impacts are described in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 6.1.2, pp 114**).
    - During the O&M phase: exacerbation of pest fauna and weeds, increased risk of fire incursion, soil erosion and contamination (further details about these impacts are described in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 6.2.2, pp 126**).
    - During the decommissioning and rehabilitation phase: temporary and localised increases in noise and potentially dust (further details about decommissioning and rehabilitation phase, are described in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 6.3, pp 130)**.

Based on species records and field survey findings, a detailed likelihood of occurrence assessment was conducted for MNES (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 5, Appendix B**), which identified one TEC and seven threatened fauna species, that are considered ‘Known’ or potentially occurring within the Project Area. Potential direct and indirect impacts associated with these values are addressed below:

- Poplar Box TEC
    - A total of seven patches of the TEC were identified on the alluvial floodplains within the Project Area **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.3.1.3, pp 179**. However, the proposed Disturbance Footprint has been designed to achieve complete avoidance of this TEC. As such, the Proposed Action will not result in any direct impacts to the Poplar Box TEC. Potential indirect impacts as a result of the Proposed Action will likely involve increased edge effects, further weed and pest incursion, soil erosion, sedimentation and hydrological changes, dust generation, and the increased intensity and frequency of fires. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further indirect impacts to Poplar Box TEC. Potential indirect impacts to this TEC are discussed in detail in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.3.1.5, pp 181**.
- Greater glider (southern and central) (*Petauroides volans*)
    - Under the worst-case scenario (i.e the proposed Disturbance Footprint), the Proposed Action will result in the removal of 0.3 ha of potential or future denning habitat and 1.9 ha of foraging and dispersal habitat for greater glider (southern). The proposed Disturbance Footprint has been designed to achieve complete avoidance of likely current denning habitat (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.4.1.3, pp 189 - 191**). Other potential direct impacts include mortality of injury during clearing activities and entanglement in barbed-wire fences erected for the Proposed Action. Potential indirect impacts include loss of movement opportunities due to infrastructure barriers, increased susceptibility to predation, generated noise activity and

vibration, risk of bushfire and dust generation. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further direct and indirect impacts to greater glider (southern). The potential direct and indirect impacts are discussed in detail in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.4.1.7, pp 193**.

- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
    - Under the worst-case scenario, the Proposed Action will result in the removal of up to 2.5 ha of potential breeding and foraging habitat, 2.2 ha of climate refugia habitat, 554.5 ha of dispersal habitat with trees and 128.4 ha of dispersal habitat without trees. Other potential direct impacts include mortality or injury from vehicle strike and from clearing activities. Potential indirect impacts include mortality from encountering invasive predatory species, loss of movement opportunities due to infrastructure barriers, introduction or proliferation of pest and weed, generated noise activity and vibration, risk of bushfire and dust generation. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further direct and indirect impacts to koala. Potential indirect impacts on the koala are outlined in detail under within **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.4.2.7, pp 208.**
- Grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)
    - Under the worst-case scenario, the Proposed Action will result in the removal of 0.3 ha of potential foraging and dispersal habitat. Other potential direct impacts include mortality from stress and dehydration resulting from entanglement in barbed-wire fencing and electrocution. Potential indirect impacts include dust generated that can disturb behaviours or health/palatability of foraging resources, as well as alterations to fire regimes and potential to for increased accidental bushfire that may result from construction and/or operation. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further direct and indirect impacts to grey-headed flying fox. The potential direct and indirect impacts are discussed in detail in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.1.7, pp 221.**
- Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)
    - Under the worst-case scenario, the Proposed Action will result in the removal of 0.2 ha of foraging and roosting habitat. Another potential direct impact includes mortality through collision with solar modules. Potential indirect impacts include the introduction or exacerbation of pest and weed species, alterations to fire regimes and potential bushfire risks, increased risk of erosion and sedimentation as well as contamination of water bodies, degrading or reduced availability of potential habitat, and periodic bursts of elevated noise levels. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further direct and indirect impacts to Latham's snipe. The potential direct and indirect impacts are discussed in detail in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.2.9, pp 231.**
- Squatter pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*)
    - Under the worst-case scenario, the Proposed Action will result in the removal of up to 4.7 ha of foraging and breeding habitat and 635.3 ha of dispersal habitat. Other potential direct impacts include mortality or injury during clearing activities or by machinery during construction or vehicles during operation. Potential indirect impacts include reduction or loss of habitat connectivity, altered fire regimes and potential bushfire risks, incursion of weeds, displacement due to noise and vibration impacts, and the increased accessibility and incursion of feral species and predators. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further direct and indirect impacts to squatter pigeon (southern). Potential indirect impacts to this species are discussed in detail in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.3.7, pp 243**.
- White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

