

Eastern Hub Firming Battery Project

Application Number: **02903**

Commencement Date:
02/05/2025

Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Eastern Hub Firming Battery Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

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1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/02/2029

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/02/2031

1.2 Proposed Action details

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

Project Area - The proposed action encompasses a total project area of 102.59 hectares (ha). The project area includes the adjoining allotments listed below and the site access along Carlon Menzies Road.

- Lot 223 DP755835
- Lot 192 DP755835
- Lot 196 DP755835
- Lot 1 DP1105811
- Lot 195 DP755835

Disturbance Footprint - the total proposed disturbance footprint is 68.57 ha which encompasses all project infrastructure including road upgrades.

Avoidance area – the total avoidance area is 34.03 ha and is the balance of the project area minus the disturbance area

Buffer area - The ecology study area used for database searches includes a 20 km buffer from the Project area.

Proposed action description –EHFB Pty Ltd as trustee for EHFB Trust (EHFB Pty Ltd) proposes to develop a battery energy storage system (BESS), ancillary grid connection infrastructure and temporary workers accommodation (the project) at Salisbury Plains in the Uralla Shire local government area (LGA).

The project is known as the Eastern Hub Firming Battery. It will be located at Hillview Road, Salisbury Plains, around 11 kilometres (km) south-east of Uralla township in the New England region of New South Wales (NSW). The project is located within the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) and will be located adjacent to the proposed Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) East Hub substation.

The project will have a storage capacity of up to approximately 1,000 MW/4-8 hours and will connect directly into the proposed East Hub substation via an on-site switching station. A project area of 102.59 hectares (ha) has been the focus of preliminary baseline investigations, with the development corridor contained to an approximately 68.57 ha area within the project area.

Refer to Att1,Section 1, Page 2-6 [Att1 – EPBC Referral Supplementary Report].

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)?

Yes

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

EHFB Pty Ltd proposes the development of the Hillview Eastern Hub Firming Battery (EHFB) (the project) as part of the Hillview Energy Hub, approximately 12 kilometres (km) south-east of Uralla in the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). The Hillview Energy Hub involves:

- A large-scale grid connected wind farm with an indicative 71 turbines and associated infrastructure;
- A large-scale solar farm, also with associated infrastructure; and
- The EHFB to connect to Energy Corporation of NSW's (EnergyCo) Easting Firming substation.

This referral addresses the Eastern Hub Firming Battery project only. Each of the Eastern Hub Firming Battery, the Hillview Solar Farm and the Hillview Wind Farm are independent projects and would be able to operate in the absence of the other projects, although the three projects are co-located to realise potential development and operational advantages.

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:

The Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities, heritage places and water resources, namely, Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). These are:

- world heritage properties;
- places listed on the National Heritage Register;
- Ramsar wetlands of international significance;
- threatened flora and fauna species and ecological communities;
- migratory species;
- Commonwealth marine areas;
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- nuclear actions (including uranium mining); and
- water resources, in relation to coal seam gas or large coal mining development.

Under the EPBC Act, an action that may have a significant impact on a MNES is a 'controlled action' and can only proceed with the approval of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment. An action that may potentially have a significant impact on a MNES is referred to the

Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for determination as to whether or not it is a controlled action. If deemed a controlled action the project is assessed under the EPBC Act, and a decision made as to whether or not to grant approval.

The Proposed action has been referred (i.e. this referral) to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment for potentially significant impacts upon MNES (threatened fauna species).

NSW legislation:

The project is State significant development (SSD) pursuant to Schedule 1 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021 (Planning Systems SEPP). Approval for the project is therefore being sought under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

To accompany the EIS, a detailed assessment of the biodiversity values and the likely biodiversity impacts of the Proposed action is being undertaken in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) and the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) (DPIE, 2020a) and will be documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). The BDAR will outline the measures taken to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts to the vegetation and species habitat present within the disturbance footprint and methodologies to minimise impacts associated with the Proposed action. Residual unavoidable impacts of the Proposed action will be calculated in accordance with the BAM (DPIE, 2020a) and offset in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS).

If the Proposed action is deemed by the Australian Government DCCEEW to be a controlled action, it is ACE Power's intention to use the NSW Assessment Bilateral Agreement (DCCEEW, 2023) to assess the Proposed action at both the state and Commonwealth level. The Australian Government supports the use of the NSW BOS and the BAM (DPIE, 2020a) as the underpinning methodology for assessment of biodiversity values, including the calculation of biodiversity credit requirements.

