

# Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters – May 2025

Application Number: **02811**

Commencement Date:

**11/03/2025**

Status: **Locked**

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## 1. About the project

### 1.1 Project details

#### 1.1.1 Project title \*

Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters – May 2025

#### 1.1.2 Project industry type \*

Energy Generation and Supply (non-renewable)

#### 1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Natural Gas pipeline

#### 1.1.4 Estimated start date \*

01/05/2025

#### 1.1.4 Estimated end date \*

31/05/2025

## 1.2 Proposed Action details

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

**Background – decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian State Waters(as per Referral Decision EPBC 2024/09879).**

Woodside Energy (Victoria) Pty Ltd (Woodside) is currently undertaking subsea decommissioning activities for the Minerva field (previously operated by BHP Petroleum (Victoria) Pty Ltd (BHP)) in accordance with Referral Decision EPBC 2024/09879 dated 26 August 2024 and the in-force Environment Plans (outlined below).

This March 2025 referral application proposes Woodside recover a 2.94 km section of 10-inch steel pipeline in Victorian State Waters, within Pipeline Licence VIC/PL33(v), during May 2025. This section of pipeline is yet to be recovered by the works being conducted in accordance with Referral Decision EPBC 2024/09879 and the in-force Environment Plans. If Woodside was permitted to recover this section of pipeline in May 2025, this would afford Woodside an additional month to the time period set out in Referral Decision EPBC 2024/09879.

Removal of this section of the Minerva pipeline bundle is proposed to occur in Pipeline Licence VIC/PL33(v), approximately 5.5 km south-southwest (SSW) of the township of Port Campbell, Victoria and in water depths of approximately ~20-60 m. This section of pipeline is located 2.62 km from shore, spanning south to the limit of State waters (being 3 nautical mile (nm) or 5.56 km from shore).

Production commenced from the Minerva field in the VIC/L22 title area in 2005 with reservoir fluids transported to shore via the Minerva production pipeline in VIC/PL33 and VIC/PL33(V). Production from the field ceased in September 2019, and the pipeline was depressurised, cleaned, and flushed of hydrocarbons.

As stated above (and further outlined below), the decommissioning of the Minerva field is currently ongoing under Referral Decision EPBC 2024/09879 received on the 26 August 2024, and the in-force Environment Plans. The campaign involves the removal of the 10km Minerva pipeline (5km in Commonwealth waters and 5km in State waters). The decommissioning works commenced 4 January 2025.

The timing of the decommissioning campaign was driven by the General Direction (outlined below) imposed on the Minerva infrastructure in Commonwealth waters by NOPSEMA and the operational synergies in completing the pipeline removal decommissioning activities in one mobilisation. It was anticipated that the decommissioning campaign would take approximately three to five months to complete, subject to factors including vessel availability and weather constraints. General Direction 831 was issued to BHP by NOPSEMA in 30 August 2021 under section 574 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas (OPGGGS) Act 2006*. The General Direction relates to removing property within VIC/PL33 and adjacent licence VIC/L22 in Commonwealth Waters no later than the 30 June 2025. The property under the General Direction is located in Commonwealth Waters and is outside the scope of this referral.

The planned timeframe for the proposed action in Referral Decision EPBC 2024/098789 was from late October 2024 to March 2025. This was to align with a predicted favourable weather window and to minimise vessel field time during the southern right whale season. Woodside encountered delays to the commencement of decommissioning works in October 2024, due to delays in environmental approvals.

The Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management (Commonwealth) Environment Plan was accepted by NOPSEMA on 14 October 2024 and the Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management (State) Environment Plan was accepted by DEECA on 27 November 2024. Current decommissioning activities for the Minerva pipeline bundle are being undertaken under Referral Decision EPBC 2024/09879 – as not a controlled action if undertaken in a particular manner. Particular manner 2 of the referral decision states the person taking the action must not take the action during the period beginning 1 May and ending on 31 October of any given year.

**Additional referral to extend decommissioning activities in Victorian State Waters into May 2025**

Due to approval delays, operational delays and adverse weather conditions, decommissioning activities will not be completed prior to 30 April 2025 as proposed in the first referral (EPBC 2024/09879). As such Woodside is seeking a second referral decision to permit the continuation of decommissioning activities during the month of May 2025 to facilitate completion of the decommissioning project. Woodside does not anticipate the proposed action will need to be undertaken in May in future years.

The specific section of pipeline proposed to be removed under the new referral in May 2025 is 2.62 km to 5.56 km from shore, totalling 2.94 km of pipeline. The section of pipeline is in Victorian State Waters outside the southern right whale reproduction Biological Important Area (BIA).

The pipeline removal campaign will be conducted using a Multipurpose Construction Vessel (MCV), under an approved NOPSEMA Vessel Safety Case. The proposed action involves the deburial, cutting and retrieval of the Minerva Gas Field pipeline bundle within Victoria State waters. The Project Area encompasses a 1,000 m corridor either side of the pipeline route. It is intended that a temporary 500 m exclusion zone will apply around the MCV. The footprint of the proposed action project area for the purpose of this referral is defined by an area of approximately 6 km<sup>2</sup>, which includes the 1000 m buffer either side of the pipeline bundle.

Woodside completed a self-assessment to determine if the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance (MNES) or other protected matter (Refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section 5, p 30-44). Woodside does not consider that the elements of this proposed action is likely to have a significant impact upon MNES as the proposal will not interfere with the recovery of the southern right whales and is consistent with the objectives and specific actions outlined in the 2024 National Recovery Plan for southern right whales and the Conservation Management Plan for blue whales (2015-2025). Therefore, the proposal is not expected to require assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*.

1. For a full description of activity details required for the proposed action refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section 2, pp 6-7.
2. The proposed action may result in direct and indirect impacts to the environment, through planned and unplanned events associated with the activities described above, including:
  - Planned events:
    - Physical presence of project vessel and interaction with other marine users
    - Physical presence – disturbance to the benthic habitat from removal activities, ROV operations
    - Routine discharges from project vessels and discharges from decommissioning activities
    - Light emissions from project vessel operations
    - Atmospheric noise emissions from helicopter operations and underwater noise emissions from project vessel operations and the use of hydraulic shears for cutting the pipeline
    - Atmospheric emissions from project vessels
  - Unplanned events:
    - Hydrocarbon release from vessel collision
    - Chemical and hydrocarbon spills – deck spills and bunkering
    - Unplanned discharge of solid hazardous waste/non-hazardous waste/equipment
    - Unplanned interactions with Marina Fauna
    - Disturbance to the seabed from dropped objects
    - Accidental introduction of invasive marine species into the marine environment
  - For additional information on impacts from planned and unplanned events refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Table 4-4.

This EPBC referral relates only to the decommissioning of the Minerva pipeline a section of pipeline 2.62 km to 5.56 km from shore in Victorian state waters outside of the southern right whale reproduction BIA during May 2025.

All activities in Commonwealth waters are not within the scope of this referral. Decommissioning activities in Commonwealth Waters are currently being undertaken under two in-force Environment Plans (EPs) accepted by National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management (Commonwealth) EP and the Minerva Plug and Abandonment EP. Both these documents are publicly available on NOPSEMA's website. On 28 February 2014, following Australian Government decisions under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), the process for streamlined environmental approvals for offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities in Commonwealth waters came into effect. As such an EPBC referral is not required for decommissioning activities in Commonwealth waters.

An EPBC referral is required in Victorian state waters as the Victorian Regulator Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) do not have a similar streamlining arrangement in place for environmental approvals of offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas activities. Decommissioning activities in Victorian state waters are currently being undertaken in accordance with the Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management (State) EP approved by DEECA on 27 November 2024, which states the action will not be undertaken during the period beginning 1 May and ending on 31 October of any given year. Woodside is concurrently seeking approval from DEECA to continue decommissioning work into May 2025, as proposed in this referral application.

**1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?**

Yes

**1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?**

No

**1.2.4 Related referral(s)**

EPBC Number	Project Title
2024/09879	Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters

**1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).**

The project action is related to other actions or proposals in the region.

- Components offshore in Victorian state waters (in VIC/PL33(v) (Referral Decision EPBC 2024/09879); This referral is only to amend Particular Manner 2 of the referral decision, to continue decommissioning works into May 2025 to remove a 2.94km section of pipeline outside the southern right whale reproduction BIA.
- Components offshore in Commonwealth waters (in VIC/PL33 and VIC/L22) This component is beyond the scope of this referral as streamlining arrangements for environmental approvals of offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas activities are in place for Commonwealth waters.

**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**

### *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (Cth) (OPGGS Act)*

The OPGGS Act provides the regulatory framework for all offshore exploration and production activities in Commonwealth waters (those areas beyond three nautical miles from the Territorial Sea baseline and with the Commonwealth Petroleum Jurisdiction Boundary). The Environment Regulations have been made under the OPGGS Act to ensure 'that any petroleum activity or greenhouse gas activity carried out in an offshore area is:

- carried out in a manner consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development set out in section 3A of the EPBC Act
- carried out in a manner by which the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable
- carried out in a manner by which the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be of an acceptable level'.

Section 572 of the OPGGS Act provides for maintenance and removal of equipment and property brought onto title. Under section 572(3) of the OPGGS Act, a titleholder must remove from the title area all structures that are, and all equipment and other property that is, neither used nor to be used in connection with the operations. Under section 572(7), property removal requirements are subject to any other provision of the OPGGS Act, the Environment Regulations, directions given by NOPSEMA or the responsible Commonwealth Minister, and any other law. These sections require removal of property when it is neither used nor to be used, unless NOPSEMA has accepted alternative arrangements.