    - Under the worst-case scenario, the Proposed Action will result in the removal of 3.1 ha of foraging and roosting habitat and 1,845.8 ha of dispersal and marginal foraging habitat. Another direct impact includes mortality from collision with the OHTL. A potential indirect impact includes increased bushfire risk as a result of altered fire regimes. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further direct and indirect impacts to white-throated needletail. Potential indirect impacts to this species are discussed in detail in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.4.8, pp 225**.
- Yakka skink (*Egernia rugosa*)
    - The proposed Disturbance Footprint has been designed to achieve complete avoidance of all suitable habitat for the species. As such, the Proposed Action will not result in any direct impacts to the yakka skink (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.5.4, pp 263**). Potential indirect impacts include further degradation of habitat, increased predation by exotic fauna species, noise and lighting impacts, injuries or death from potential vehicle strikes and habitat clearing. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further direct or indirect impacts to yakka skink. Potential indirect impacts to this species are discussed in detail in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.5.7, pp 265**.

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 undertaken for MNES values (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) that are 'Known' or potentially occurring within the Project Area. The Significant Impact Assessments were conducted in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines using the Threatened Species and Communities criteria.

Significant Impact Assessments for the Proposed Action has determined it is unlikely to have a significant impact on Threatened Species and Ecological Communities, due to the following:

- Poplar Box TEC
    - The Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on this TEC. The Proposed Action has been strategically designed to avoid the clearing of all mapped Poplar Box TEC patches through the establishment of 'no-go' zones within the Project Area. The full Significant Impact Assessment for this TEC is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.3.1.7, pp 182**, Table 8.5.
- Greater glider (southern and central) (*Petauroides volans*)
    - The Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the greater glider (southern). The Proposed Action will have a negligible impact to the species habitat, and the species is absent or infrequently uses the Project Area. The Proposed Action has been strategically designed to completely avoid any likely current denning habitat for the species. Furthermore, no habitat critical to the survival of the species will be directly impacted by vegetation clearing. The full Significant Impact Assessment for this species is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.4.1.9, pp 195**, Table 8.7.
- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
    - The Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the koala. No population of this species is known to the Project Area despite targeted surveys and is not considered to comprise habitat critical to the survival of the species. Based on the Significant Impact Assessment, the Proposed Action is unlikely to interfere with the species' recovery, given the existing habitat is highly fragmented and may at most support only rare, transient individuals. Overall, recognised threats to the koala are not expected to be exacerbated by the Proposed Action, meaning population numbers and ecological processes should remain unaffected. The full Significant Impact Assessment for this species is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.4.2.9, pp 210**, Table 8.9.
- Grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)
    - The Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the grey-headed flying fox. The Project Area provides suitable foraging habitat for the grey-headed flying-fox but does not support roosting habitat, nor an important population. The species has not been recorded within the Project Area during the field survey program despite targeted surveys. Based on the Significant Impact Assessment, habitat clearing will have negligible effects on foraging areas, and fauna-sensitive fencing designs will be implemented to reduce the risk of entanglement. Overall, the Proposed Action is unlikely to interfere substantially with the recovery or conservation of the species. The full Significant Impact Assessment for this species is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.1.9, pp 222**, Table 8.11.
- Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)
    - The Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Latham's snipe. Potential breeding, foraging and roosting habitat for Latham's snipe has been identified within the Project Area, primarily associated with artificial dams with muddy margins. A number of avoidance and mitigation measures have been proposed which aim to reduce the impact of the Proposed Action on the species and its habitat. These include not extracting water from locations mapped as suitable habitat for the species during the species' visitation period and the development of a series of environmental management plans to manage Project impacts to environmental values, including threatened species habitat. Based on the Significant Impact Assessment, the introduction of diseases or significant interference with recovery of the

Latham's Snipe is unlikely, given appropriate biosecurity and management protocols will be employed. Conservation outcomes for the species, such as stable or increasing populations and protection of critical habitat, are expected to remain unaffected. The full Significant Impact Assessment for this species is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.2.11, pp 233**, Table 8.13.