Strategic planning framework:

International

The Paris Agreement: A legally binding international treaty on climate change adopted by 196 parties in 2015. As a signatory to the agreement, the Australian Government has committed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 26–28% on 2005 levels by 2030. The project will contribute to meeting Australia's commitments under the Paris Agreement by contributing to a reduction in the National Electricity Market (NEM) annual GHG emissions.

National

Large-scale Renewable Energy Target: The Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator administers the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target which incentivises investment in renewable energy power stations such as wind and solar farms. The Large-scale Renewable Energy Target of 33,000 GW hours of additional renewable electricity generation was met at the end of January 2021 (Clean Energy Regulator 2021). The annual target will remain at 33,000 GW hours until the scheme ends in 2030. It is noted that the annual target has been met and will remain at 33,000 GW hours until the scheme ends in 2030. The project will contribute to meeting the renewable energy target.

Capacity Investment Scheme: The Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) provides a national framework to encourage new investment in renewable energy capacity and battery storage. The CIS involves the Australian Government seeking competitive tender bids for renewable capacity and clean dispatchable capacity projects to:

- deliver an additional 32 GW of capacity by 2030
- fill expected reliability gaps as ageing coal power stations exit
- deliver the Australian Government's 82% renewable electricity by 2030 target.

The Australian Government will provide revenue underwriting for successful CIS tender projects, with an agreed revenue 'floor' and 'ceiling'. This will provide a long-term revenue safety-net that decreases financial risks for investors and encourages more investment when and where it is needed. Revenue underwriting is being used domestically and globally to support investment into the energy transition. The project is within the New England REZ and will support and assist in achieving the Australian Government renewable energy targets.

Integrated System Plan 2022: The *Integrated Systems Plan 2022* (ISP 2022) prepared by the Australia Energy Market Operator (AEMO) is an: "Actionable roadmap for eastern Australia's power system to optimise consumer benefits through a transition period of great complexity and uncertainty." Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) are identified in the ISP 2022 as "high-quality resource areas where clusters of large-scale renewable energy projects can be developed using economies of scale" (AEMO 2022). ISP 2022 identifies that significant investment in the NEM is necessary, requiring a nine-fold increase in utility-scale variable renewable energy (VRE) and that: "much of this resource will be built in renewable energy zones (REZs) that coordinate network and renewable investment, and foster a more holistic approach to regional employment, economic opportunity and community participation". The project will contribute to and support the development of the New England REZ.

State context

Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 (DPIE 2020a[CS1]): The Net Zero Plan Stage 1 2020–2030 (DPIE 2020a) outlines the NSW Government's plan to grow the economy and create jobs while helping the state to deliver a 35% cut in emissions compared to 2005 levels. The project is within the New England REZ and is ideally placed to contribute to the success of the roadmap.

NSW Electricity Infrastructure Investment Roadmap (DPIE 2020b): The Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap coordinates investment in transmission, generation, storage and firming infrastructure as ageing coal-fired generation plants retire. The roadmap includes actions that will deliver “whole-of system” benefits. The roadmap sets out a plan to deliver the state’s first five REZs in the Central-West Orana, New England, South-West, Hunter-Central Coast, and Illawarra regions. The project is within the New England REZ and is ideally placed to support and contribute to the success of the roadmap. The project will support and stabilise the Eastern Hub grid connection.

Local and regional

New England North West Regional Plan 2041: New England North-West Regional Plan 2041 outlines the NSW Government’s land use planning priorities and decisions over the next 20 years for the North West region. This region extends from Tamworth in the south to the Queensland border in the north and includes the Uralla Shire Local Government Area. The plan recognises the region as one of the most productive in agricultural regions in Australia but also highlights the unprecedented opportunity the renewable energy, green technology and the food fibre processing sectors provide in fostering a resilient and diverse economy. The vision of the plan is to be realised through the objectives and strategies which are focused on:

- coordinating land use planning to support growth, community needs and regional economic development
- protecting the viability and integrity of the rural land and leverage opportunities in agribusiness and food processing to strengthen the sector
- protecting natural assets and increase climate and community resilience
- leveraging off renewable energy technology and investment

The project aligns with the objectives and strategies of Direction 9 of the New England North-West Regional Plan in that it:

- Supports the transition of the NEM to renewable energy sources
- Improve reliability of electricity supply
- investigating areas within the region with renewable energy potential and ready access to connect with the electricity network.

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

The Applicant has a high-level framework for the delivery of communication and engagement throughout the planning and assessment process for each stage of the project. This framework is dynamic in nature and evolves based on stakeholder and community feedback. Engagement for Eastern Hub Firming Battery commenced in February 2024 and a further program of comprehensive engagement is planned in 2025 and 2026.

