

# Columboola Battery

Application Number: **02977**Commencement Date:  
**30/06/2025**Status: **Locked**

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## 1. About the project

### 1.1 Project details

#### 1.1.1 Project title \*

#### 1.1.2 Project industry type \*

#### 1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

#### 1.1.4 Estimated start date \*

#### 1.1.4 Estimated end date \*

## 1.2 Proposed Action details

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

The Project will involve the development, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of two (2) Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS') with capacity of 400MW/1,950MWh for Columboola West and 150MW/1,449MWh for Columboola East. The Project Area = 99.14ha with a disturbance footprint of 35.14ha and an Avoidance area of the residual 64ha.

The Project will require:

- Battery units, inverters, transformer and 2 separate substations (one Columboola West and one for Columboola East). Columboola West comprises 536 battery enclosures with space for 202 more for capacity replenishment over life of system and Columboola East comprises 400 battery enclosures no augmentation if full duration is built out.
- Approximately 2.5km of underground 275kV transmission line to Powerlink's Columboola substation and an associated underground-overhead transition yard (approximately 25m x 25m) directly adjacent to the existing substation fence. An easement of around 20m is proposed for the transmission line, however a construction clearing width of up to 40m may be required for the length of the route (depending on final construction methodology). The transmission line route is guided by discussion with Powerlink on their preferred alignment as they navigate the multiple connections requiring access to the Columboola substation. As such, a micro-siting area has been identified within which the route for the underground transmission line will be micro-sited subject to final constructability and cultural heritage surveys.
- A new driveway and crossover from Warrego Highway.
- Ancillary infrastructure including earthworks, stormwater management works, permanent operating facilities (O&M building/storage warehouse, parking lot, CCTV security system), landscaping, power supply and telecommunications, and waste storage/management.

Planning approval will be sought in early 2026 and construction is proposed to commence in the second quarter of 2026. Construction is expected to take approximately 21 months.

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

No

### 1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? \*

The following legislation, planning frameworks and policies are considered relevant to the proposed action including:

1. *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) - the EPBC Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage unique plants, animals, habitats and places – called 'protected matters'. Ecological surveys undertaken within the Project Area have confirmed the presence of one protected matter being the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*). Two additional protected matters being Corbens long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*) and arboreal mammal Greater Glider (*Petaurus volans*) are considered as being present (i.e. assumed), although not confirmed. No other protected matters are considered relevant to the proposed action.
2. *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act) - is the principal planning instrument in Queensland and establishes the framework for the state's planning system. The Planning Act is supported by the *Planning Regulation 2017* (planning regulation) which details how the Planning Act operates and deals with practical matters including the categories of development, the assessing authority of development applications and matters of state interest.
3. *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) - the NC Act provides the framework for the declaration and management of protected areas, and protection of wildlife listed under the *Nature Conservation (plants) Regulation 2020* or *Nature Conservation (animals) Regulation 2020*. All native flora and fauna species are protected under the NC Act and permits 'to take' protected wildlife are required from the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) and in order to collect specimens of, or otherwise interfere with, native wildlife.
4. *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017* (the Koala Plan) - The Koala Plan has been prepared in accordance with section 112 of the NC Act. The NC Act sets out the required steps that the Minister for Environment must follow in preparing and making a conservation plan for native wildlife. The main purposes of the Koala Conservation Plan are to promote the continued existence of viable koala populations in the wild, to prevent the decline of koala habitats, including by providing for the rehabilitation of cleared or otherwise disturbed koala habitats, and to promote future land use and development that is compatible with the survival of koala populations in the wild.
5. *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VM Act)- the VM Act and its subordinate regulation (*Vegetation Management Regulation 2000*) are part of the Queensland vegetation management framework and, in conjunction with the Planning Act, seeks to regulate the clearing of vegetation to prevent land degradation, prevent the loss of biodiversity and maintain ecological processes. Vegetation across Queensland has been mapped to identify regulated vegetation, which helps determine what can be cleared. This identifies vegetation as category A (offset areas and other areas set aside for management that can't be cleared), category B (remnant vegetation), category C (high value regrowth), category R (reef regrowth watercourse vegetation) and category X (generally exempt clearing).
6. *Biosecurity act 2014* (the Biosecurity Act)- the Biosecurity Act ensures a consistent, modern, risk-based and less prescriptive approach to biosecurity in Queensland. Under the Biosecurity Act, there are three types of invasive plant species including prohibited invasive plants, restricted invasive plants; and invasive plants.
7. *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (the Heritage Act) - is the primary piece of state legislation affording protection to state heritage places, historical archaeological places, and protected areas are identified and managed in Queensland. The Heritage Act includes a statutory register of places that have been nominated to the Queensland Heritage Register (QHR). Changes to places that are accepted on the QHR require prior approval from the Queensland Heritage Council. Under the Heritage Act each local government must keep a local heritage register or have local heritage planning scheme provisions such as an overlay or schedule. Local heritage registers or planning scheme provisions identify places of local heritage significance.