### *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act)*

The EPBC Act protects and manages nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities, and heritage places in Australia. Many of these are defined in the EPBC Act as Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Activities that will, or are likely to, have a significant impact on MNES must be referred for assessment under the EPBC Act. The Act also protects all cetaceans in Commonwealth waters and provides protections for Australian Marine Parks (AMPs).

NOPSEMA, through the Streamlining Offshore Petroleum Environmental Approvals Program, implements the requirements of the EPBC Act with respect to offshore petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters, however this doesn't apply in Victorian State waters.

### *EPBC Policy and Guidance*

Due to the potential of MNES occurring within the Proposed Area, or in relatively close proximity to the Proposal, the following EPBC policy and guidance documents are considered relevant:

- Matters of National Environmental Significance Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (CoA, 2013).
- National Strategy for reducing vessel strike on cetaceans and other marine megafauna (DCCEEW, 2017)
- Conservation Management Plan for the Blue Whale (2015-2025) (DCCEEW 2015)
- Conservation Management Plan for the Southern Right Whale (DCCEEW, 2012)
- National Recovery Plan for the Southern Right Whale (DCCEEW, 2024).
- Interim Engaging with First Nations People and Communities on Assessments and Approvals under the EPBC Act (DCCEEW, 2023).

*Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981 (Cth)* The Sea Dumping Act regulates the loading and dumping of waste at sea and the creation of artificial reefs in Australian waters. Australian waters stretch from the low-water mark of the Australian shoreline out to 200 nautical miles (nm). The Sea Dumping Act will not apply to this referral as the proposed action includes removal of all property, with no plans for the dumping of waste at sea.

#### *Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989 (Cth)*

The Act regulates the export and import of controlled wastes in and an out of Australia by applying to the Minister of the Environment for a permit. Woodside will manage the disposal of the recovered subsea infrastructure in accordance with applicable legislation.

#### **State legislation**

##### *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2010 (Victorian OPGGS Act)*

The Act provides the legislative framework for regulation offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities within State waters (located within three nautical miles – or 5.56 km – of the Victorian coast).

##### *Environmental Protection Act 2017 (Vic).*

The Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (Vic) made under the Act provides for the classification and management of waste material. The proposed action will generate waste material from the recovery of the subsea infrastructure. Preliminary investigations of the Minerva subsea infrastructure indicate there may be low levels of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) in the pipeline. Waste generated from the proposed action will be classified in accordance with Schedule 5 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (Vic) and managed accordingly. Waste generated from the proposed action is an indirect impact from proposed action and will be managed under the Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management (State) Environment Plan. Waste will be managed onshore at an existing facility in compliance with the Act and is not included in this referral.

##### *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)*

The Act provides for the conservation of Victoria's native flora and fauna. Part 3 of the Act provides to listing of threatened taxa and communities, and potentially threatening processes. No planned activities in the Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management (State) EP/this referral are threatening processes. The EP demonstrates how impacts and risks to threatened species and unplanned events that any threatening processes are managed to a level that is acceptable and as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).

##### *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Victoria)*

The main Victorian legislation governing the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities and addresses the management of processes that threaten native flora and fauna, including endangered blue pygmy and southern right whales.

**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. \***



Woodside takes community and stakeholder consultation seriously. We acknowledge there may be persons who hold rights or interests that may be impacted by our activities, and we seek to understand who those persons are, engage with them in an inclusive and respectful manner, and manage our activities in a way that will avoid or minimise risks and impacts to them. In many cases the stakeholder feedback we receive builds upon our established understanding of the areas and communities in which we operate as well as the potential impacts and risks of our activities and supports continuous improvement of our processes and activities. Woodside supports meaningful consultation, which includes inclusive engagement with First Nations communities.

Woodside's aim is to ensure the activity is carried out in a manner that is consistent with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD), by which the environmental impacts and risks of the activity are reduced to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and are of an acceptable level in accordance with requirements under the OPGGS Act. We want relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by the proposed activity to have the opportunity to provide feedback on our proposed activity, in accordance with the intended outcome of consultation.

Woodside Energy (Victoria) Pty Ltd (Woodside) consults stakeholders in the course of preparing an Environment Plan (EP) to notify them, obtain their input and to assist Woodside to confirm current measures or identify additional measures, if any, that could be taken to lessen or avoid potential adverse effects of the proposed activity on the environment. This is the intended outcome of consultation.

Woodside's objective is to build long term and meaningful relationships in the communities that we work. Woodside has undertaken targeted stakeholder consultation for the decommissioning of the Minerva pipeline in Victorian state waters. The Consultation Information Sheet outlines the proposed action activities was made available to relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by the proposed project action. Persons were invited to provide feedback.

For activities to be managed under the Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management (State) Environment Plan, Woodside reassessed the relevancy of previously consulted persons based on the offshore location, and nature and scale of activities. As part of this assessment process, Woodside sought advice from State government agencies, local government, representative organisations and other operators with interests in the region. Woodside also reviewed relevant regional Environment Plans by other operators and conducted desktop person identification and analysis.

Direct engagement with nominated representative bodies via the contact listed on the Office of the Register of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) website, requesting advice on how they would like to be engaged and asking whether other members and/or individuals should be consulted.

Ongoing efforts were made to engage and develop relationships with these bodies via a variety of means such as email, phone calls, alternative contacts, texts and in some cases physical visits.

Consultation meetings with attendees decided by Traditional Custodian groups, supported by senior Woodside representatives, subject matter experts, First Nations Relations advisors with skills and experience in community engagement. Meetings are developed through a two-way consultation process to ensure effective information sharing. In addition meeting costs such as sitting fees, travel, legal support and executive support and other support where covered as required.

Woodside has employed a diverse range of techniques to allow Indigenous stakeholders to become aware of the proposed activity and how it may affect their functions, activities or interests, and to understand their ability to provide feedback. The combination of Prescribed Body Corporate engagement meetings and traditional print media was designed with input from Indigenous representatives and adapted to the audience, so that it provides a wide-ranging opportunity to consult.

Refer to Att 2 Public Consultation Summary for a detailed list of participants and a summary of tables of responses and comments received.

## 1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

### **Privacy Notice:**

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

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

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

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

See our Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, email us at [privacy@awe.gov.au](mailto:privacy@awe.gov.au).

☒ **Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice \***

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

Yes

Referring party organisation details

<b>ABN/ACN</b>	12006466486
<b>Organisation name</b>	WOODSIDE ENERGY (VICTORIA) PTY LTD
<b>Organisation address</b>	6000 WA

Referring party details

<b>Name</b>	Isabelle Escott
<b>Job title</b>	Environmental Advisor
<b>Phone</b>	1800442977
<b>Email</b>	isabelle.escott@woodside.com
<b>Address</b>	11 Mount St, Perth WA 6000

## 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? \*

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

<b>ABN/ACN</b>	12006466486
<b>Organisation name</b>	WOODSIDE ENERGY (VICTORIA) PTY LTD
<b>Organisation address</b>	6000 WA

Person proposing to take the action details

<b>Name</b>	Isabelle Escott
<b>Job title</b>	Environmental Advisor
<b>Phone</b>	1800442977
<b>Email</b>	isabelle.escott@woodside.com
<b>Address</b>	11 Mount St, Perth WA 6000

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

Yes

<b>Joint Venture Name</b>	<b>Business Address</b>	<b>ABN/ACN</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Email</b>
Amplitude Energy Limited	Level 8, 70 Franklin Street, Adelaide SA 5000	93096170295	James Clark	james.clark@amplitudeenergy.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. \***

## Woodside

Woodside is a global energy company, founded in Australia, with a spirit of innovation and determination. Our focus in operations remains on safety, reliability, efficiency and environmental performance, leveraging more than 35 years of operating experience. Our approach to environmental management is detailed in its Health, Safety & Environment Policy.

Integrity, accountability and transparency drive our environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspirations and guide decision making at all levels of our business.

We strive to operate responsibly across our business activities. Enduring and meaningful relationships with communities are fundamental to our social performance.

We engage with our workforce regularly to communicate safety information and to understand current and emerging safety issues. Regular communication channels include site-based pre-start meetings, safety event bulletins, safety learning meetings, performance updates and reports. Our formal site-based health, safety and environment (HSE) representatives meet at operated sites each month to discuss workplace HSE risks and raise priority issues with site management

Further information is available at <https://www.woodside.com/sustainability>.

### Historic performance

The following provides a list of prior development referrals submitted by Woodside:

2024/09879 - Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian State Waters, Victoria

2023/09559- H2Perth hydrogen and ammonia project

2022/09365 – H2TAS

2022/09328 – Woodside Solar Facility

2018/8335 – NWS Project Extension

2018/8319 – Proposed Browse to NWS Development

2013/7079 – Browse FLNG Development

2011/5980 – Greater Western Flank Phase 1 Gas Development

2011/5936 – Julimar Brunello Gas Development Project

2008/4111 – Development of Browse Basin Gas Fields (Upstream)

2006/2968 – Pluto Gas Project Including Site B

2005/2258 – Pluto Gas Project

2007/3436 – North West Shelf Gas Venture Phase VI Expansion

2006/3191 – Woodside Project Facilities Increase

2005/2500 – North Rankin B gas compression facility

2005/2464 – Western Flank Gas Development

2004/1805 – Angel

In addition, the list below details the most recent EPBC Act referrals for exploration programs undertaken by Woodside as Operator:

2013/7081 – Babylon 3D Marine Seismic Survey

2012/6618 – Outer Canning exploration drilling program off NW coast of WA

2012/6493 – Rosebud 3D Marine Seismic Survey in WA-30-R and TR/5

2011/5959 – Tridacna 3D Ocean Bottom Cable Marine Seismic Survey

2010/5720 – Vincent M1 and Enfield M5 4D Marine Seismic Survey

2010/5420 – Koolama 2D Seismic Survey Dampier Basin

2010/5415 – Laverda 3D Marine Seismic Survey and Vincent M1 4D Marine Seismic Survey

2009/5037 – Drill and Profile Exploration Well Somerset 1, License Area T34P 2008/4558 – Enfield M4 4D Marine Seismic Survey

2008/4430 – Torosa-5 Appraisal Well, WA-30-R

2000/13 - Woodside Geotechnical Investigation Sunrise Bank.