- Squatter pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*)
  - The Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the squatter pigeon (southern). Due to the design of the Proposed Action, the species will have ongoing access to resources (including permanent water) throughout the construction, O&M and decommissioning phases within surrounding habitat of the Project Area. Despite the reduction of some habitat, which is primarily used for dispersal, the majority of key breeding and foraging habitat will be retained which will support the species ongoing population in the Project Area. The full Significant Impact Assessment for this species is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.3.9, pp 245**, Table 8.16.
- White-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)
  - The Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the white-throated needletail. The Proposed Action has undergone significant design review aimed at avoiding impact to remnant and regrowth vegetation by siting infrastructure in non-remnant areas. The impact to roosting habitat is considered negligible in the context of the surrounding landscape which supports vast quantities of potential roosting habitat, particularly north, west and south of the Project Area along the Great Dividing Range. In addition, mapped roosting and foraging habitat is unlikely to be relied upon by the species given it exists in habitat fragments and is situated on undulating terrain, rather than on steep ridges and hills. The full Significant Impact Assessment for this species is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.4.10, pp 255**, Table 8.18.
- Yakka skink (*Egernia rugosa*)
  - The Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the yakka skink. The yakka skink, or signs of yakka skink colonies (i.e. communal latrine sites) were not detected during the field surveys. Based on the Significant Impact Assessment, potential risks of the Proposed Action to introduce exotic predators, disease, or interfering with the species' recovery is considered unlikely. This accounts for the already fragmented habitat, absence of disease threats, and the implementation of standard control and mitigation measures. Overall, the Proposed Action is expected to have negligible impact on the yakka skink's populations or recovery, given the retention and avoidance of suitable habitat. The full Significant Impact Assessment for this species is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.5.5.9, pp 266**, Table 8.21.

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 Significant Impact Assessments for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.1, pp 166**, Table 8.1 for summary) concluded that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on this MNES value. As such, the Proposed Action is considered not to be a controlled action for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities.

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 avoidance of MNES values has been demonstrated through both site selection of the Project Area and the development of the Disturbance Footprint. Revisions to both have occurred throughout the progressive and iterative design and development of the Proposed Action informed by community and landholder consultation, grid connectivity options; and an evolving understanding of on-ground environmental constraints including the presence and distribution of MNES and associated habitat values.

The Project Area was selected in part due to the proximity to high voltage transmission infrastructure, specifically the proposed Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project, and the Dawson Highway (to minimise the need for any off-site impacts) and the presence of large areas of previously cleared land.

A central input to determining the infrastructure layout was an ecological constraints assessment, which is demonstrated within **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.1.1.2, pp 132 & pp 135,** Figure 7.2). This assessment assigned ecological values a risk category, from High to Low, based on sensitivity and environmental significance. The mitigation hierarchy was then applied in line with these risk ratings. As a result, the layout was refined to avoid areas of High and Moderate ecological risk, thereby reducing impacts on MNES values. Amendments to the infrastructure layout and Disturbance Footprint has been an iterative process in response to these findings and are summarised in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.1.1.4, pp 137**, and include:

- reducing the size of the Proposed Action
- preferentially siting infrastructure in non-remnant vegetation areas
- preferentially avoiding areas of higher condition/quality habitat
- siting infrastructure to avoid wildlife corridors to the greatest extent possible, by retaining essential movement pathways, supporting the ongoing dispersal of fauna between breeding and foraging habitats
- strategically siting infrastructure outside of all TEC areas and areas identified as likely current denning habitat for Greater Glider
- complete avoidance of wetlands
- implementing design measures such as the installation of a plain wire on the top strand, where not required for security or safety reasons, as well as reflective discs or UV stabilised tape to increase the detectability of barbed wire.