Consultation to date has included:

- face-to-face meeting and briefings
- project website established
- project briefing letters issued to elected representative and key stakeholders.

A summary of engagement undertaken with the local community includes:

- Face-to-face meetings - From February 2024: To provide a Project overview, confirm the approval process and indicative timelines. Receive feedback on key concerns and opportunities with stakeholders.
- Project neighbors - From April 2024: To provide an online website with the project information and channels to interact with community stakeholders.
- Project website launch - April 2024: To provide a project briefing including high level project and proponent information for key stakeholders
- Project briefing letter - April 2024: To provide a project briefing including high level project and proponent information for key stakeholders
- Door knock - From May 2024: To provide a project briefing including high level project and proponent information for key stakeholders nearby to the project that ACE had not been able to contact previously.
- Conversation & Coffee Events - March 2024: To provide the community the opportunity to discuss the project, confirm the approval process and indicative timelines, give feedback on key concerns and opportunities.

The Applicant has actively engaged with the Traditional Owners including but not limited to:

- Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council - From April 2024
- Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council - From April 2024
- Kamilaroi peoples - From April 2024
- Hazel Vale RAP Group - From 2024

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.

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	28141736558
Organisation name	EMM CONSULTING PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2065 NSW

Referring party details

Name	Sigrid Pembroke
Job title	Senior Environmental Planner
Phone	0431810950
Email	spembroke@emmconsulting.com.au
Address	Level 1, 87 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill 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 92458087249

Organisation name The Trustee for EHFB Trust

Organisation address 2095 NSW

Person proposing to take the action details

Name Clancy Bowman

Job title Senior Development Manager

Phone 0417479477

Email cbowman@acepower.com.au

Address Suite 402, 39 East Esplanade, Manly, NSW 2095

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? *

Yes

1.3.2.16 Describe the nature of the trust arrangement in relation to the proposed action. *

A trust deed was established on 08/01/2024 between Acis Settlements Pty. Ltd. ACN 081 961 391 (Settlor) and EHFB Pty Ltd ACN 673 869 513 (Trustee).

The Trust Deed EHFB Trust is provided in Att2 -EHFB-Trust Deed.

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. *

EHFB Pty Ltd has a satisfactory record of responsible environment management

EHFB Pty Ltd has no past or present proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

EHFB Pty Ltd does not have any actions previously referred under the EPBC Act, however ACE Power, through its subsidiaries has submitted a number of EPBC referrals, principally in relation to the Yabulu BESS located near Townsville (EPBC Ref: 2022/09384), the Yabulu BESS transmission line (EPBC 2023/09722), the Yabulu solar farm (EPBC Ref: 2022/09426) and the Burdekin solar farm (EPBC Ref: 2017/7998), the Nebo BESS (EPBC 2024/10060) and the Raglan BESS (EPBC 2025/10108).

ACE Power has an Environment and Sustainability policy, and all works will be undertaken to the highest environmental standards. This is reflected in the proactive approach ACE Power takes with referring all of its projects under the EPBC act, as well as the "avoidance" design principles which are followed at every site including Eastern Hub Firming Battery where the project has been designed in such a way as to avoid impacts on MNES as much as possible.

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

EHFB Pty Ltd does not have an environmental policy and planning framework documentation available.

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	92458087249
Organisation name	The Trustee for EHFB Trust
Organisation address	2095 NSW
Proposed designated proponent details	
Name	Clancy Bowman
Job title	Senior Development Manager
Phone	0417479477
Email	cbowman@acepower.com.au
Address	Suite 402, 39 East Esplanade, Manly, NSW 2095

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

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

ABN/ACN	28141736558
Organisation name	EMM CONSULTING PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2065 NSW
Representative's name	Sigrid Pembroke
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Planner
Phone	0431810950
Email	spembroke@emmconsulting.com.au
Address	Level 1, 87 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill QLD 4000

✔ Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

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

ABN/ACN	92458087249
Organisation name	The Trustee for EHFB Trust
Organisation address	2095 NSW
Representative's name	Clancy Bowman
Representative's job title	Senior Development Manager
Phone	0417479477
Email	cbowman@acepower.com.au
Address	Suite 402, 39 East Esplanade, Manly, NSW 2095