**Amplitude Energy Limited (previously Cooper Energy (MF) Pty Ltd)** Amplitude Energy Limited (previously Cooper Energy (MF) Pty Ltd) a 10% Joint Venture partner in the project operates in a manner that ensures the impacts and risks to the environment are eliminated or minimised to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP). The company has maintained a clean environmental record since its incorporation. No past or present proceedings against Amplitude Energy exist under these Environmental Laws.

#### **Historic Performance**

The following provides a list of prior development referrals submitted by Amplitude Energy:

- 2003/1295 Casino Gas field Development

2017/8036 – Minerva Cut Back Project, Victoria

### **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**

Woodside has a corporate Health, Safety, Environment Management System (HSE MS). It aims to be recognised as an industry leader in HSE through managing activities in a sustainable manner, giving regard to Woodside's workforce, communities and the environment. Woodside is committed to managing activities to minimise adverse health, safety or environmental impacts, incorporating the 'right first time' approach to quality.

The principles of Woodside's HSE policy are found within the following documents:

**Woodside Health and Safety Policy** (refer to Att 3 Woodside Health and Safety Policy) recognises that at Woodside we believe that process and personal safety related incidents, and occupational illnesses are preventable. We strive to be an industry leader in health and safety and are committed to managing our activities to minimise adverse health and safety risk related impacts.

The **Woodside Environment and Biodiversity Policy** (refer to Att 4 Woodside Environment and Biodiversity Policy) recognises the intrinsic value of nature and the importance of conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services to support the sustainable development of our society. We are committed to doing our part. We understand and embrace our responsibility to undertake activities in an environmentally sustainable way.

Lastly, the **Woodside Quality Policy** (refer to Att 5 Woodside Quality Policy) recognises that outstanding quality performance is essential to sustainably meeting business and stakeholder objectives and obligations. We apply quality management principles to ensure that development and operational opportunities are realised to create value and that associated risks are controlled to protect value.

Responsibility for the application of these Policies rests with Woodside employees, contractors and joint venturers engaged in the relevant activities under Woodside operational control. Woodside managers are also responsible for promotion of this Policy in non-operated joint ventures. This Policy will be reviewed regularly and updated as required.

### 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

<b>ABN/ACN</b>	12006466486
<b>Organisation name</b>	WOODSIDE ENERGY (VICTORIA) PTY LTD
<b>Organisation address</b>	6000 WA

Proposed designated proponent details

<b>Name</b>	Isabelle Escott
<b>Job title</b>	Environmental Advisor
<b>Phone</b>	1800442977
<b>Email</b>	isabelle.escott@woodside.com
<b>Address</b>	11 Mount St, Perth WA 6000

# 1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

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## ✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

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ABN/ACN	12006466486
Organisation name	WOODSIDE ENERGY (VICTORIA) PTY LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA
Representative's name	Isabelle Escott
Representative's job title	Environmental Advisor
Phone	1800442977
Email	isabelle.escott@woodside.com
Address	11 Mount St, Perth WA 6000

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## ✔ 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.

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Same as Referring party information.

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## ✔ 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.

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Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

## 1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

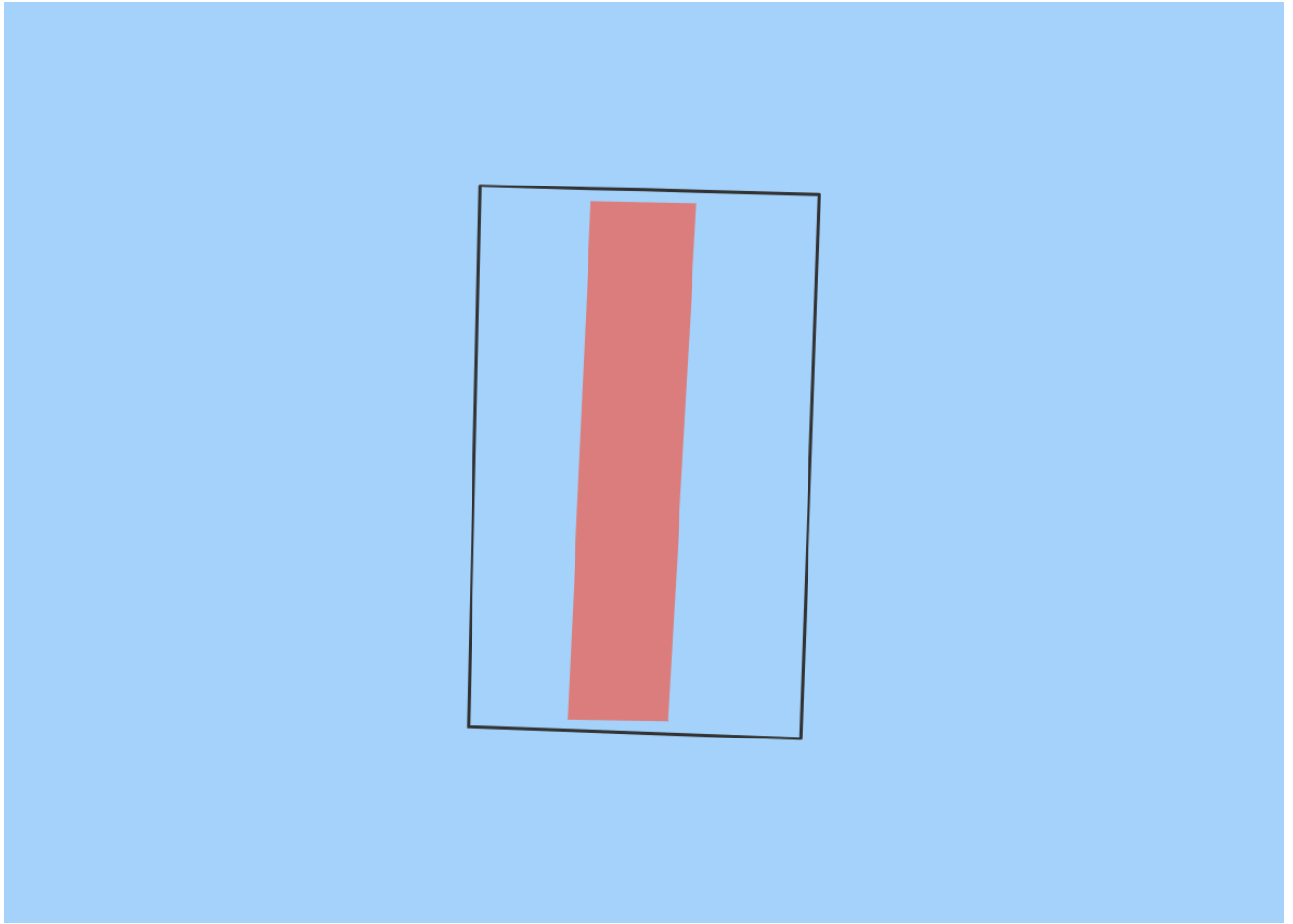
## 1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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

Person proposing to take the action

## 2. Location

## 2.1 Project footprint



**Project Area:** 633.29 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 186.06 Ha

## 2.2 Footprint details

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

State Waters of Victoria. The closest street address from the offshore location in Two Mile Bay is

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

Victoria

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

No

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

The Minerva pipeline is within State waters and is covered by pipeline license VIC/PL33(v) issued under the Victorian OPGGS Act.

## 3. Existing environment

## 3.1 Physical description

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

#### **Bathymetry**

The project area is characterised by generally flat bathymetry. Benthic habitats within the project area are characterised by rocky reef and unconsolidated sandy sediments, which are mobile (e.g., burial of the pipeline bundle over time, changes in the burial state of the pipeline bundle). Such habitat is widely represented in the region and is not particularly unique or sensitive to disturbance.

#### **Sediment and Water Quality**

Advisian carried out sediment sampling in the Minerva field around wellheads, the pipeline, and at several reference sites (in Commonwealth waters). Sediments were characterised by sand-sized fractions (62.5 µm–2 mm), with little finer or coarser sediments at most sites sampled. Concentrations of metals in sediments were generally consistent across all sites sampled by Advisian. None of the metals exceeded the default guideline values for toxicants in the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC/ARCAMZ, 2000). Concentrations of hydrocarbons (total petroleum hydrocarbons, total recoverable hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) were below laboratory limits of detection in all samples. Radioactivity of sediments was measured for a suite of radionuclides, which were generally consistent across all sites, several sites were below the laboratory limits of detection.

Sampling by Advisian (2021) in late summer showed a thermocline between approximately 30 m and 50 m water depth, which may be the result of solar heating and reduced wind-driven mixing, as the preceding months have relatively long day lengths, maximum temperatures, and low winds, compared to the rest of the year. Turbidity was low in the upper part of the water column and increased near the seabed.