**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. \***

Stor-Energy has undertaken extensive consultation with the Native Title Claimants (Iman #4) as well as the prescribed body corporate for Iman native title claims (Iman Wardingarri Aboriginal Corporation, IWAC). This includes separate visits to the site with both IWAC and Iman #4 Claimants. No cultural heritage constraints were advised to be present on site during either of the visits by Traditional Owners.

Stor-Energy is working through the finalization of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan which is based on the preferred template of the Iman #4 Claimants.

## 1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

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

Yes

## Referring party organisation details

**ABN/ACN** 29001584612

**Organisation name** SLR CONSULTING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

**Organisation address** 2060 NSW

## Referring party details

**Name** Richard Floyd

**Job title** Principal Ecologist

**Phone** 0408786036

**Email** richard.floyd@slrconsulting.com

**Address** Level 16, 175 Eagle Street, BRISBANE QLD 4000

## 1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

### 1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? \*

No

### 1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? \*

Yes

## Person proposing to take the action organisation details

**ABN/ACN** 74667481441

**Organisation name** STOREENERGY 1 PTY LTD

**Organisation address** 2000 NSW

## Person proposing to take the action details

**Name** Oliver Coleman

**Job title** Head of Development

**Phone** 0434260802

**Email** oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com

**Address** Gateway, Level 7, Macquarie Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000

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

No

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

No

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

There are no past or current proceedings against Oliver Coleman of StorEnergy 1 Pty Ltd under Commonwealth, State or Territory laws.

There have been no past or current proceedings against StorEnergy 1 Pty Ltd under Commonwealth, State or Territory laws and the company has a satisfactory record of responsible environment management.

**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**

StorEnergy 1 Pty Ltd is a newly formed entity, and as such has adopted the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) policies of parent company, Home Consortium Limited. Details of the Sustainability Report 2024 (ATTACHMENT 1, Section1-9, pp1-43) and Sustainability Commitments (ATTACHMENT 1, Section 1, pp1-4) are attached.

**1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent****1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? \***

Yes

## Proposed designated proponent organisation details

**ABN/ACN** 74667481441

**Organisation name** STOREENERGY 1 PTY LTD

**Organisation address** 2000 NSW

## Proposed designated proponent details

**Name** Oliver Coleman

**Job title** Head of Development

**Phone** 0434260802

**Email** oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com

**Address** Gateway, Level 7, Macquarie Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000

## 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	29001584612
Organisation name	SLR CONSULTING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	2060 NSW
Representative's name	Richard Floyd
Representative's job title	Principal Ecologist
Phone	0408786036
Email	richard.floyd@slrconsulting.com
Address	Level 16, 175 Eagle Street, BRISBANE QLD 4000

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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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ABN/ACN	74667481441
Organisation name	STOREENERGY 1 PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Oliver Coleman
Representative's job title	Head of Development
Phone	0434260802
Email	oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com
Address	Gateway, Level 7, Macquarie Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000

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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.