✔ 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

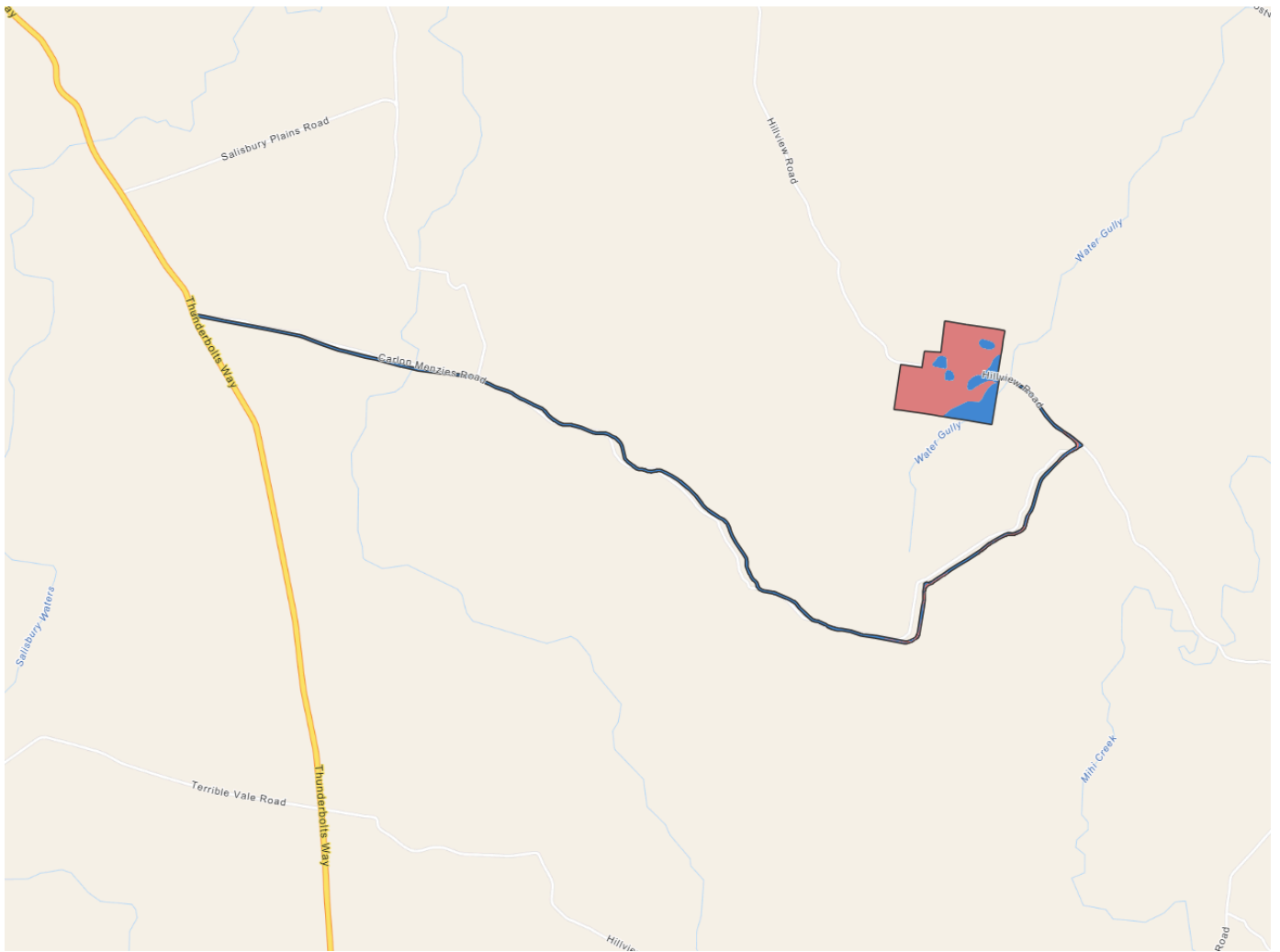
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

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: 102.59 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 68.57 Ha **Avoidance Area:** 34.03 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Salisbury Plains, NSW 2358

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

New South Wales

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 project area is Freehold land. This proposed action relates to activities to be undertaken on:

- Lot 223 DP755835
- Lot 192 DP755835
- Lot 196 DP755835
- Lot 1 DP1105811
- Lot 195 DP755835

The project area includes crown paper roads under Crown enclosure permits which cross the site.

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

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

The project is located 12 kilometers (km) southeast of the Uralla township and Hillview Road provides direct access to the site.

The project is within the New England Renewable Energy Zone (New England REZ). This is an area nominated for significant investment in renewable energy generation, storage and transmission projects. The EHFB sits within a relatively cleared landscape, primarily used for livestock grazing. The woody vegetation that remains exists as large paddock trees or small-to-moderately sized patches of woodland, with significant evidence of grazing and the establishment of exotic pasture-improving grasses.

The site has not been impacted by natural hazards such as bushfire or flood in recent years.