Since the Proposed Action's inception, an iterative process of design optimisation has been undertaken with a clear emphasis on avoidance as the primary strategy. A hierarchical approach of first avoiding, then minimising vegetation clearing has guided the design in response to ecological constraints. The siting of the Disturbance Footprint reflects this approach, with the avoidance of MNES values forming a key consideration:

- **Avoid:** locating activities to avoid direct and indirect impacts on MNES. As a result, the Proposed Action as avoided all areas of Poplar Box TEC and yakka skink habitat.
- **Minimise**: minimising direct and indirect impacts where they cannot be completely avoided. The avoidance measures are described in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.2, pp 142.**
- **Mitigate:** implementing a suite of both general and MNES-specific mitigation and management measures to reduce direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. The mitigation measures are described in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.3, pp 144.**
- **Remediate and rehabilitate:** actively remediate and rehabilitate impacted areas to promote long-term recovery. Rehabilitation measures are described in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.5, pp 164.**

As the Proposed Action is unlikely to result in significant impacts to MNES, offsets are not proposed. Nonetheless, the Proposed Action is committed to identifying opportunities to work with First Nations rightsholders, local environmental organisations, and the community to identify and implement opportunities to support Caring for Country activities and leaving lasting ecological benefits to the region.

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

No offsets under the EPBC Act are proposed as the Proposed Action is unlikely to result in significant impacts to MNES values.

Although offsets under the EPBC Act are not proposed, the Proposed Action will incorporate on-site rehabilitation measures, such as replanting of native species and weed suppression, and is committed to identifying opportunities to work with First Nations rightsholders, local environmental organisations, and the community to identify and implement opportunities to support Caring for Country activities. While direct impacts are unlikely to result in significant impacts, the Proposed Action is committed to delivering longer-term habitat improvements that will leave a lasting legacy for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities in the region.

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
Yes	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
No	No	Crocodylus porosus	Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile
Yes	Yes	Cuculus optatus	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
Yes	Yes	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	Yes	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
Yes	Yes	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. *

Activities associated with the Proposed Action are categorised into three phases: construction, O&M, and decommissioning and rehabilitation. The Proposed Action has the potential to cause direct and/or indirect impacts on Migratory Species during these phases. The direct and indirect impacts associated with different phases of the Proposed Action, are described in Section 4.1.4.2 of this referral form, and assessed in detail within **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 6.0, pp 109**.

Based on species records and field survey findings, a detailed likelihood of occurrence assessment was conducted for Migratory Species (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 5, Appendix B**). Following field surveys, all Migratory Species are considered to have a 'Moderate' likelihood of occurrence in the Project Area. Potential direct and indirect impacts associated with these values are addressed below:

- **Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)**
  The fork-tailed swift was not recorded in the Project Area during field surveys. However, due to the aerial nature of this species it has a 'Moderate' likelihood of occurrence within wooded vegetation types in the Project Area and Disturbance Footprint (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.1.3, pp 272**).
  Under the worst-case scenario, the Proposed Action will result in the removal of up to 1,848.9 ha of non-breeding foraging and dispersal habitat (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.1.7, pp 273,** Table 8.22). Another potential direct impact includes mortality from collision with the OHTL. Potential indirect impacts include alterations to fire regimes and the potential for increased, accidental bushfires that may result from construction and/or operation, as well as an increase in feral animal populations which lead to habitat destruction, degradation and potential increased levels of predation. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further direct and indirect impacts to fork-tailed swift. Further details regarding the potential direct and indirect impacts on this species, are provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.1.7, pp 273.**
- **Oriental Cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*)**
  The oriental cuckoo was not recorded within the Project Area during field surveys. However, due to the presence of suitable habitat comprising remnant open eucalypt forest woodland within the Project Area, the species has been assigned a 'Moderate' likelihood of occurrence in the Project Area (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.2.3, pp 277**).
  Under the worst-case scenario, the Proposed Action will result in the removal of up to 2.2 ha of potential foraging and dispersal habitat (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.2.3, pp 277,** Table 8.24). Other potential indirect impacts include the introduction or proliferation of pest and weed species resulting in degradation of habitat, as well as alterations to fire regimes and potential for increased accidental bushfire that may result from construction and/or operation. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further direct and indirect impacts to oriental cuckoo. Further details regarding the potential direct and indirect impacts on this species, are provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.2.7, pp 278.**
- **Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)**
  The osprey was not recorded within the Project Area during field surveys. However, the species is likely to utilise the Calliope River (to the north of the Project Area) and its associated tributaries within the Project Area, due to available permanent water and potential food supply (though this is limited due to the highly ephemeral nature of waterways within the Project Area). Due to the presence of potential habitat within the Project Area, the species has been assigned a 'Moderate' likelihood of occurring within the Project Area (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.3.3, pp 282**).
  Under the worst-case scenario, the Proposed Action will result in the removal of up to 2.5 ha of potential foraging and dispersal habitat (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.3.3, pp 282**, Table 8.26). Other potential direct impacts include mortality from collision with the OHTL and mortality from collision with solar modules. solar modules. Potential indirect impacts on this species include the introduction or proliferation of pest and weed species resulting in degradation of habitat and

alterations to fire regimes and potential for increased accidental bushfire that may result from construction and/or operation. It is proposed that design optimisations will continue throughout detailed design and other mitigation measures will continue to be developed to minimise any further direct and indirect impacts to osprey.
Further details regarding the potential direct and indirect impacts on this species, are provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.3.7, pp 283.**

Both the White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) and the Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) have been assessed as part of the Threatened Species. Please refer to section 4.1.4.2 of the referral form for details on these two species.

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 undertaken for the MNES values (Migratory Species) that are considered 'Known' or potentially occurring within the Project Area. The Significant Impact Assessments were conducted in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines using the Migratory Species criteria.

Significant Impact Assessments for the Proposed Action has determined it is unlikely to have a significant impact on Migratory Species, due to the following:

- **Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)**
  The Significant Impact Assessment determined that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the fork-tailed swift (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.1.8, pp 274**). Direct impacts to species habitat have been minimised throughout the early siting and design stages, prioritising the use of existing cleared areas where possible. Although a total of 1,848.9 ha of non-breeding foraging and dispersal habitat will be cleared for construction of the Proposed Action, the species is almost exclusively aerial, highly mobile, and occurs above a range of habitat types. As extensive habitat of similar value will remain in the broader landscape, the loss of habitat as a result of the Proposed Action is likely to be inconsequential for the species. The Proposed Action is therefore unlikely to substantially modify, destroy or isolate an area of important habitat.
  Feral animal populations are considered a potential threat to the fork-tailed swift, as well as risks associated with pest species, which are currently well established in the Project Area. However, the scope and severity of these threats are considered low, given the species is almost exclusively aerial and that best practice control methods for pest fauna will be employed via the Proposed Action's CEMP.
  Further, based on the predicted size and wide-ranging distribution of the global population, as well as the species' transient habits and broad habitat requirements, it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Action would seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant proportion of the population.
  The full Significant Impact Assessment for this species is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.1.8, pp 274**, Table 8.23.
- **Oriental cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*)**
  The Significant Impact Assessment determined that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the oriental cuckoo (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.2.8, pp 279**). Although the Proposed Action will result in the loss of approximately 2.2 ha of foraging and dispersal habitat, habitat within the Project Area is not the preferred habitat for the oriental cuckoo and has been largely fragmented due to historic clearing. Design and siting of the Proposed Action has minimised further habitat fragmentation by prioritising the use of existing cleared areas. The Proposed Action is therefore considered unlikely to substantially modify, destroy, or isolate an area of important habitat. By employing best practice control methods for invasive species, the Proposed Action is unlikely to introduce or exacerbate weeds or pests beyond existing levels. The oriental cuckoo is a non-breeding visitor to Australia and thus environments within Australia lack specific breeding habitat. In addition to the marginal habitat value that the Project Area provides, for the species' large and widespread population the Proposed Action is unlikely to impact the breeding cycle or seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant portion of the population of this species.
  The full Significant Impact Assessment for this species is provided in **At Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.2.8, pp 279**, Table 8.25.
- **Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)**
  The Significant Impact Assessment determined that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the osprey **(Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.3.8, pp 284**). Although the Proposed Action will result in direct impacts to 2.5 ha of potential foraging and dispersal habitat, the species is not known to occur within the Project Area, and habitat within the Project Area does not meet the definition of important habitat as defined in the *Draft referral guideline for 14 birds listed as migratory species under the EPBC Act 2015*. The Proposed Action will therefore not result in