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

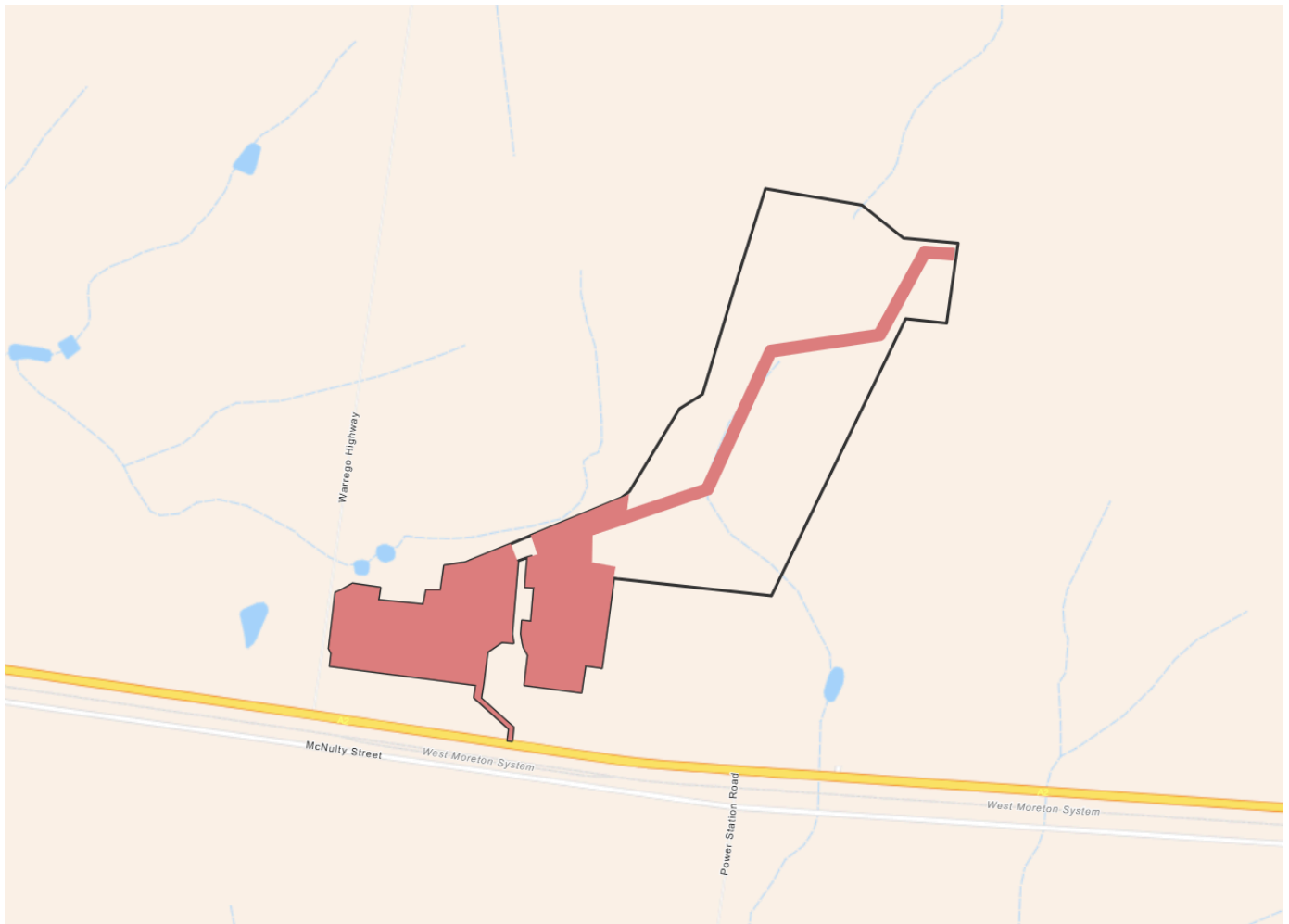
## 1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

### 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: 99.16 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 35.14 Ha**

## 2.2 Footprint details

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

29934 and 30008 Warrego Highway Columboola QLD 4415

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

Queensland

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

No

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

All parcels of land are Freehold tenure.