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

Prior land use - Historically, the project area has been utilised for intensive agricultural activities, including cropping and grazing.

Current land use – The project area is currently used for grazing land.

Proposed land use – BESS, its enabling infrastructure (inc. switchyard, transmission lines, internal roads and temporary workers accommodation).

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

A generally flat area historically used for agricultural activities, the project area is mostly cleared of established vegetation. Water Gully is a mapped stream which feeds into one large dam and five smaller dams, runs through the south-eastern corner of the project area, and eventually converges with Mihi Creek in the north.

No areas of outstanding biodiversity value (AOBV) are present within the Project area.

There are no karst, caves, crevices, cliffs or other areas of geological significance within the Project area. The Project area is largely agricultural pasture with scattered paddock trees. There is a high level of disturbance and therefore, has low habitat value.

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

The Project area is relatively flat and will not be in a marine 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.

The Project area occurs within the New England Tablelands Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Region and the Armidale Plateau subregion. Woodlands and forest are present in varying degrees of disturbance and are proximal to the project investigation area, however, the project investigation area itself appears to largely be historically cleared and grazed grasslands.

Two native plant community types (PCTs) have been recorded within the Project area, both of which have been recorded within the Disturbance footprint:

- PCT 3344 New England Ribbon Gum Grassy Forest (64.99 ha within the disturbance footprint)
 - PCT 3352 Armidale Quartz Hills Stringybark Forest (1.93 ha within the disturbance footprint)
1. The vegetation communities within the Project area do not align with any commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs). PCT 3344 is associated with the New England Peppermint (*Eucalyptus nova-anglica*) Grassy Woodlands (EPBC Act), however, no *E. nova-anglica* are present within nor adjacent to the Disturbance footprint therefore the vegetation does not meet the listing advice for the TEC.

Vegetation identified as PCT 3359 occurs within areas adjacent to the Disturbance Footprint. This PCT is associated with the EPBC Act listed critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) White Box-Yellow Box-Blackely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland. However, these areas will not be impacted by the Proposed action.

1. Targeted threatened species surveys, undertaken to date, have identified the following EPBC Act and BC Act listed threatened fauna species within the Project area:

- White-Throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

No EPBC Act or BC Act listed threatened flora species have been recorded within the Disturbance footprint to date.

A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) (DPIE 2020) is currently being prepared to accompany the SSD project application.

Refer to Att1, Section 3, Page 13-21 [Att1 – EPBC Referral Supplementary Report].

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

The Project sits within a relatively cleared landscape, primarily used for livestock grazing. The woody vegetation that remains exists as large paddock trees or small-to-moderately sized patches of woodland, with significant evidence of grazing and the establishment of exotic pasture-improving grasses. The project investigation area is relatively flat, mostly clear of established native vegetation and is identified as having low biodiversity and soil capability value. Owing to past and ongoing disturbance, areas that interface with the EHFB contain a lower diversity of native species and a higher diversity and cover of exotic plant species.

The Project area occurs within the Niangala Plateau and Slopes and Uralla Basalts and Sands (Mitchell) Landscapes. The disturbance footprint is located in the 'Ironstone' (ir), 'Saumarez' (sz) and 'McCann's Flat' (mc) soil landscapes, mapped as Dermosols, Rudosols and Kurosols under the Australian Soil Classification (ASC). The majority of the project investigation area is mapped as LSC Class 4 with some LSC Class 5. These soils have moderate limitations and severe limitations. The project investigation area is not mapped as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL). There are no acid sulfate soils or potential acid sulphate soils mapped within the project investigation area.

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.

Commonwealth heritage places or other places recognised to have heritage values are not applicable to the Project area.

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

The project area is situated within the New England Tablelands Bioregion and the Armidale Plateau subregion. The Armidale Plateau subregion is characterised by an undulating to hilly plateau at an elevation of 1,100 m and demonstrates a stepped landscape across broad valleys and basalt flows which steepen towards the east.

An assessment for the nearby local area has been heavily modified by land clearing, and agricultural activities. These disturbances have also occurred across the project area. Any Aboriginal heritage sites comprising culturally modified scarred trees are unlikely to be identified in areas that have been subject to extensive vegetation clearance. In areas subject to cut and fill (i.e. the location of dams), any Aboriginal heritage sites once present are likely to have been completely removed from their original context.

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search was undertaken on 4 December 2023 (AHIMS ID: 845790). This search resulted in no recorded sites within the project area.

3.4 Hydrology

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

The project area is covered by the Macleay Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016 and is part of the Salisbury Waters water source (DPE Water 2016). The only watercourse in the project investigation area is Water Gully which is a 1st order ephemeral watercourse which feeds farm dams within the area.