substantial modification of important habitat. Invasive species are not an identified threat to osprey however with the application of best practice control measures for invasive species, the Proposed Action is unlikely to introduce or exacerbate weeds or pests beyond existing levels which may impact the condition of preferred habitat. Given the marginal value of habitat within the Project Area, an ecologically significant portion of the population is unlikely to be supported. As such, the Proposed Action is considered unlikely to seriously disrupt the lifecycle of an ecologically significant portion of the population.
The full Significant Impact Assessment for this species is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.6.3.8, pp 284**, Table 8.27.

Both the White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) and the Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) have been assessed as part of the Threatened Species. Please refer to section 4.1.4.6 of the referral form for details on these two 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 Significant Impact Assessments for Migratory Species (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.1, pp 169**, Table 8.1) concluded that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on these MNES value. As such, the Proposed Action is considered not to be a controlled action for Migratory Species.

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. *

As outlined in Section 4.1.4.10 of this referral form, a hierarchy of management principles were applied throughout planning and development of the Proposed Action. Design optimisations will continue throughout the detailed design phase of the Proposed Action, and mitigation measures will be refined or new measures developed, to further minimise any potential direct and indirect impacts to migratory species.

Avoidance and Minimisation Measures

The avoidance measures proposed for the Proposed Action are outlined in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.1, pp 131.** Measures to minimise potential impacts on MNES are outlined in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.2, pp 142**, including the micro-siting of infrastructure to avoid, or further minimise potential disturbance (where practicable) to habitat for Migratory Species (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.2.1, pp 143**).

MNES-Specific Mitigation Measures

The recommended general and species-specific mitigation measures, as well as management plans are outlined in (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.3, pp 144**). The proposed mitigation measures are intended to address potential direct and indirect impacts, as well as residual impacts, that are identified in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 6.0, pp 109**.

Specific measures that are proposed to further avoid, minimise and manage the impacts for all potentially occurring Migratory Species are outlined in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.3.3, pp 152**, Table 7.2 which includes the following:

- if an active nest/s is located within the Disturbance Footprint, this will be managed in accordance with protocols developed under a pre-approved High-risk SMP.
- As outlined in the **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section Section 7.3.3, pp 152** & **Section 7.3.4, pp 162**, a single death resulting from Project related activities will be a reportable incident to DCCEEW.
- Where canopy trees cannot be retained in areas of potential roosting habitat they will be inspected by a suitability qualified fauna spotter-catcher to identify any roosting Migratory Species. If observed, these would be flushed prior to felling.

Rehabilitation

Excluding the proposed access tracks and fire safety APZs which will need to remain free of vegetation at all times, previously cleared areas will be rehabilitated, and all areas of temporary ancillary infrastructure will also be subject to rehabilitation efforts. Rehabilitation will include the planting of native species known to the region and consistent with characteristics of the surrounding retained vegetation.

Further rehabilitation works will be undertaken as part of the decommissioning phase after infrastructure has been removed. The overall objective of these rehabilitation activities would be to return the Project Area to pre-construction conditions, with specific rehabilitation outcomes to be developed in consultation with the landowners prior to the decommissioning process.

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

No offsets under the EPBC Act are proposed as the Proposed Action is unlikely to result in significant impacts to MNES values.

Although offsets under the EPBC Act are not proposed, the Proposed Action will incorporate on-site rehabilitation measures, such as replanting of native species and weed suppression, and is committed to identifying opportunities to work with First Nations rightsholders, local environmental organisations, relevant landowners and the community to identify and implement opportunities to support Caring for Country activities. While direct impacts are unlikely to result in significant impacts, the Proposed Action is committed to delivering longer-term habitat improvements that will leave a lasting legacy for Migratory Species in the region.