## 3. Existing environment

## 3.1 Physical description

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

The Disturbance Footprint is located approximately 6 kilometers (km) east of Miles, in the Darling Downs region of Queensland (QLD). For the purposes of the ecological assessment, the Disturbance Area consists of the BESS disturbance footprint together with the proposed underground transmission line corridor. Ecological surveys were undertaken throughout a micro-siting area for the underground transmission line, to address potential ecological issues should the transmission line alignment need to be altered due to site conditions.

A Study Area was also identified and consisted of a 20 km buffer to the Disturbance Footprint. The Study Area was used to identify recorded sightings of threatened species and communities and their habitats from the locality and to gain context of the significance of the Project Area with respect to the broader locality.

The Project Area occurs within the Western Downs Regional Council Area and includes land zoned predominantly as Rural, with the Powerlink Substation zoned as Community Facilities. The Project Area is approximately 99.16 hectares (ha) with a Disturbance Area of 35.14 ha.

The land within the Project Area is currently used for the grazing of domestic livestock, and for the existing Powerlink Columboola Substation facility. A coal seam gas transmission pipeline and well pad also intersect with the Project Area as well as several high voltage overhead powerlines.

The Project Area primarily consists of remnant and regrowth vegetation communities, with some areas of clearing (non-remnant) supporting existing infrastructure or historic laydown areas. There is a state mapped ephemeral watercourse located within the south-western section of the Project Area.

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

In the Western Downs Regional Council area, rural land is used largely for agriculture, particularly grain and cotton growing, with some sheep and cattle grazing and broadacre farming. Forestry and mining are also important industries, with the area being home to oil fields, coal mines, a power station and gas exploration and mining activities.

The south-western sections of the Project Area are currently used for domestic livestock grazing. The eastern section, and northern corner of the Project Area is owned by Powerlink, where the existing Columboola Substation is located. An Arrow Energy Pty Ltd coal seam gas transmission pipeline and well pad also intersect the Project Area in addition to a gas pipeline on the Powerlink lot and several high voltage overhead lines.

The proposed action will involve the development, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an underground transmission line connecting it to the Powerlink Columboola Substation. The aim of the BESS is to stabilise local networks and market pricing.

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

No outstanding natural features occur on or adjacent to the Disturbance Footprint.

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

A review of topographical mapping indicates that the elevations within the Disturbance Area range from approximately 350 meters (m) in the south-west corner to approximately 410 m above sea level in the north-east corner of the Project Area (Att 2 - Map of Topography of the Project Area).

## 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.

Based on the findings of the Terrestrial Ecology Assessment Report (SLR 2025) (Attachment 4 - Terrestrial Ecology Report, Section 5, page 48-61) the following flora and fauna attributes were identified within the Project Area.

#### Flora:

A total of 170 flora species from 51 families were recorded within the Project Area, consisting of 149 native and 21 non-native flora species. The majority of flora species are common and widespread throughout the region in acacia and eucalyptus woodland communities. Pasture species commonly utilised for cattle fodder were also abundant throughout non-remnant areas within the Project Area. One threatened flora species *Vincetoxicum forsterii*, a vulnerable species under the EPBC Act was identified within the Project Area.

The vegetation across the Project Area was categorized as the following Regional Ecosystems (REs):

- Approximately 0.61 ha of RE 11.5.1 (regrowth) *Eucalyptus crebra* and/or *E. populnea*, *Callitris glaucophylla*, *Angophora leiocarpa*, *Allocasuarina luehmannii* woodland on Cainozoic sand plains and/or remnant surfaces (Least Concern, VM Act)
- Approximately 0.26 ha of RE 11.7.2 Acacia spp. woodland on cainozoic lateritic duricrust. Scarp retreat zone (Least Concern, VM Act)
- Approximately 24.9 ha of RE 11.7.4 *Eucalyptus decorticans* and/or *Eucalyptus* spp., *Corymbia* spp., *Acacia* spp., *Lysicarpus angustifolius* woodland on Cainozoic lateritic duricrust (Least Concern, VM Act)
- Approximately 1.4 ha of RE 11.7.7 *Eucalyptus fibrosa* subsp. *nubilis* +/- *Corymbia* spp. +/- *Eucalyptus* spp. woodland on Cainozoic lateritic duricrust (Least Concern, VM Act); and
- Approximately 8.02 ha of non-remnant vegetation.