The project is not likely to impact groundwater during construction, operation, or decommissioning due to the limited amount of subsurface disturbance activities required during the installation and decommissioning of project infrastructure.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

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

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

4.1.1 World Heritage

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

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

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

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

No

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

*

No World Heritage properties were identified through the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST).

The project area is also located approximately 70 km from the Gondwana Rainforests World Heritage Area, which is a serial, cross-jurisdictional property in south-east Queensland and north-east New South Wales comprising major remaining areas of rainforest. The proposed action will not result in any direct or indirect impacts on a World Heritage site.

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 places were identified through the PMST.

The project area is also located approximately 70 km from the Gondwana Rainforests National Heritage Area, which is a serial, cross-jurisdictional property in south-east Queensland and north-east New South Wales comprising major remaining areas of rainforest. The proposed action will not result in any direct or indirect impacts on a National Heritage site.

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.

*

No Ramsar Wetlands were identified through the PMST.

The PMST identified the Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve wetlands, a Ramsar Wetland that is located approximately 74 km north of the Project area.

Due to the distance between the wetland and the Project area, the Proposed action will not result in any direct or indirect impacts on a Ramsar Wetland.

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>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater
No	No	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface
No	No	<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard
No	No	<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i>	Hairy-joint Grass
No	No	<i>Bertya</i> sp. Clouds Creek (M.Fatemi 4)	
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Callistemon pungens</i>	
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	Yes	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	Yes	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
No	Yes	<i>Dichanthium setosum</i>	bluegrass
No	No	<i>Eucalyptus mckieana</i>	McKie's Stringybark
No	No	<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint
No	No	<i>Euphrasia arguta</i>	
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
Yes	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	Yes	Litoria subglandulosa	New England Tree Frog, Glandular Frog
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
No	No	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
No	No	Petrogale penicillata	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
No	Yes	Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)	Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)
No	No	Picris evae	Hawkweed
No	No	Polytelis swainsonii	Superb Parrot
No	No	Pseudomys novaehollandiae	New Holland Mouse, Pookila
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	Yes	Thesium australe	Austral Toadflax, Toadflax
No	No	Uvidicolus sphyrurus	Border Thick-tailed Gecko, Granite Belt Thick-tailed Gecko

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	New England Peppermint (Eucalyptus nova-anglica) Grassy Woodlands
No	No	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

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

Yes

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

Direct impact (removal of 5.61 ha native vegetation) for the Proposed action will impact the following EPBC Act listed threatened species:

- *Hirundapus caudactus* (White-throated Needletail)

Refer to Refer to Att1, Section 3, Page 20-21 [Att1 – EPBC Referral Supplementary Report].

The White-throated Needletail is a migratory species with animals moving between widely dispersed summer foraging areas in the southern hemisphere and breeding sites in the northern hemisphere. The species is almost exclusively aerial, however important habitat for the White-throated Needletail in Australia is likely to include productive landscapes with high flying insect activity, typically wetlands, open forests, and woodlands. The Proposed action will directly impact a small portion of seasonal foraging habitat for the species. Three individuals were seen foraging over the Disturbance footprint and the adjacent valley landscape.

1. However, the species does not breed in Australia (DoE 2015c). Hence, the Proposed action is not considered likely to disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population of the species.

Indirect impact (removal of native vegetation that is suboptimal habitat, located in the Disturbance footprint) for the Proposed action will impact the following EPBC Act listed threatened species:

- *Climacteris picumnus victoriae* (Brown Treecreeper)
- *Dasyurus maculatus* (Spotted-tailed Quoll)
- *Phascolarctos cinereus* (Koala)
- *Dichanthium setosum* (bluegrass)
- *Litoria subglandulosa* (New England Tree Frog, Glandular Frog)
- *Thesium australe* (Austral Toadflax)

The PCTs mapped within the Project area and Disturbance footprint do not align with any EPBC Act listed endangered communities, therefore no ecological community (EPBC Act listed) will be impacted.

Refer to Refer to Att1, Section 3, Page 13-21 [Att1 – EPBC Referral Supplementary Report].

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. *

For those protected matters that were considered to have potential to occur within the Disturbance footprint, or that were recorded within the Disturbance footprint, assessments of significance were prepared, in accordance with Matters of National Environmental Significance. Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (DoE 2013).

The Proposed action has potential to have a impact on the EPBC Act listed Endangered White-throated Needletail, through disturbance to aerial foraging habitat. Impacts on the species were not deemed to be Significant as the species is migratory, does not breed in Australia and the action is unlikely to affect key habitat.