Water quality sampling by Advisian (2021) showed no evidence of contamination. Samples at sites near Minerva subsea infrastructure were consistent with samples at reference sites, with no evidence of elevated levels of potential contaminants. Hydrocarbons (TPH, TRH, PAH and BTEXN) were below laboratory limits of reporting in all samples. Nutrients were consistent across all sites sampled.

#### **Protected Areas**

There are no Australian or Victorian protected areas overlapping the project area. The closest Australian Marine Park to the project area is Apollo Marine Park, located 50 km from the project area. The Twelve Apostles Marine National Park, the Arches Marine Sanctuary and the Port Campbell National Park are the closest Victorian Protected Areas, located 5-6 kms from the project area. No Key Ecological Features (KEFs) overlap the project area.

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

Existing uses that overlap the proposed project area include commercial fishing. Other uses occur adjacent/in proximity to the project area but are not expected to be interfered by the proposed action.

### **Cultural Heritage**

Aboriginal cultural heritage within Victorian State waters is protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic). The waters within the project area, and waters are identified as “areas of cultural heritage sensitivity” within the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Information System (ACHRIS) online mapping tool. For the Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management (State) Environment Plan (EP), an Application for Advice for the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register was submitted. Three Aboriginal Places were identified adjacent to the project area; however First Peoples State Relations confirmed these Places are not located within the project area. Refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section 3.4, pp 10-18.

A search of the Australasian Underwater Cultural Heritage Database, which records known Maritime Cultural Heritage (shipwrecks, aircraft, relics, and other underwater cultural heritage) in Australian waters does not contain records of sites within the project area.

### **Commercial Fisheries**

The project area overlaps 1 commercial fishery and 3 State-managed fisheries. Vessels in the Shark Gillnet and Hook sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF), the Victorian Rock Lobster Fishery, Wrasse Fishery and Multi-species Ocean Fishery are known to operate within the project area.

### **Tourism and Recreation**

Tourism and recreation activities are valuable foundations for the local and regional economy. Key activities include sight-seeing, surfing, and fishing. However, these are generally land-based or near-shore activities and given the project area is located approximately 800 m offshore, in approximate water depths of 20-60 m, these activities are not expected to overlap the project area.

### **Commercial Shipping**

The South-east Marine Region is one of the busiest shipping regions in Australia and Bass Strait is one of Australia's busiest shipping routes. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) indicates that there are no designated shipping lanes in the vicinity of the Minerva field, with the main shipping channel for vessels (e.g. cargo tankers) travelling between major Australian and foreign ports located south of the Minerva field, about 75 km (40 nm) south of Warrnambool. Although a dedicated shipping lane is not present, commercial and local vessels utilise the region surrounding the project area frequently.

### **Oil and Gas Activities**

Adjacent oil and gas production fields to the Minerva Field include the Otway Gas Field Development, operated by Beach Energy and the Casino, Henry, Netherby (CHN) gas field operated by Amplitude Energy. Both operations do not overlap the project area.

### **Defence**

The Department of Defence uses offshore areas for training operations including live firing, bombing practice from aircraft, air-to-air and air-to-sea or ground firing, anti-aircraft firing, firing from shore batteries or ships, remote controlled craft firing, and rocket and guided weapons firing. The closest training and practice areas to the project area are located to the east in and around Port Phillip Bay and Western Port Bay areas. Mine fields were laid in Australian waters during World War II. Post-war minefields were swept to remove mines and to make marine waters safe for maritime activities however areas of unexploded ordnance (UXO) still exist. The closest areas to the operational area that have been identified as dangerous due to UXO, are located south and east of Wilson's Promontory (approximately 300 km east of 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.**

There are no Australian or Victorian protected areas overlapping the project area. The closest Australian Marine Park to the project area is Apollo Marine Park, located 50 km from the project area. The Twelve Apostles Marine National Park, the Arches Marine Sanctuary and the Port Campbell National Park are the closest Victorian Protected Areas, located 5-6 kms from the project area.

There are no Key Ecological Features (KEF) identified within the project area. The nearest KEF is the Bonney Coast Upwelling, located approximately 78 km west of the project area stretching from Portland, Victoria to Robe, South Australia. The Bonney Coast Upwelling event occurs from November-April on an annual basis. Pygmy blue whales are seasonally present in this region between January and March, which coincides with higher productivity in the water column due to the Bonney Upwelling. The project area overlaps the pygmy blue whales foraging BIA with this KEF (Refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section 3.3, pp 8-9)

No listed World or National heritage places overlap project area. One National Heritage Place identified in the Protected Matter Search Tool (PMST) report overlaps the project area, however, it is a terrestrial feature and therefore excluded from this referral (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Supporting Document, Section 3.3, pp 9).

The project area overlaps the BIA of 13 species, including the foraging and distribution BIA of the endangered pygmy blue whale. Refer to section 3.2.1 of this referral for further information on BIAs that intersect the project area.

### **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 Minerva pipeline decommissioning activities will occur at a depth range of 20 m(LAT) at the southern right whale reproduction BIA boundary to 60 m(LAT) at the 3nm state boundary.



## 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.**

## **Threatened and Migratory Species**

The following species have been identified as in the general area from the EBPC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) and was used to identify listed threatened and migratory species that may occur within the project area (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Appendix A and Appendix B). The PMST report identified a total of 40 species listed with a threatened status and 40 listed as migratory that may potentially occur, or have habitat, within the project area.

A search of the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) database indicates that 270 fauna species have been recorded in the environment surrounding the proposed project. 260 of the identified fauna species were seabirds and the remaining 10 were marine fauna species including the killer whale, sperm whale, southern sei whale, rockhopper penguin and the little penguin.

## **Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) and Habitat Critical to the Survival of a Species**

BIAs are those locations where aggregations of members of a species are known to undertake biologically important behaviours, such as breeding, resting, foraging or migration. BIAs have been identified using expert scientific knowledge about species abundance, distribution, and behaviours. BIAs are not recognised by the EPBC Act but are identified by DCCEEW to aid in the management and protection of threatened fauna.

A review of the PMST Report identified BIAs for 13 protected species that intersect with the project area. Identified protected species and their BIAs are shown in Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Table 3-1.

## **Critical Habitats**

Habitats critical for the survival of a species, referred to as critical habitats, are recognised under the EPBC Act as MNES. Critical habitats may be identified in species recovery plans made under the EPBC Act or listed on the register of critical habitat maintained by the minister under the EPBC Act. Woodside considers critical habitats carry greater weight than BIAs. There are no critical habitats identified within the project area.

The southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*) recovery plan came into effect on 31 July 2024 in accordance with s269A(2) of the EPBC Act and considers the conservation requirements of the southern right whale across its range. The recovery plan also identifies actions to prevent the decline and support the recovery of the species to maximise its chances of long-term survival in nature.

The southern right whale recovery plan does identify habitat critical to the survival (HCTS) for the southern right whale as all reproduction BIAs across the species range. The identification of HCTS reflects that southern right whales display strong site fidelity to calving areas in Australian coastal waters, within and between these years, over decadal time spans.

Southern right whales in Australian waters predominantly occur in aggregations in coastal water reproduction areas where they calve and nurse their young from May to October, primarily occupying shallow waters (< 10m depth) within 1 km of the coastline. Females accompanied by a calf generally

occupy the calving ground for 2 to 3 months between June and September, with the peak period of abundance is typically late July and August. Unaccompanied whales (males and females without a calf) are more variable in their occupancy of coastal areas throughout the reproduction season. The section of pipeline being removed under this referral in May 2025 is located in Victorian state waters outside the southern right whale reproduction BIA.

Acknowledging this critical habitat for southern right whales, the proposed action shall only be undertaken outside the southern right whale reproduction BIA during the shoulder season (from 1 May 2025 to 31 May 2025 inclusive), which is outside the calving period June to September, and the peak period of abundance, typically late July and August. Our proposal to work during the shoulder season of May is consistent with the seasonal exclusion zone that applies to the known southern right calving ground at Logan's Beach Warrnambool, 50km away from Minerva. Logan Beach has an established exclusion zone which prohibits powered vessels in the area at any time from 1 June to 31 October in any year.

Under this referral, Woodside is requesting a month extension to the period outlined in Referral Decision EPBC 2024/09879 to continue decommissioning activities, specifically, the removal of the 2.94 km section of pipeline referenced in section 1.2 of this application, into the shoulder season. Temporary avoidance measures will continue to be in place from 1 June to 31 October, during this critically important calving season when peak numbers of southern right whales will be present in the region.

### **Threatened Ecological Communities**

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), as listed under the EPBC Act occur within the project area. The closest TEC to the project area is the Giant Kelp Marine Forests of South-East Australia (1 km from project area) and Assemblages of species associated with open-coast-salt-wedge estuaries of western and central Victoria ecological community (1 km from project area).

### **Reference**

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). (2024). National Recovery Plan for the Southern Right Whale (*Eubalaena australis*).

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

The project area lies over seabed at depths from approximately 20 m to 60 m, and therefore contains no vegetation. The seabed in the project area is characterised by unvegetated soft sediment and rocky reef substrates.

## 3.3 Heritage

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

There are no World Heritage places of historic heritage or Aboriginal heritage within the project area. The project area overlaps the Great Ocean Road and Scenic Environs place of National Heritage; however, this is a terrestrial National Heritage property and therefore will not be impacted by the proposed action, thereby, is excluded from this report (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section 3.3, pp 9 for further information). No shipwrecks were identified within the project area. The closest wreck to the project area is the Napier, which is located 1 km from the Minerva pipeline corridor and is protected under the Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 (Cth). Woodside recognises its obligations under the Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 (Cth) to manage underwater heritage that may be discovered during activities.