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) were identified during the field survey.

#### Fauna:

A total of 119 fauna species from 57 families were identified within the project area using a variety of different observation and survey techniques. This included 79 species of bird, 15 reptile species, 19 mammal and five amphibian species. Most of the native fauna recorded are common in inland habitats throughout much of Queensland.

One threatened species was detected, this being the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), which is listed as endangered under the EPBC Act. A *Nyctophilus* species was captured, and a number of ultrasonic *Nyctophilus* calls were identified within the Project Area. As the vulnerable species *Nyctophilus corbeni* has previously been detected within 20 km of the Project Area, this species has been assumed to be present in the Project Area.

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

The vegetation across the Project Area was categorized as the following Regional Ecosystems within Attachment 4 (Terrestrial Ecology Report, Section 6.1.1, page 48 to 61):

- Approximately 0.61 ha of RE 11.5.1 (regrowth) *Eucalyptus crebra* and/or *E. populnea*, *Callitris glaucophylla*, *Angophora leiocarpa*, *Allocasuarina luehmannii* woodland on Cainozoic sand plains and/or remnant surfaces (Least Concern, VM Act)
- Approximately 0.26 ha of RE 11.7.2 *Acacia* spp. woodland on cainozoic lateritic duricrust. Scarp retreat zone (Least Concern, VM Act)
- Approximately 24.9 ha of RE 11.7.4 *Eucalyptus decorticans* and/or *Eucalyptus* spp., *Corymbia* spp., *Acacia* spp., *Lysicarpus angustifolius* woodland on Cainozoic lateritic duricrust (Least Concern, VM Act)
- Approximately 1.4 ha of RE 11.7.7 *Eucalyptus fibrosa* subsp. *nubilis* +/- *Corymbia* spp. +/- *Eucalyptus* spp. woodland on Cainozoic lateritic duricrust (Least Concern, VM Act).

The remaining sections of the Project Area are previously cleared lands containing regrowth *Acacia* or cleared maintained areas totaling 8.02 ha in area.

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) were identified during the field survey.

## 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.

A review of the Commonwealth Protected Matter Search Tool results for a search area within 10 km of the Project Area found that no Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places recognized as having heritage values occur on or adjacent to the Project Area (Attachment 4, Terrestrial Ecology Report, Section 4.1, Page 35).

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

The Proponent has engaged a subconsultant to investigate and assess the impact of proposed activities on known and potential aboriginal objects, aboriginal places and Cultural heritage values within the project area.

The project area occurs within the traditional lands of the Iman people. The project area is inside the Native Title registered claim of the Iman people #4. Iman Wardingarri Aboriginal Corporation represents the Iman people and is the Aboriginal party for the Columboola area.

The subconsultant has undertaken a desktop review of various databases as they relate to the Project Area and has found that there were no heritage features or values relevant to the project area and that there is low potential for Aboriginal Heritage to be located within the Project Area. In addition, the Proponent has undertaken extensive and ongoing consultation with the Traditional Owners as part of the project.

## 3.4 Hydrology

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

The site is not affected by river or creek flooding, however, is subject to overland flow.

Review of the WDRC Planning Scheme OM-004 Flood Hazard Mapping showed the site is located outside all flood hazard categories including the Extreme Flood Hazard Area and Potential Flood Hazard Area.

However, it is noted that the Flood Overlay Code provides minimum design floor and pavement levels, for which community infrastructure including power infrastructure is the 0.5% AEP flood level.

SLR understands Powerlink requires flood immunity of 0.5% AEP and 300 mm freeboard for BESS facilities.

Based on the above, the 0.5% AEP + 300 mm freeboard was adopted as the minimum design level for the proposed development.

## 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	No	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.

\*

No world heritage sites are within proximity to the Project Area (Attachment 4 Terrestrial Ecology Report, Section 4.1, Page 35).