The Proposed action's impact upon all other threatened species is not considered to be significant.

Refer to Refer to Att1, Appendix C, Page C2-C20 [Att1 – EPBC Referral Supplementary Report].

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 likely to have a significant impact on any species or entities listed under the EPBC Act through the removal of habitat. The habitat that will be removed is of very low quality and is likely only used by species passing through the area opportunistically.

It is not considered that the Proposed action is not likely to constitute a controlled action and require approval under the EPBC Act.

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

The hierarchy of avoid and minimise has been used in the design of the Proposed action. The project location was selected as it avoids a large amount of vegetation clearing by utilising highly degraded cleared agricultural lands.

Large areas of vegetation along Carlon Menzies Road have been avoided during the design of the road widening limiting impacts to only small sections of road. This includes areas of intact woodland conforming to EPBC Act listed CEEC, White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland. Removal of native vegetation within the road corridor widening will be restricted to vegetation which is not associated with any TEC.

Lastly, EMM was engaged early on in the assessment process to undertake biodiversity surveys within the Disturbance Footprint. EMM has been undertaking vegetation mapping, vegetation integrity assessment, habitat assessment, threatened species targeted survey, and providing ongoing advice since 2023.

There is a patch of planted *Eucalyptus nicholii* directly adjacent to the disturbance footprint, which is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. Measures have been taken during the design process to remove areas of the design that encroach on this patch, reducing the impacts to this species.

Mitigation measures are proposed to reduce residual potential impacts on EPBC Act listed matters. All works will be undertaken in accordance with general mitigation measures to be identified in a construction environment management plan (CEMP). Prior to construction, a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), forming part of the CEMP, will likely be required and will include the construction management measures proposed. Key minimisation and mitigation measures for biodiversity will include (but are not limited to):

- employee education and training
- retention of vegetation and habitat where possible
- fencing and access control
- traffic control measures
- staged progressive clearance
- weed and pest animal control
- erosion and sedimentation control
- minimising injury of all native animals during clearing and construction, via pre-clearance procedures using appropriately qualified ecologists
- threatened biodiversity unexpected finds procedures
- salvage of resources and habitat features (hollow logs, tree hollows, timber, rocks, seed collection) for future rehabilitation
- noise, light and dust controls
- minimising risk of vehicle strike
- native vegetation restoration during rehabilitation.

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

Residual unavoidable impacts of the Proposed action will be calculated in accordance with the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) (DPIE 2020a). Offsets will be in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS). Accordingly, the biodiversity offset strategy for the Proposed action will be developed in consultation with the NSW Department and Planning and Environment (DPE).

If the Proposed action is deemed by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to be a controlled action, ACE Power proposed to use the NSW Assessment Bilateral Agreement (DCCEEW, 2023) to assess the Proposed action at both the state and Commonwealth level. The DCCEEW supports the use of the NSW BOS and the BAM (DPIE, 2020a) as the underpinning methodology for assessment of biodiversity values, including the calculation of biodiversity credit requirements.

Refer to Att1, Section 4.3, Page 23 [Att1 – EPBC Referral Supplementary Report].

4.1.5 Migratory Species

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

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

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

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
Yes	No	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail
No	No	<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? *

Yes

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

The direct impact (removal of native vegetation that is habitat) for the Proposed action is unlikely to impact the listed EPBC Act migratory species recorded in the PMST search.

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. *

For those migratory species that were considered to have potential to occur within the Disturbance footprint, assessments of significance were prepared, in accordance with the Draft referral guideline for 1 bird (White-Throated Needletail) listed as a migratory species under the EPBC Act (DoE 2015).

The Proposed action's impact upon the threatened migratory species identified in section 4.1.5.2 is not considered to be significant.

Refer to Att1, Appendix C , Page C2-C20 [Att1 – EPBC Referral Supplementary Report].

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.

*

For the migratory species that were considered to have potential to occur within the Disturbance footprint, assessments of significance were prepared, in accordance with the Draft referral guideline for 1 bird listed as migratory species under the EPBC Act (DoE 2015).

The assessments concluded that the Disturbance footprint is unlikely to support an ecologically significant proportion of the populations of the White-Throated Needletail. Therefore, the Proposed action is unlikely to disrupt the lifecycles of an ecologically significant proportion of the migratory species.

Refer to Att1, Appendix C , Page C2-C20 [Att1 – EPBC Referral Supplementary Report].

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

The project location has already been strategically selected and positioned adjacent to the newly proposed East Hub of the New England REZ by Energy Co. This avoids a large amount of vegetation clearing by utilising highly degraded cleared agricultural lands.