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

Woodside acknowledges the unique connection between Aboriginal peoples and the land and sea in which the company operates. Woodside also understands that while marine resources used by Indigenous people are generally limited to coastal waters for activities such as fishing, hunting and maintenance of culture and heritage, many Aboriginal groups have a direct cultural interest in decisions affecting the management of deeper offshore waters.

Indigenous groups inhabited the southwest Victorian coast as is evident from the terrestrial sites of Aboriginal archaeological significance throughout the area. During recent ice age periods (the last ending approximately 14,000 years ago), sea levels were significantly lower, and the coastline was a significant distance seaward of its present location, enabling occupation and travel across land that is now submerged.

Given its remote offshore location, there are no known or suspected Aboriginal heritage values within the project area. However, there are known Aboriginal spiritual connections to the wider Sea Country and a history of marine resource affiliated with the Twelve Apostles Marine National Park and the Arches Marine Sanctuary, located 5 km from the project area.

The coastline hosts numerous culturally significant sites, including sites that contribute to the heritage value of the Great Ocean Road and Scenic Environs national heritage listed place and adjacent coastal marine national parks including Point Addis Marine National Park, the Twelve Apostles Marine National Park and the Arches Marine Sanctuary. The coastal region and sea country in this region is a cement central element of Indigenous cultural heritage in south-western Victoria and as such has a high concentration of Aboriginal heritage sites.

Aboriginal cultural heritage within Victorian State waters is protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. The waters within the project area, and waters are identified as “areas of cultural heritage sensitivity” within the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Information System (ACHRIS) online mapping tool. For the Minerva Decommissioning EP, an Application for Advice for the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register was submitted. 3 Aboriginal Places were identified adjacent to the project area; however, First Peoples State Relations confirmed these Places are not located within the project area.

No archaeological sites within the project area were identified by Traditional Custodians.

The following cultural heritage values have been identified and addressed in the Environment Plans:

- Deen Mar Island (also known as Lady Julia Percy Island) - 85km from the Minerva field.
- Kooyang (short-finned eel) migrate out of the Budj Bim World Heritage Area through deep waters of the Otway Basin and up to the Coral Sea.
- Karntubul (southern right whales) Although there is seasonal variation with the southern right whale distribution, females accompanied by a calf generally occupy the calving ground for 2 to 3 months between June and September with the peak period of abundance typically late July and August. To further mitigate unplanned interactions with whales, two dedicated Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) will be stationed aboard the project vessel to implement adaptive management measures to observe marine fauna to reduce the risk of displacement southern right whales during the proposed action.
- Pygmy blue whales are seasonally present in the region between December and April, during which time they forage. To further mitigate unplanned interactions with whales, two dedicated Marine Fauna Observers (MMOs) will be stationed aboard the project vessel to implement adaptive management measures to observe marine fauna to reduce the risk of displacement of blue whales during the proposed action.
- The Bonney Upwelling is generally recognised to occur between Kangaroo Island and Portland, to the west of the operational area. The seasonal peak in pygmy blue whale foraging in the region coincides with the timing of the Bonney Upwelling. The Minerva decommissioning activities are not anticipated have an impact on the physical processes that drive the Bonney Upwelling.

## 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. \*

Sub-tropical high-pressure systems dominate this region in the summer with sub-polar low-pressure systems in the winter. The low-pressure systems are accompanied by strong westerly winds and rain-bearing cold fronts that move from south-west to north-east across the region, producing strong winds from the west, northwest and southwest. Meanwhile, the day-to-day variation in weather conditions is caused by the continual movement of the highs from west to east across the Australian continent roughly once every 10 days. The Bass Strait is located on the northern edge of the westerly wind belt known as the Roaring Forties. In winter, when the subtropical ridge moves northwards over the Australian continent, cold fronts generally create sustained west to south-westerly winds and frequent rainfall in the region (McInnes & Hubbert, 2003). In summer, frontal systems are often shallower and occur between two ridges of high pressure, bringing more variable winds and rainfall.

Winds in this section of the Otway basin and western Bass Strait generally exceed 13 knots (23.4 km/hr) for 50% of the time and are typically between the range of 10-30 km/hr. Winds contribute to the predominant moderate to high wave-energy environment of area and are predominantly south-westerly cycling to north-westerly. Occasionally, intense mesoscale low-pressure systems occur in the region, bringing very strong winds, heavy rain, and high seas. These events are unpredictable in occurrence, intensity, and behaviour, but are most common between September and February (McInnes & Hubbert, 2003).

Tides in this region are semi-diurnal with some diurnal inequalities (Wijerantne et al., 2012), generating tidal currents along a north-east/south-west axis with speeds generally ranging from 0.1 to 2.5 m/s (Baines and Fandry, 1983). The tides in the Otway are considered microtidal with a range of approximately 0.8 to 1.2 m, however the tidal ranges and velocities vary rapidly in the western entrance to Bass Strait (DNP, 2013).

It is anticipated that the joint decommissioning campaign will take approximately three to five months to complete, based on weather constraints. A wave height of less than 2 metres is required to safely cut and lift the pipeline sections onto the Multipurpose Construction Vessel (MCV).

#### References

DNP, 2013 - <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/plans/se-network-management-plan2013-23.pdf>

Baines and Fandry, 1983 - <https://api.semanticscholar.org/CorpusID:55861421>

McInnes & Hubbert, 2003 -

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/271202197\\_A\\_numerical\\_modelling\\_study\\_of\\_storm\\_surges\\_in\\_Bass\\_Strait](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/271202197_A_numerical_modelling_study_of_storm_surges_in_Bass_Strait)

Wijerantne et al., 2012 - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2012.08.027>

## 4. Impacts and mitigation

## 4.1 Impact details

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

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



### **4.1.1 World Heritage**

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no World Heritage Areas within the proposed action area.

### **4.1.2 National Heritage**

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	National heritage
No	No	Great Ocean Road and Scenic Environs

**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 PMST Great Ocean Road and Scenic Environs Heritage place overlaps the proposed project area.

As per Section 2.2.1 of the referral, the project area for the proposed action consists of a 1000 m corridor either side of the pipeline, which at the closest point is 2.62 km from shore. Given the distance offshore of the proposed action, planned and unplanned events associated with the proposed action will not impact the Great Ocean Road and Scenic Environs place of National Heritage. Refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section 3.3, pp 9.

**4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland**

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

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

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

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

No

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

There are no Ramsar Wetlands within the proposed action area.

**4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities**

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

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

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

### Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	No	<i>Ardena grisea</i>	Sooty Shearwater
Yes	No	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei Whale
Yes	No	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue Whale
Yes	No	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin Whale
Yes	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes	No	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot, Knot
Yes	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes	No	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	White Shark, Great White Shark
Yes	No	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Turtle
Yes	No	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Turtle
Yes	No	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth
Yes	No	<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	Antipodean Albatross
Yes	No	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern Royal Albatross
Yes	No	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross
Yes	No	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Northern Royal Albatross
Yes	No	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Southern Right Whale
Yes	No	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	School Shark, Eastern School Shark, Snapper Shark, Tope, Soupfin Shark
Yes	No	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	Blue Petrel
Yes	No	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel
Yes	No	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Northern Giant Petrel
Yes	No	<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	Orange-bellied Parrot

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
Yes	No	Pachyptila turtur subantarctica	Fairy Prion (southern)
Yes	No	Phoebastria fusca	Sooty Albatross
No	No	Prototroctes maraena	Australian Grayling
Yes	No	Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera	Gould's Petrel, Australian Gould's Petrel
Yes	No	Pterodroma mollis	Soft-plumaged Petrel
Yes	No	Seriolella brama	Blue Warehou
Yes	No	Sternula nereis nereis	Australian Fairy Tern
Yes	No	Thalassarche bulleri	Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche bulleri platei	Northern Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche carteri	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche cauta	Shy Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche chrysostoma	Grey-headed Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche impavida	Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche melanophris	Black-browed Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche salvini	Salvin's Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche steadi	White-capped Albatross

## Ecological communities

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**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. \***

A report was generated from the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) to identify threatened species and ecological communities that may occur within the project area (See Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Appendix A). No Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) are known or likely to occur within the project area. The PMST report identified a total of 40 species listed as threatened within the project area. Terrestrial species (such as terrestrial mammals, reptiles, and bird species) that appear in the PMST results and do not have habitats along shorelines are not relevant to the proposed actions impacts and risks and have therefore been excluded from this referral.

29 threatened bird species are considered to have the potential to occur within the project area, including:

- *Neophema chrysogaster* (Orange-bellied Parrot) – critically endangered
- *Calidris ferruginea* (Curlew Sandpiper) – migratory, critically endangered
- *Numenius madagascariensis* (Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew) – migratory, critically endangered
- *Thalassarche chrysostoma* (Grey-headed Albatross) – migratory, endangered
- *Macronectes giganteus* (Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel) – migratory, endangered
- *Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera* (Gould's Petrel, Australian Gould's Petrel) – endangered
- *Diomedea sanfordi* (Northern Royal Albatross) – migratory, endangered
- *Limosa lapponica baueri* (Nunivak Bar-tailed Godwit, Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit) - endangered
- *Thalassarche cauta* (Shy Albatross) – migratory, endangered
- *Macronectes halli* (Northern Giant Petrel) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Diomedea epomophora* (Southern Royal Albatross) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Thalassarche melanophris* (Black-browed Albatross) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Phoebastria fusca* (Sooty Albatross) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Calidris canutus* (Red Knot, Knot) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Diomedea antipodensis* (Antipodean Albatross) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Calidris acuminata* (Sharp-tailed Sandpiper) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Thalassarche impavida* (Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Sternula nereis nereis* (Australian Fairy Tern) – vulnerable
- *Thalassarche steadi* (White-capped Albatross) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Thalassarche carteri* (Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Thalassarche bulleri* (Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Thalassarche salvini* (Salvin's Albatross) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Thalassarche bulleri platei* (Northern Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatros) - vulnerable
- *Pachyptila turtur subantarctica* (Fairy Prion (southern)) - vulnerable
- *Halobaena caerulea* (Blue Petrel) – vulnerable
- *Diomedea exulans* (Wandering Albatross) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Ardenna grisea* (Sooty Shearwater) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Pterodroma mollis* (Soft-plumaged Petrel) – vulnerable
- *Puffinus pacificus* (Wedge-tailed Shearwater) – migratory, vulnerable

The proposed action may have direct and/or indirect impacts on the threatened bird species listed above, including:

- Noise emissions from non-routine helicopter operations (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Table 4-4).
- Light emissions from vessel operations in the project area (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Table 4-4).