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not related to a nuclear action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not directly located within a Commonwealth Marine Area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not located within the boundary of the GBR, which is located approximately 19 km to the east of the Project Area. Given the distance of the Proposed Action from the GBR, the Proposed Action is highly unlikely to have a direct impact on the GBR. The Proposed Action is located within the Upper Calliope River's southern tributaries and ultimately flows into the GBR catchments; therefore, the Proponent has substantially considered erosion and sediment control measures to ensure all potential impacts are identified and mitigated appropriately to ensure the protection of MNES including the GBR.

During construction, there is potential for runoff from the Disturbance Footprint to enter waterways that could flow into the GBR, through the Upper Calliope River's southern tributaries, carrying increased levels of sediment, contaminants, and nutrients. Through the implementation of measures outlined in the preliminary ESCP (**Att5_ESCP_Section 12.5, pp 65** & **Section 14.2 pp 68**) the Proposed Action has demonstrated that the water quality objectives outlined in the Calliope River Basin and Reef 2050 can be met and will be exceeded. The preliminary ESCP confirms the Proposed Action will protect downstream aquatic environments through BPESCP and can mitigate potential impacts to MNES and GBRMP to a negligible level.

A Significant Impact Assessment was undertaken for this MNES value (GBR) (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.2.1.7, pp 174**, Table 8.3), which was conducted in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines.

The Significant Impact Assessment determined that the Proposed Action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the GBR, due to the following:

- There is a considerable distance between the Proposed Action and the GBR.
- The introduction of noise, odours, or pollutants is also considered unlikely to have substantial long-term impacts, as the Proposed Action is set back by approximately 19 km and management plans are in place to mitigate indirect effects.
- The introduced Project infrastructure is unlikely to significantly affect these values due to the Proposed Action's location outside the GBR.
- The regulatory controls and setback distances from sensitive areas applied to the siting of the Project Area, including implementing the preliminary ESCP and maintaining riparian vegetation buffers (minimum 30 m for stream order 2-4 watercourses, except where a watercourse crossing is essential) throughout construction and operation, ensure negligible impacts to the OUV of the GBR.
- As outlined in WRM's preliminary ESCP (**Att5_ESCP, Section 12.5, pp 65**) water quality impacts associated with the Proposed Action can be appropriately managed and the application of BPESC measures, the Proposed Action has committed to, including the use of sediment traps with rock filter dams installed at the end of all mitre drains and on the approaches to watercourse/drainage lines, the use of check dams at regular intervals and stabilising exposed areas quickly following construction works. As such, the Proposed Action is unlikely to result in any direct or indirect impacts on the GBR.
- BPESC measures will be designed to divert clean water around construction activities, reduce water velocity and capture sediment on site, prevent sediment moving off-site and sediment-laden water entering any watercourse, drainage line, or drain inlet, and minimise the amount of material transported from the site.

The full Significant Impact Assessment for GBR is provided in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 4, Section 8.2.1.7, pp 174**, Table 8.3.

Additionally, the preliminary ESCP in **Att5_ESCP, Section 14.2, pp 68**, demonstrates that the Proposed Action can be constructed and operated in a manner that meets all relevant environmental obligations and water quality objectives for the Calliope River catchment and the GBR. By adopting BPESC measures and robust monitoring, the Proposed Action will protect downstream aquatic environments and comply with the Reef 2050 Plan and other statutory requirements.

As outlined in Section 4.1.1.3 of this referral form, a hierarchy of management principles were applied throughout planning and development of the Proposed Action with regards to impacts to the GBR WHA/NHP. The principles of avoid, minimise, mitigate, remediate and rehabilitate, and the order in which they were applied, are further outlined in **Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.0, pp 131**, as they relate to the GBR.