The avoidance and mitigation measures explained in Section 4.1.4.10 are also proposed to minimise any potential impacts upon Migratory species listed under the EPBC Act.

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

Residual unavoidable impacts of the Proposed action will be calculated in accordance with the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) (DPIE 2020a). Offsets will be in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS). Accordingly, the biodiversity offset strategy for the Proposed action will be developed in consultation with the NSW Department and Planning and Environment (DPE).

If the Proposed action is deemed by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to be a controlled action, Boral proposes to use the NSW Assessment Bilateral Agreement to assess the Proposed action at both the State and Commonwealth level. The DCCEEW supports the use of the NSW BOS and the BAM (DPIE 2020a) as the underpinning methodology for assessment of biodiversity values, including the calculation of biodiversity credit requirements.

Refer to Att1, Section 4.3, Page 23 [Att1 – EPBC Referral Supplementary Report].

4.1.6 Nuclear

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

No

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

*

The Proposed action does not include any nuclear action, nor does the Project area or Disturbance footprint contain nuclear hazards.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

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

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

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

—

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

No

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

The Proposed action is not proposed within or near a Commonwealth Marine Area and will not result in any direct or indirect impacts upon a Commonwealth Marine Area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

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

No

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

The Great Barrier Reef is over 700 km north of the Project area; therefore, the Proposed action will not result in any 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.

*

The Proposed action is not related to coal seam gas development or coal mining and will, therefore, not result in any direct or indirect impacts on water resources in relation to such actions.

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 located on or near Commonwealth Land and will, therefore, not result in any direct or indirect impacts on such places.

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 located near nor is it in relation to a Commonwealth heritage place overseas and will, therefore, not result in any direct or indirect impacts on such places.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

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

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

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

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

4.3 Alternatives

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

No

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

The project investigation area has been selected following detailed multi-criteria constraints review at a state, regional and REZ level to identify the most suitable and feasible location of the EHFB. Alternative locations for a project of this nature are limited due to requirements of surface area, topography, proximity to existing and/ or proposed energy infrastructure and available network capacity.

Locations near major townships and areas of high agricultural and biodiversity value are also avoided due to potential social and environmental impacts.

Alternative project areas were considered by ACE power as part of the site identification process, including other potential sites in NSW. The primary constraint in considering locations elsewhere in NSW, including outside of the REZ, is the increasing distance from the transmission network and substation – both existing and planned. Locating the project further away from EnergyCo infrastructure resulting in the need for easements to accommodate long transmission lines to connect into the network, which would result in additional environmental and social impacts.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1-EPBC Referral Supplementary Report.pdf MNES Summary Report	24/04/2025	No	High

1.3.2.16 (Person proposing to take the action) Nature of the trust arrangement in relation to the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att2 - EHFB Trust - Trust Deed.pdf	08/01/2024	Yes	

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1-EPBC Referral Supplementary Report.pdf MNES Summary Report	23/04/2025	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-EPBC Referral Supplementary Report.pdf MNES Summary Report	23/04/2025		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-EPBC Referral Supplementary Report.pdf MNES Summary Report	23/04/2025	No	High

4.1.4.11 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Proposed offsets relevant to avoidance or mitigation measures

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1-EPBC Referral Supplementary Report.pdf MNES Summary Report	23/04/2025	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-EPBC Referral Supplementary Report.pdf MNES Summary Report	23/04/2025	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-EPBC Referral Supplementary Report.pdf MNES Summary Report	23/04/2025	No	High

4.1.5.11 (Migratory Species) Proposed offsets relevant to avoidance or mitigation measures

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 1-EPBC Referral Supplementary Report.pdf MNES Summary Report	23/04/2025	No	High

5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	28141736558
Organisation name	EMM CONSULTING PTY LIMITED
Organisation address	2065 NSW
Representative's name	Sigrid Pembroke
Representative's job title	Senior Environmental Planner
Phone	0431810950
Email	spembroke@emmconsulting.com.au
Address	Level 1, 87 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill 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, **Sigrid Pembroke of EMM CONSULTING PTY LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

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

✔ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

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

ABN/ACN	92458087249
Organisation name	The Trustee for EHFB Trust
Organisation address	2095 NSW
Representative's name	Clancy Bowman

Representative's job title	Senior Development Manager
Phone	0417479477
Email	cbowman@acepower.com.au
Address	Suite 402, 39 East Esplanade, Manly, NSW 2095

☒ 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, **Clancy Bowman of The Trustee for EHFB Trust**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

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

☒ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

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

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

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

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

☒ I, **Clancy Bowman of The Trustee for EHFB Trust**, 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. *