- Impacts are expected to be localised to within the project area and may potentially impact individuals or small numbers of listed threatened bird species overflying or opportunistically resting on the sea surface during migrations or solitary individuals foraging within the project area. Impacts are expected to be limited to temporary behavioural disturbances, such as attraction or avoidance. Impacts to threatened bird species will be managed as per Woodside's Otway Seabird Management Plan (Appendix I).
- Accidental hydrocarbon discharge resulting from unplanned events associated with the proposed action (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
  - The likelihood of unplanned hydrocarbon discharge is low, as all subsea infrastructure has undergone hydrocarbon flushing, eliminating the risk of loss of containment. With the exception of the risk of vessel collision resulting in a release of diesel, no other potential causes of major hydrocarbon release have been identified.

4 threatened marine mammal species are considered to have the potential to occur within the project area, including:

- *Eubalaena australis* (Southern Right Whale) – migratory, endangered
- *Balaenoptera musculus* (Blue Whale) – migratory, endangered
- *Balaenoptera borealis* (Sei Whale) – migratory, vulnerable
- *Balaenoptera physalus* (Fin Whale) – migratory, vulnerable

The proposed action may have direct and/or indirect impacts on the threatened marine mammal species listed above, including:

- Noise emissions from project vessels, acoustic survey equipment and infrastructure recovery operations in the project area. (Refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4 and Appendix C).
  - Jasco Applied Sciences (Australia) Pty Ltd (Jasco) filenote included in Appendix F provides a summary of the appropriate thresholds and criteria information relevant to multibeam sonars and vessels being utilised on the project.
  - Independent underwater noise modelling has been conducted by Jasco for the proposed activity and measured against established thresholds (Appendix E). The modelling found no credible risk of permanent or temporary hearing impairment to whales. Impacts are expected to be localised to within the project area and unlikely to impact whales or obstruct migratory patterns of large groups of whales.
  - The Minerva decommissioning adaptive whale management plan outline measures to minimise the risk of behavioural impact to southern right whales during the activity (Appendix D).

Under this referral, Woodside is requesting a month extension to allow decommissioning activities to continue into the shoulder season of May 2025. A temporary avoidance measures will continue to be in place from 1 June to 31 October (in accordance with the Southern Right Whale National Recovery Plan), during this critically important calving season when peak numbers of southern right whales will be present in the region.

For mitigation of unplanned interaction with marine mammals during the proposed action refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Supporting Document, Table 4-4, pp 22-29 and Appendix D.

**For a complete environmental impact assessment on the key protected matter Southern Right Whales please see Att 6.**

3 threatened turtle species are considered to have the potential to occur within the project area, including:

- *Caretta caretta* (Loggerhead Turtle) – migratory, endangered
- *Dermochelys coriacea* (Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth) – migratory, endangered
- *Chelonia mydas* (Green Turtle) – migratory, vulnerable

The proposed action may have direct and/or indirect impacts on the turtle species listed above, including:

- Noise emissions from project vessels, acoustic survey equipment and infrastructure recovery operations (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
- Light emissions from vessel operations in the project area (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
  - Impacts are expected to be localised to within the project area and unlikely to impact turtles or obstruct migratory patterns. Impacts are expected to be limited to temporary behavioural disturbances, such as attraction or avoidance.
- Accidental hydrocarbon discharge resulting from unplanned events associated with the proposed action (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
- Unplanned interaction with turtles during the proposed action (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
  - Given the project vessel will be operating at slow speeds and will be stationary for a majority of the time will conducting activities (e.g. when making cuts in the pipeline or lifting equipment) there is reduced likelihood of vessel strike with turtles in the project area.

1 threatened shark species is considered to have the potential to occur within the project area, including:

- *Carcharodon carcharias* (White Shark, Great White Shark) – migratory, vulnerable

The proposed action may have direct and/or indirect impacts on the threatened shark species listed above, including:

- Noise emissions from project vessels, acoustic survey equipment and infrastructure recovery operations (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
  - Impacts are expected to be localised to within the project area and include potential nuisance noise during the proposed activity. Impacts are expected to be limited to temporary behavioural response (avoidance).
- Accidental hydrocarbon discharge resulting from unplanned events associated with the proposed action.
  - Temporary impacts to water quality within a portion of the Bass Strait, which may affect individuals or small numbers of sharks and fish but is unlikely to affect large numbers of species.

**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. \***



An assessment of potential significant impacts on relevant matters of national environmental significance (MNES) occurring within the proposed Minerva Pipeline Decommissioning project area was completed in accordance with the MNES Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (CoA, 2013). (Refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section 5, pp 38-53).

The proposed action is unlikely to have a significant on vulnerable seabird, marine mammal, turtle and shark species that may occur within the project area as it is unlikely to:

- lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population of a species
- reduce the area of occupancy of an important population
- fragment an existing important population into two or more populations
- adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species
- disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population
- modify, destroy, remove or isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline
- result in invasive species that are harmful to a vulnerable species becoming established in the vulnerable species' habitat
- introduce disease that may cause the species to decline, or
- interfere substantially with the recovery of the species.

The proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on endangered pygmy blue and southern right whales, as it is unlikely to:

- increase mortality and/or cause a decline in population abundance
- disrupt the breeding cycle or reduce the reproductive success of breeding females
- reduce the area of occupancy of endangered whale species that includes preventing the re-occupation of historic high use areas and
- adversely affect habitat critical to the survival potentially through decreasing the availability or quality of the habitat.

The proposed action:

- does not prevent any whale from utilising the area
- does not cause injury including temporary or permanent hearing impairment
- is unlikely to cause disturbance or displacement of whales undertaking biologically important behaviours.

The proposed action is unlikely to have a significant on critically endangered and endangered seabird, marine mammal and turtle species that may occur within the project area as it is unlikely to:

- lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population
- reduce the area of occupancy of the species
- fragment an existing population into two or more populations
- adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species
- disrupt the breeding cycle of a population
- modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline
- result in invasive species that are harmful to a critically endangered or endangered species becoming established in the endangered or critically endangered species' habitat
- introduce disease that may cause the species to decline, or

interfere with the recovery of the species.

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

No

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

\*

The proposed action is not considered a controlled action, as it is unlikely to:

- impact large numbers of seabirds, marine mammals, marine reptiles and sharks
- reduce the area of occupancy of an important population
- fragment an important population into two or more populations
- Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species are likely to decline
- interfere with the recovery of the species
- adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the species
- disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population
- result in invasive species that are harmful to the species becoming established in the species' habitat
- introduce disease that may cause the species to decline.

Refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section 5, pp 38-53 for the assessment of significant impact in accordance with the MNES Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (CoA, 2013).

**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. \***

Woodside proposes to undertake the proposed action in accordance with permitting documents that are reviewed and accepted by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), including:

- Vessel Safety Case 2024, acceptance in Q4 2024
- Minerva State Decommissioning and Field Management Environment Plan (EP), acceptance in Q4 2024.

The Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management EP will be the overarching management document for the proposed action. The EP details the environmental risks and management measures relating to the environmental aspects and impacts and demonstrates that risks have been reduced to acceptable and As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP). The EP include avoidance, reduction, and mitigation measures to manage environmental risks.

Woodside has applied the impact mitigation hierarchy used in environmental impact assessments to identify avoidance, mitigation and adaptive management measures for managing the potential impact of the proposed action on migratory whale species (in particular endangered southern right and pygmy blue whales).

The proposed action is planned for 1 May to 31 May 2025 inclusive. Although there is seasonal variation with the southern right whale distribution, females accompanied by a calf generally occupy the calving ground for 2 to 3 months between June and September with the peak period of abundance typically late July and August. May is considered a shoulder month of the reproductive period with lower abundance expected.

Undertaking the proposed action in the shoulder season, with the management measures in place will seek to avoid the proposed action causing acoustic injuries to, or preventing biologically important behaviours of, pygmy blue whales and southern right whales.

Several management measures will be adopted for the entire campaign, such as:

- proposed actions shall only be undertaken in the project area, outside (but adjacent to) the Southern Right Whale reproduction BIA
- two dedicated professional Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) will be stationed onboard the vessel at all times
- MMOs will be tasked with implementing adaptive management measures to reduce the risk of displacement of blue whale and southern right whales during the activities
- vessel speed will be restricted to less than 6 knots within the project area with the dedicated MMOs observing for marine fauna during transiting
- implementation of the shutdown procedure should a whale move towards or enter the precaution zone (if safe to do so).
- the project vessel will be stationary for the majority of the time while in the project area undertaking the proposed action.