### 4.1.2 National Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

\*

No national heritage sites are located within proximity to the Project Area (Attachment 4, Terrestrial Ecology Report, Section 4.1, Page 35).

### 4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ramsar wetland
Yes		Banrock Station Wetland Complex
Yes		Narran Lake Nature Reserve
Yes		Riverland
Yes		The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland

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

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 400 km of the Project Area (Attachment 4, Terrestrial Ecology Report, Section 4.1, Page 35). The closest Ramsar site 'Narran Lake Nature Reserve' is approximately 400-500 km downstream of the Project. Three other Ramsar sites (Banrock Station Wetland Complex, Riverland and The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland) are also downstream of the Project but due to their separation (in excess of 1,100 km), there is no potential for the Project to impact these Ramsar sites.

#### 4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

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

### Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Adclarkia cameroni</i>	Brigalow Woodland Snail
No	No	<i>Adclarkia dulacca</i>	Dulacca Woodland Snail
No	No	<i>Anomalopus mackayi</i>	Five-clawed Worm-skink, Long-legged Worm-skink
No	No	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface
No	No	<i>Cadellia pentastylis</i>	Ooline
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
No	No	<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat
No	No	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]
No	No	<i>Delma torquata</i>	Adorned Delma, Collared Delma
No	No	<i>Dichanthium setosum</i>	bluegrass
No	No	<i>Egernia rugosa</i>	Yakka Skink
No	No	<i>Erythrorhynchus radiatus</i>	Red Goshawk
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Furina dunmali</i>	Dunmall's Snake
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>	Squatter Pigeon (southern)
No	No	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Hemiaspis damelii</i>	Grey Snake

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Homopholis belsonii	Belson's Panic
No	No	Homoranthus decumbens	a shrub
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Lepidium monoplacoides	Winged Pepper-cress
Yes	No	Nyctophilus corbeni	Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat
Yes	No	Petauroides volans	Greater Glider (southern and central)
No	No	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
Yes	No	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
No	No	Polianthion minutiflorum	
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Thesium australe	Austral Toadflax, Toadflax
No	No	Westringia parvifolia	
No	No	Xerothamnella herbacea	

### Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Coolibah - Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions
No	No	Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains
No	No	Weeping Myall Woodlands

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

Yes

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

There will be clearing of 26.96 ha of known Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) foraging habitat. Under the Commonwealth Significant Impact Guidelines, a project that adversely affects habitat critical to the survival of this species will have a significant impact. Utilized koala habitat is considered critical to the survival of this species. This is discussed in more detail in Attachment 4, Terrestrial Ecology Report, Section 8.1, page 81).

There will be clearing of approximately 27 ha of potential Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) roosting and foraging habitat. Under the Commonwealths Significant Impact Guidelines, a project that adversely affects habitat critical to the survival of this species will have a significant impact. Greater Glider are known to occur in close proximity to the Project Area and as a consequence, the habitats in the Project Area are considered critical to the survival of this species. This is discussed in more detail in Attachment 4, Terrestrial Ecology Report, Section 8.1, page 81)

There will also be clearing of 26.96 ha of roosting/breeding habitat of Corben's long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*). Under the Commonwealths Significant Impact Guidelines, a project that adversely affects breeding habitat of this species will have a significant impact. Corben's long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*) are known to occur in close proximity to the Project Area and as a consequence, the habitats in the Project Area are considered critical to the survival of this species. This is discussed in more detail in Attachment 4, Terrestrial Ecology Report, Section 8.1, page 81)

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

\*

Yes

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

There will be clearing of 26.96 ha of known Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) foraging habitat as identified within the Conservation Advice for this species. Under the Commonwealths Significant Impact Guidelines, a project that adversely affects habitat critical to the survival of this species will have a significant impact. Utilized koala habitat is considered critical to the survival of this species in accordance with Departmental advice on this species. The significance of this addressed in detail in Attachment 4 Terrestrial Ecology Report (SLR 2025), Section 8.1, page 81.