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

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

No

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

The Proposed Action is not in relation to a large coal mining development or coal seam gas.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

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

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

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

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

No

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

No Commonwealth Land has been identified within the Project Area or within a 10 km radius of the Project Area according to the PMST.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

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

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

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

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

No

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

No Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas will be impacted by the Proposed Action.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

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 has been located as close as practicable to the proposed Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project, to avoid unnecessary impacts to MNES associated with a longer connection route or a larger Disturbance Footprint. Alternatives further or closer to the proposed Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project were not feasible due to landowner constraints, incompatible terrain for solar farm construction and the presence of sensitive ecological values. Pursuing alternatives that did not consider these constraints would have resulted in greater ecological and social impacts.

The current Disturbance Footprint was selected as it maximises the use of previously cleared areas, minimises vegetation removal, and provides the shortest practicable connection to the proposed Calvale to Calliope River Transmission Line Reinforcement Project; whilst still providing the largest practicable energy generation capacity. Alternative layouts within the Project Area were also considered. Previous Disturbance Footprints would have resulted in up to 409.8 ha of additional impact. Application of the mitigation hierarchy to the greatest extent practicable has resulted in the current Disturbance Footprint representing a design with the least impact.

The proposed layout underwent several iterations to make sure the Proposed Action resulted in the least amount of impact across all ecological and hydrological impacts. Within the Project Area, design refinement was undertaken via via micro-siting, preferential siting in non-remnant areas, riparian buffer widening, and footprint downsizing (~409.8 ha avoided) to minimise MNES impacts. The MNES Report provides a detailed description of the iterative design process which was undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts (**Att4_MNES Report_Part 3, Section 7.1.1.4, pp 137**).

A “do-nothing” option was not viable as it would fail to deliver the identified energy generation, storage and grid stability benefits and would not be consistent with currently legislated emissions reduction and renewable energy generation/storage targets. Similarly, siting the Proposed Action elsewhere would introduce disproportionate costs, delays, and environmental risks. On this basis, the Proposed Action represents the only practicable option that balances Project economics and environmental impacts.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att1_Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan.pdf Community Stakeholder Engagement Plan	07/01/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att2_RES Environmental Policy.pdf Environmental Policy	04/12/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att3_RES Working with First Nations Policy.pdf Working with First Nations Policy	14/10/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 4.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	06/01/2026	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 1.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	06/01/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 2.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	06/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 5.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	06/01/2026	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 2.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att5_ESCP.pdf Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	18/12/2025	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att6_CH Survey Memo_CONFIDENTIAL.pdf Cultural Heritage Survey Results and Findings - CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT	02/12/2024	Yes	High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 2.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 3.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	06/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Att5_ESCP.pdf Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	17/12/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 3.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 4.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Att5_ESCP.pdf Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	17/12/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 3.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 4.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Att5_ESCP.pdf Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	17/12/2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 3.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 4.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 5.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 4.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 4.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 3.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 3.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 4.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 5.pdf Matters of National Environmental	05/01/2026	No	High

Significance Report

4.1.5.6 (Migratory Species) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 4.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High

4.1.5.9 (Migratory Species) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 4.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 3.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 3.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#2.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 4.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High
#3.	Document	Att5_ESCP.pdf Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	17/12/2025	No	High

4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att4_MNES Report_Part 3.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	05/01/2026	No	High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	18059519041
Organisation name	UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.
Organisation address	75 York Street, Teralba, NSW, 2284
Representative's name	Madi Jones
Representative's job title	Environmental Planner
Phone	0474555532
Email	madison.jones@umwelt.com.au
Address	Level 20, 145 Ann street, Brisbane 4000

☑ 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, **Madi Jones of UMWELT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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	34675111823
Organisation name	WOODERSON SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CO PTY LTD
Organisation address	Suite 6.01, Level 6, 165 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060
Representative's name	Lachlan Mitchell

Representative's job title	Development Project Manager - Central Queensland Power
Phone	0422 139 699
Email	Lachlan.mitchell@cqpower.com.au
Address	Suite 6.01, Level 6, 165 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060

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

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

☑ I, **Lachlan Mitchell of WOODERSON SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CO PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

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, **Lachlan Mitchell of WOODERSON SOLAR DEVELOPMENT CO PTY LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

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.