In accordance with the National Recovery Plan for Southern Right Whales, when it is not possible to avoid HCTS when southern right whales may be present, reasonably practicable minimisation controls supported by appropriate whale detection and adaptive management measures will be adopted that demonstrate risk minimisation. The risk minimisation controls; temporal avoidance, underwater noise study, whale detection and adaptive management proposed, sufficiently demonstrate mitigations to potential impacts from anthropogenic underwater noise and vessel strike. These mitigations are considered adequate to not cause injuries to, or prevent biologically important behaviours of, southern right whales and other whale species in the project area.

For mitigation of unplanned interaction with marine mammals during the proposed action refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Supporting Document, Table 4-4, pp 22-29 and Appendix D Minerva Decommissioning Adaptive Whale Management Procedure.

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

No offsets are proposed as the proposed action is unlikely to cause significant impacts to EPBC Act listed threatened species.

**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.

<b>Direct impact</b>	<b>Indirect impact</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common name</b>
Yes	No	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
Yes	No	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
Yes	No	<i>Ardenna carneipes</i>	Flesh-footed Shearwater, Fleshy-footed Shearwater
Yes	No	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	Sooty Shearwater
Yes	No	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei Whale
Yes	No	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue Whale
Yes	No	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin Whale
Yes	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes	No	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot, Knot
Yes	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
Yes	No	<i>Caperea marginata</i>	Pygmy Right Whale
Yes	No	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	Grey Nurse Shark
Yes	No	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	White Shark, Great White Shark
Yes	No	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Turtle
Yes	No	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Turtle
Yes	No	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth
Yes	No	<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	Antipodean Albatross
Yes	No	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern Royal Albatross
Yes	No	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross
Yes	No	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Northern Royal Albatross
Yes	No	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Southern Right Whale

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	No	Lagenorhynchus obscurus	Dusky Dolphin
Yes	No	Lamna nasus	Porbeagle, Mackerel Shark
Yes	No	Macronectes giganteus	Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel
Yes	No	Macronectes halli	Northern Giant Petrel
Yes	No	Megaptera novaeangliae	Humpback Whale
Yes	No	Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew
Yes	No	Orcinus orca	Killer Whale, Orca
Yes	No	Phoebastria fusca	Sooty Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche bulleri	Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche carteri	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche cauta	Shy Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche chrysostoma	Grey-headed Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche impavida	Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche melanophris	Black-browed Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche salvini	Salvin's Albatross
Yes	No	Thalassarche steadi	White-capped Albatross

**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. \***

40 migratory species have been recorded or are predicted to occur within the proposed project area. Terrestrial species (such as terrestrial mammals, reptiles, and bird species) that appear in the PMST results and do not have habitats along shorelines are not relevant to the proposed actions impacts and risks and have therefore been excluded from this referral.

27 migratory bird species are considered to have the potential to occur within the project area, including:

- *Calidris ferruginea* (Curlew Sandpiper) - Critically Endangered, Migratory
- *Numenius madagascariensis* (Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew) - Critically Endangered, Migratory
- *Neophema chrysogaster* (Orange-bellied Parrot) - Critically Endangered
- *Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera* (Gould's Petrel, Australian Gould's Petrel) - Endangered
- *Thalassarche chrysostoma* (Grey-headed Albatross) - Endangered, Migratory
- *Macronectes giganteus* (Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel) - Endangered, Migratory
- *Diomedea sanfordi* (Northern Royal Albatross) - Endangered, Migratory
- *Thalassarche cauta* (Shy Albatross) - Endangered, Migratory
- *Pachyptila turtur subantarctica* (Fairy Prion (southern)) - Vulnerable
- *Thalassarche bulleri platei* (Northern Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross) - Vulnerable
- *Pterodroma mollis* (Soft-plumaged Petrel) - Vulnerable
- *Diomedea epomophora* (Southern Royal Albatross) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Halobaena caerulea* (Blue Petrel) - Vulnerable
- *Phoebastria fusca* (Sooty Albatross) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Sternula nereis nereis* (Australian Fairy Tern) - Vulnerable
- *Calidris canutus* (Red Knot, Knot) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Calidris acuminata* (Sharp-tailed Sandpiper) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Diomedea exulans* (Wandering Albatross) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Thalassarche impavida* (Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Diomedea antipodensis* (Antipodean Albatross) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Thalassarche melanophris* (Black-browed Albatross) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Ardenna grisea* (Sooty Shearwater) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Macronectes halli* (Northern Giant Petrel) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Thalassarche carteri* (Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Thalassarche steadi* (White-capped Albatross) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Thalassarche salvini* (Salvin's Albatross) - Vulnerable, Migratory
- *Thalassarche bulleri* (Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross) - Vulnerable
- *Puffinus pacificus* (Wedge-tailed Shearwater) - Vulnerable, Migratory

The proposed action may have direct and/or indirect impacts on the threatened bird species listed above, including:

- Noise emissions from non-routine helicopter operations (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
- Light emissions from vessel operations in the project area (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
  - Impacts are expected to be localised to within the project area and may potentially impact individuals or small numbers of listed threatened bird species overflying or opportunistically

resting on the sea surface during migrations or solitary individuals foraging within the project area. Impacts are expected to be limited to temporary behavioural disturbances, such as attraction or avoidance.

- Accidental hydrocarbon discharge resulting from unplanned events associated with the proposed action (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
  - The likelihood of unplanned hydrocarbon discharge is low, as all subsea infrastructure has undergone hydrocarbon flushing, eliminating the risk of loss of containment. With the exception of the risk of vessel collision resulting in a release of diesel, no other potential causes of major hydrocarbon release have been identified.

8 migratory marine mammal species are considered to have the potential to occur within the project area, including:

- *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* (Dusky Dolphin)
- *Orcinus orca* (Killer Whale, Orca)
- *Megaptera novaeangliae* (Humpback Whale)
- *Caperea marginata* (Pygmy Right Whale)
- *Balaenoptera borealis* (Sei Whale)
- *Balaenoptera physalus* (Fin Whale)
- *Eubalaena australis* (Southern Right Whale)
- *Balaenoptera musculus* (Pygmy Blue Whale)

The proposed action may have direct and/or indirect impacts on the threatened marine mammal species listed above, including:

- Noise emissions from project vessels, acoustic survey equipment and infrastructure recovery operations in the project area. (Refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4 and Appendix C).
  - Jasco Applied Sciences (Australia) Pty Ltd (Jasco) filenote included in Appendix F provides a summary of the appropriate thresholds and criteria information relevant to multibeam sonars and vessels being utilised on the project.
  - Independent underwater noise modelling has been conducted by Jasco for the proposed activity and measured against established thresholds (Appendix E). The modelling found no credible risk of permanent or temporary hearing impairment to whales. Impacts are expected to be localised to within the project area and unlikely to impact whales or obstruct migratory patterns of large groups of whales.
  - The Minerva decommissioning adaptive whale management plan outline measures to minimise the risk of behavioural impact to southern right whales during the activity (Appendix D).

Under this referral, Woodside is requesting a month extension to allow decommissioning activities to continue into the shoulder season of May 2025. A temporary avoidance measures will continue to be in place from 1 June to 31 October (in accordance with the Southern Right Whale National Recovery Plan), during this critically important calving season when peak numbers of southern right whales will be present in the region.

For mitigation of unplanned interaction with marine mammals during the proposed action refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Supporting Document, Table 4-4, pp 22-29 and Appendix D.



**For a complete environmental impact assessment on the key protected matter Southern Right Whales please see Att 6.**

The proposed action may have direct and/or indirect impacts on the threatened marine mammal species listed above, including: 3 migratory turtle species are considered to have the potential to occur within the project area, including:

- *Caretta caretta* (Loggerhead Turtle)
- *Dermochelys coriacea* (Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth)
- *Chelonia mydas* (Green Turtle)

The proposed action may have direct and/or indirect impacts on the turtle species listed above, including:

- Noise emissions from project vessels, acoustic survey equipment and infrastructure recovery operations (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
- Light emissions from vessel operations in the project area (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
  - Impacts are expected to be localised to within the project area and unlikely to impact turtles or obstruct migratory patterns. Impacts are expected to be limited to temporary behavioural disturbances, such as attraction or avoidance.
- Accidental hydrocarbon discharge resulting from unplanned events associated with the proposed action (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
- Unplanned interaction with turtles during the proposed action (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).

2 migratory shark species are considered to have the potential to occur within the project area, including:

- *Lamna nasus* (Porbeagle, Mackerel Shark)
- *Carcharodon carcharias* (White Shark, Great White Shark)

The proposed action may have direct and/or indirect impacts on the migratory shark species listed above, including:

- Noise emissions from project vessels, acoustic survey equipment and infrastructure recovery operations (refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section Table 4-4).
  - Impacts are expected to be localised to within the project area and include potential nuisance noise during the proposed activity.
- Accidental hydrocarbon discharge resulting from unplanned events associated with the proposed action.
  - Temporary impacts to water quality within a portion of the Bass Strait, which may affect individuals or small numbers of sharks and fish but is unlikely to affect large numbers of 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. \***

An assessment of potential significant impacts on relevant matters of national environmental significance (MNES) occurring within the proposed Minerva Pipeline Decommissioning project area was completed in accordance with the MNES Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (CoA, 2013). (Refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section 5, pp 53-61).