There will be clearing of approximately 27 ha of potential Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) roosting and foraging habitat. Under the Commonwealths Significant Impact Guidelines, a project that adversely affects habitat critical to the survival of this species will have a significant impact. Greater Glider are known to occur in close proximity to the Project Area and as a consequence, the habitats in the Project Area are considered critical to the survival of this species in accordance with Departmental advice on this species. The significance of this addressed in detail in Attachment 4 Terrestrial Ecology Report (SLR 2025), Section 8.1, page 81.

There will also be clearing of 26.96 ha of roosting/breeding habitat of *Nyctophilus corbeni*. Under the Commonwealths Significant Impact Guidelines, a project that adversely affects breeding habitat of this species will have a significant impact. *Nyctophilus corbeni* are known to occur in close proximity to the Project Area and as a consequence, the habitats in the Project Area are considered critical to the survival of this species in accordance with Departmental advice on this species. As this species is identified as vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, the Conservation Advice for this species suggests that recorded occurrences of this species represent indications of the presence of an "important population" of this species. The significance of this addressed in detail in Attachment 4 Terrestrial Ecology (SLR 2025) Report Section 8.1, page 81.

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

Yes

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

The Project will result in the loss of habitat for Koala, which is known to occur in this area. The project will result in the loss of Greater Glider habitat also, as this species is known to occur in the locality and is considered likely to occur within the Project Area. *Nyctophilus* individuals were captured and recorded in the Project Area during targeted field surveys. *Nyctophilus corbeni* is known to occur in this locality.

#### 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. \*

Preclearance surveys will be undertaken daily of the areas to be cleared. Clearing will be undertaken sequentially and away from high risk areas such as roads, allowing time for animals to vacate adjacent clearing areas. Where Koala are identified, a 50 m exclusion will be placed around that animal within the active clearing zone. Clearing will continue the following day once the koala has left the clearing zone.

Preclearance surveys will be undertaken to identify hollow bearing trees, which may provide roosting/breeding habitat for Greater Glider and Corben's Long-eared Bat. These potential roost/breeding trees will be retained until the following day of clearing to encourage any resident animals to vacate. Prior to their clearing, a visual inspection will be undertaken inside the hollows to ensure no resident animals are present.

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

An offset area will be identified to address the loss of Koala, Greater Glider and Corben's Long-eared Bat habitat within the Project Area..[OC1] **An offset proposal will be prepared to address the requirements of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy 2012.**

**4.1.5 Migratory Species**

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes		<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
Yes		<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
Yes		<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Yes		<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes		<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
Yes		<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo
Yes		<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes		<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
Yes		<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail

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

No

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

\*

There are very few resources for migratory species within the Project Area. The 1st order streams, and their associated dams will not be directly impacted by the Project. Further to this, the implementation of sedimentation and erosion control measures during construction and operation of the BESS will prevent indirect impacts to these habitats. It is considered that the Project, when considering the avoidance of impacts to these habitats and the implementation of mitigation measures during construction and operation of the project will not have an impact on any migratory species. Species such as Fork-tailed Swift and White-throated Needletail are aerial species, and while they may occur within the Project Area, they are not dependent on any habitats contained within the Project Area.

#### 4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

\*

The nature of the proposed action is non-nuclear. There are no nuclear sites in proximity to the Project Area.

**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.**

\*

No Commonwealth Marine Areas are located in proximity to the project area. Further to this, sedimentation and erosion control measures will be implemented throughout construction, operation and eventual decommissioning activities. The site Environmental Management Plan also addresses potential for toxic spills from the equipment present in the project area during operational activities. Consequently, there is no risk of the project impacting any downstream environments that may flow to any Commonwealth Marine Areas.

**4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef**

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

No

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

\*

The Project Area is not in proximity to areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

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

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

No

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

\*

The proposal does not involve a water resource in relation 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.**

\*

The Project Area is not in proximity to areas of 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.**

\*

The Project Area is not in proximity to areas of Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

**4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency**

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

No

## 4.2 Impact summary

### Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)

### 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)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

## 4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

The proposed action is to be constructed on land which is suitably located beside the existing Powerlink Columboola Substation and nearby solar farm development. No other locations are available for consideration as part of the Proposed development.

Approximately 25 percent of the Project Area includes non-Native vegetation. The Project Area exhibits areas of disturbed native vegetation including areas that have been previously cleared for coal seam gas developments, and the existing overhead transmission lines associated with the Columboola Substation.

The selected location maximises the development of Non-native vegetation, and to a lesser degree, impacts native vegetation that has historically been degraded and is currently in poorer condition.

The proposed action has been designed through an iterative process to avoid and minimise Impacts to native vegetation and threatened species habitat, which is depicted in the Terrestrial Ecology Report (SLR, 2025) (Attachment 4). The proposed design and location of the access road and the transmission line was chosen to avoid impacts to mature vegetation and maximise the clearing of non-native vegetation. In general, minimising the overall area of clearing of threatened species habitat has been a significant consideration in the alignment of the proposed underground transmission line.

## 5. Lodgement

## 5.1 Attachments

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 1-Sustainability Report -2024.pdf Sustainability Report containing Environmental Social and Governance information.	28/10/2024	No	High
#2.	Document	Att5 - Sustainability Comittments - 2022.pdf Sustainability Comittments adopted by Stor-Energy 1 Pty Ltd	01/03/2022	No	High

#### 3.1.4 Gradient relevant to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2 - Topography of the Project Area.pdf Topography of the Project Area	04/07/2025	No	High

#### 3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 4 - Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Assessment of Terrestrial Ecology Values of the Project Area with reference to Protected Matters Search Tooland State wildlife datasets.	09/07/2025	No	High

#### 3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 4 - Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Assessment of Terrestrial Ecology Values of the Project Area with reference to Protected Matters Search Tooland State wildlife datasets.	08/07/2025		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 4 - Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Assessment of Terrestrial Ecology Values of the Project Area with reference to Protected Matters Search Tooland State wildlife datasets.	08/07/2025		High

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

	<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
#1.	Document	Att 4 - Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Assessment of Terrestrial Ecology Values of the Project Area with reference to Protected Matters Search Tooland State wildlife datasets.	08/07/2025	No	High

## 4.1.3.3 (Ramsar Wetland) Why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact

	<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
#1.	Document	Att 4 - Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Assessment of Terrestrial Ecology Values of the Project Area with reference to Protected Matters Search Tooland State wildlife datasets.	08/07/2025		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

	<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
#1.	Document	Att 4 - Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Assessment of Terrestrial Ecology Values of the Project Area with reference to Protected Matters Search Tooland State wildlife datasets.	08/07/2025		High

## 4.1.4.5 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
#1.	Document	Att 4 - Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Assessment of Terrestrial Ecology Values of the Project Area with reference to Protected Matters Search Tooland State wildlife datasets.	08/07/2025	No	High

## 4.3.8 Why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible

	<b>Type</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
#1.	Document	Att 4 - Terrestrial Ecology Report.pdf Assessment of Terrestrial Ecology Values of the Project Area with reference to Protected Matters Search Tooland State wildlife datasets.	08/07/2025	No	High

## 5.2 Declarations

## ✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

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ABN/ACN	29001584612
Organisation name	SLR CONSULTING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Organisation address	2060 NSW
Representative's name	Richard Floyd
Representative's job title	Principal Ecologist
Phone	0408786036
Email	richard.floyd@slrconsulting.com
Address	Level 16, 175 Eagle Street, BRISBANE QLD 4000

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, **Richard Floyd of SLR CONSULTING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. \*

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

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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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ABN/ACN	74667481441
Organisation name	STOREENERGY 1 PTY LTD
Organisation address	2000 NSW
Representative's name	Oliver Coleman

Representative's job title      Head of Development

Phone                                0434260802

Email                                oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com

Address                              Gateway, Level 7, Macquarie Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000

- 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, **Oliver Coleman of STOREENERGY 1 PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. \*
- I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. \*

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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, **Oliver Coleman of STOREENERGY 1 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. \*