The proposed action is unlikely to have a significant on migratory seabird, marine mammal, turtle and shark species that may occur within the project area as it is unlikely to:

- substantially modify (including by fragmenting, altering fire regimes, altering nutrient cycles or altering hydrological cycles), destroy or isolate an area of important habitat for a migratory species
- result in an invasive species that is harmful to the migratory species becoming established in an area of important habitat for the migratory species, or
- seriously disrupt the lifecycle (breeding, feeding, migration or resting behaviour) of an ecologically significant proportion of the population of a migratory species.
- displace a whale from a foraging or reproductive area due to underwater anthropogenic noise (Action A.2.3 from the Blue Whale CMP)

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

No

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

\*

The proposed action is not considered a controlled action, as it is unlikely to:

- substantially modify (including by fragmenting, altering fire regimes, altering nutrient cycles or altering hydrological cycles), destroy or isolate an area of important habitat for a migratory species
- result in an invasive species that is harmful to the migratory species becoming established in an area of important habitat for the migratory species, or
- seriously disrupt the lifecycle (breeding, feeding, migration or resting behaviour) of an ecologically significant proportion of the population of a migratory species.

Refer to Att 1 Minerva EPBC Referral Supporting Document, Section 5, pp 30-34 for the assessment of significant impact in accordance with the MNES Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (CoA, 2013).

**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. \***

Woodside proposes to undertake the proposed action in accordance with permitting documents accepted by NOPSEMA and the Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), including:

- Vessel Safety Case, prepared accepted by NOPSEMA in Q4 2024
- Minerva State Decommissioning and Field Management (State) Environment Plan (EP), Accepted by DEECA 27 November 2024.

The Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management (State) EP is the overarching management and environmental approval permissioning document for the proposed action. The EP details the environmental risks and management measures relating to the environmental aspects and impacts and demonstrates that risks have been reduced to acceptable and As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP). The EP will include avoidance, reduction, and mitigation measures to manage environmental risks.

The proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to be implemented during the proposed action are outlined in Att 1 Minerva EPBC Supporting Document, Table 4-4.

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

No offsets are proposed as the proposed action is unlikely to cause significant impacts to EPBC Act listed migratory species.

**4.1.6 Nuclear**

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

No

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

There are no nuclear actions within the proposed action.

**4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area**

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

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

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

—

**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.**

\*

There are no Commonwealth Marine Areas within the proposed action area. The proposed action area is adjacent to Australia's Commonwealth Marine Area (i.e. the Commonwealth/state boundary), but does not overlap.

- Potential impacts to the Commonwealth Marine Area are assessed in the Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management EP (Cth). Streamlining arrangements for environmental approvals of offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas activities are in place for Commonwealth waters, this EP was accepted by NOPSEMA 14 October 2024.

Therefore, the proposed action (this referral) will not have direct or indirect impacts on the 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.**

\*

No aspect of the proposed action will have direct or indirect impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.

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

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

No

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

\*

No aspect of the proposed action is related to large coal mining development or coal seam gas.

**4.1.10 Commonwealth Land**

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

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

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

—

**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 aspect of the proposed action will have direct or indirect impacts on the Commonwealth Land.

**4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas**

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

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

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

—

**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 aspect of the proposed action will have direct or indirect impacts on the Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas.

**4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency**

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

No

## 4.2 Impact summary

### Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

*None*

### Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

## 4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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



## **Alternative Timeline**

The alternative timeline for this project will result in infrastructure remaining on title until a second vessel can be sourced equipped, approved and mobilised to complete the final scope, this would likely be between November 2025 and April 2026 at the earliest. Should obtaining access to a suitable vessel not be possible in this period, the section of Minerva pipeline that would remain in Victorian State Waters may not be decommissioned until a later date, with the latest date detailed in the Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management (State) Environment Plan said to be 2028.

The alternative timeline for the proposed action from November 2025 to April 2026 aligns with the best weather window to conduct the work and reduces possible impact to MNES (southern right whales that are seasonal present in shallow coastal reproductive areas annually from May to October, with peak period of abundance typically late July to August). The alternative timeline may encroach on the period January to March 2026 which is a peak foraging period for pygmy blue whales in the region.

## **Alternative Locations**

There are no alternative locations possible as the activity is decommissioning and involves removing the existing Minerva pipeline in Victorian State Waters.

## **Alternative Activities**

The only feasible alternative to pipeline removal is leaving infrastructure in situ. Whilst leaving in situ would eliminate or reduce the risks of the proposed action associated with infrastructure removal activities, this alternative does not comply with the base case for full removal of property under the Victorian Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (OPPGGS) Act 2010.

The Minerva subsea infrastructure in Commonwealth waters is subject to a General Direction 831 issued by NOPSEMA which requires Woodside to remove all property in the title area.

Decommissioning is a planned activity for the offshore oil and gas industry, it involves the timely, safe, and environmentally responsible removal of, or otherwise satisfactorily dealing with, infrastructure from the offshore area that was previously used to support oil and gas operations.

Under section 572(3) of the OPNGGS Act a titleholder must remove from the title area all structures that are, and all equipment and other property that is, neither used nor to be used in connection with the operations. Under section 572(7) of the OPNGGS Act, property removal requirements are subject to any other provision of the OPNGGS Act, the Environment Regulations, directions given by NOPSEMA or the responsible Commonwealth Minister, and any other law.

Section 527(3) of the OPNGGS Act must also be read with section 270(3) of the OPNGGS Act, under which before title surrender, all property brought into the surrender area by any person engaged or concerned in the operations authorised by the permit, lease or licence must be removed or caused to be removed from the surrender area to the satisfaction of NOPSEMA, or arrangements that are satisfactory to NOPSEMA must be made in relation to the property. Sections 572(7) and 270(3) of the OPNGGS Act provide scope for in-situ decommissioning and other arrangements to be made where it can be demonstrated that the risks and impacts are ALARP and of an acceptable level as well as comply with other relevant legislation.

For this project leaving infrastructure in situ is not considered feasible, as this method requires substantial time and effort to secure regulatory approval. Due to regulatory constraints an alternative activity is not possible for this proposed action and the impacts/mitigations have not been assessed.

## 5. Lodgement

## 5.1 Attachments

### 1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	Att_2025	No	High
#2.	Link	<a href="https://www.nopsema.gov.au/sites/default/files/2..">General Direction 831 https://www.nopsema.gov.au/sites/default/files/2..</a>			High
#3.	Link	<a href="https://info.nopsema.gov.au/environment_plans/59..">Minerva Plug and Abandonment https://info.nopsema.gov.au/environment_plans/59..</a>			High

### 1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att_2_Consultation_Summary_2025.pdf Appendix F: Minerva Decommissioning and Field Management Environment Plan		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	Att 4 Woodside Environment and Biodiversity Policy.pdf Environment and Biodiversity Policy		No	High
#2.	Document	Att_3_Woodside_Health_and_Safety_Policy_2025.pdf Health and Safety Policy		No	High
#3.	Document	Att_5_Woodside_Quality_Policy_2025.pdf Quality Policy		No	High

### 3.1.2 Existing or proposed uses for the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	Att_2025	No	High

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

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Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	May 2025	High	

### 3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	May 2025	High	
#2.	Link <a href="https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/default-files/2022-06/national-recovery-plan-for-the-southern-right-whale.pdf">National Recovery Plan for the Southern Right Whale</a> <a href="https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/default-files/2022-06/national-recovery-plan-for-the-southern-right-whale.pdf">https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/default-files/2022-06/national-recovery-plan-for-the-southern-right-whale.pdf</a>		High	

### 3.3.1 Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places that apply to the project area

Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	May 2025	High	

### 3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	May 2025	High	

### 3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Link <a href="#">A numerical modelling study of storm surges in Bass Strait</a>		High	

<a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/2712021..">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/2712021..</a>				
#2.	Link	Annual cycle of the density field in Bass Strait <a href="https://api.semanticscholar.org/CorpusID:55861421">https://api.semanticscholar.org/CorpusID:55861421</a>		High
#3.	Link	Network Management Plan 2013 <a href="https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/plans/s..">https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/plans/s..</a>		High
#4.	Link	Tidal characteristics in Bass Strait, south-east Australia <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2012.08.027">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2012.08.027</a>		High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	May 2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	May 2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att_6_Environmental Impact Assessment on Protected Matter – Southern Right Whale .pdf Environmental Impact Assessment on Protected Matter – Southern Right Whale		No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May	May 2025	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	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	Att_2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	Att_2025	No	High

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	Att_2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att_6_Environmental Impact Assessment on Protected Matter – Southern Right Whale .pdf Environmental Impact Assessment on Protected Matter – Southern Right Whale		No	High

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	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	Att_2025	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	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	May 2025	High	

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

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att_1_Minerva_EPBC_Act_Referral_Supporting_Document combined (3).pdf Decommissioning of the Minerva Pipeline in Victorian state waters - May 2025: EPBC Referral Supporting Document	May 2025	High	



## 5.2 Declarations

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## ✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

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ABN/ACN	12006466486
Organisation name	WOODSIDE ENERGY (VICTORIA) PTY LTD
Organisation address	6000 WA
Representative's name	Isabelle Escott
Representative's job title	Environmental Advisor
Phone	1800442977
Email	isabelle.escott@woodside.com
Address	11 Mount St, Perth WA 6000

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

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

☒ By checking this box, I, **Isabelle Escott of WOODSIDE ENERGY (VICTORIA) PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. \*

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

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## ✔ 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.

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Same as Referring party information.

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

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

☒ I, **Isabelle Escott of WOODSIDE ENERGY (VICTORIA) PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. \*

☒ I, **Isabelle Escott of WOODSIDE ENERGY (VICTORIA) PTY LTD**, the Person proposing the action, consent to the designation of **Isabelle Escott of WOODSIDE ENERGY (VICTORIA) PTY LTD** as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. \*

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

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### ☒ **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.

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Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☒ I, **Isabelle Escott of WOODSIDE ENERGY (VICTORIA) PTY LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. \*

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